

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 27 June 2022

Member Champion Activity Report

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Executive summary and recommendations

Executive Summary

This paper provides a report on the work of the Member Champions for the period up to June 2022.

Recommendation(s)

The Authority is requested to note and endorse the report and acknowledge the work of the respective Champions.

Information

The concept of Member Champions was introduced in December 2007 with a review of the roles in 2017.

The Authority appoints its Member Champions at its Annual Meeting in June and the current Member Champions are:

- Community Safety – Councillor Jean Rigby
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan
- Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Andrea Kay
- Road Safety – County Councillor Ron Woollam

Reports relating to the activity of the Member Champions are provided on a regular basis to the Authority.

During this period, all have undertaken their respective role in accordance with the defined terms of reference. Their activity to date is as follows:

Community Safety – Councillor Jean Rigby

Training from Lancashire Fire and Rescue (LFRS) has taken place to colleagues across Lancashire Constabulary and Health on the recognition of fire risk and referral pathway to issue a 999 ReUnite device. These links are effective in creating new opportunities and partnerships for LFRS to deliver the core prevention product of a Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC) to those who will benefit the most. The 999 ReUnite scheme is a collaboration between Police, Fire and Ambulance and involves each service issuing the most vulnerable with a wristband. The wristband uses near field communication (NFC) technology and, if scanned with a mobile device, it will display a name and mobile number for emergency contacts.

The National Fire Chiefs Council launched the 'Be Water Aware' campaign from the 25 April – 1 May and LFRS personnel across all areas supported this as part of the service wide Water Safety campaign. Water safety education sessions were delivered to young people in educational establishments and community groups across Lancashire and there was also a digital offering which was well attended. Areas also linked in with partners to share key safety messages for example in Lancaster, Operation Bankside provided a coordinated response between Lancaster Area Search and Rescue, Lancashire Police and LFRS around the key risk areas.

A number of the population of Lancashire will have a loss or lack of ability to smell, medically known as anosmia. This number will have risen due to a significant number of people experiencing ongoing smell impairment following Covid-19 infection. LFRS have teamed up with Cadent Gas to supply occupiers in receipt of a HFSC with a 'scratch and sniff' card that can help determine whether the smell of gas can still be detected. As many people are unaware that they have this condition, the use of the card allows them to identify it and put in place additional measures to detect a potentially catastrophic leak.

The month of Ramadan also occurred during this reporting period and there were many risk reduction activities undertaken across the county. One example was the launch of the safety during Ramadan campaign for Preston and Lancashire with the Preston Muslim forum. Topics included safe cooking, safety in the home, the hazards of loose clothing and road safety.



This photograph shows members of the Preston Muslim forum alongside LFRS personnel

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan

Work is underway to ascertain how the Service could use equality, diversity and inclusion data to better shape and influence Prevention and Protection deliverables and scope out performance indicators that could be factored into local District Plans via Community Protection Managers.

Through 'Adjust', "*Lunch and Learn Sessions*" have been scheduled on Neurodiversity for all staff. Neurodiversity describes the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no 'right way' of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits but celebrated. The aim of the training is to provide a clear, practical and positive understanding of neurodiversity.

Pride events are returning this summer and are the perfect opportunity to celebrate LGBTQ+ culture, history, and identity. As an inclusive organisation, we are proud to promote tolerance, compassion and inclusivity and this year will be using our LGBTQ+ liveried appliance at the Pride events.

A meeting had taken place with the Lancashire Council of Mosques where an open discussion took place on how they could support us to develop inclusive policies for both communities and staff, and work in tandem to communicate effectively with congregations to overcome any perceived barriers to recruitment.

Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Andrea Kay

To mark the fourth anniversary of the introduction of Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) into Service, eight colleagues have attended a two-day TRiM Practitioner course with an external provider to be able to support colleagues, as TRiM Practitioners, following traumatic events. This new team of TRiM Practitioners will also be undertaking awareness sessions across the Service to further embed awareness of TRiM and the other health and wellbeing resources available to colleagues.

We are continuing to work collaboratively with the Fire Fighters Charity and have scheduled a programme of short workshops in a variety of health and wellbeing topics, to be delivered by the Charity via MS Teams. These workshops form part of our work to bring elements of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Plan to life, as well as addressing some ideas explored by the Ageing Workforce Task & Finish Group. Topics include Nutrition and Healthy Eating, Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention, Improving Sleep, Managing Stress, Positive Relationships and Nature Connectedness.

Climate Change and Environment

In Quarter 1, Environmental Champions and Station Managers will be receiving the annual carbon emissions update for their stations. These are produced individually for each station and communicated annually, with the main purpose of allowing stations to see whether their gas, electric, water and vehicle fuel use has increased or decreased from previous years. Stations are encouraged to contemplate potential reasons behind the changes and consider what actions might result in reductions in carbon emissions going forwards. Also detailed on each spreadsheet is a comparison to other stations, giving a number (or ranking) of how much gas, electric and water is used. Included in the communication is advice on ways to reduce carbon emissions locally. Station Managers and Environmental Champions are encouraged to share all this information with their colleagues.

In April, 'Stop Food Waste Day' was promoted via the Routine Bulletin and in May, 'Water Saving Week'. Additionally, 'National Walking Month' (May) and 'Clean Air Day' (June) have been highlighted to Environmental Champions should they wish to promote locally.

Road Safety – County Councillor Ron Woollam

Wasted Lives is a Road Safety package aimed at pre – drivers in Years 10 and 11. The updated packages have been well received and the assembly format is proving to be the most popular by far. Prevention personnel are continuing to run the virtual delivery as an option. To date around 3000 students have participated in a Wasted Lives session run by Lancashire Fire and Rescue (LFRS) this year.

Road Sense is a Year 6 Road Safety Education Package delivered by LFRS. Delivery is progressing well and to date over 11,500 pupils have received the package. Feedback from teachers is very favourable, both towards the new version and delivery. A small number of schools are still requesting virtual delivery which is facilitated by the Prevention Support Team and delivered to individual schools to ensure the session is still fully interactive. The aim of LFRS is to deliver to all year 6 groups in Lancashire for this academic year.

Biker Down continues to be very popular and LFRS ran four courses in April to coincide with National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) 'Motorcycle Action Month'. There was increased social media campaign activity during the second week of April as this was the main week of action. The post reach was 56,417 throughout the campaign. The NFCC theme was to encourage motorcyclists to sign up for Biker Down, so more course dates facilitated by LFRS were released on social media to facilitate this; all were booked within 24 hours of going live. Since January, over 200 motorcyclists have attended a course and received a first aid kit that was purchased with the Road Safety Champion budget.

LFRS continues to work as a partner within the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP). The West Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership has recently undertaken a peer review of the LRSP. The significant contribution that LFRS makes to road safety education was recognised and will continue to contribute to making the partnership stronger.

Financial Implications

Activities are within budget.

Business Risk Implications

Whilst no formal obligation is placed on the Authority to have Champions, effective utilisation of such roles offers a number of benefits.

Environmental Impact

The Member Champion role provides leadership on environmental issues and assists in engaging Authority members in strategic objectives relating to protecting the environment.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The Member Champion role provides leadership on equality and diversity issues and assists in engaging Authority members in strategic objectives relating to equality and diversity.

Human Resource Implications

Some Member and Officer time commitments.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of background papers

Paper:

Date:

Contact:

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate: