

# Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 3 October 2022

## Member Champion Activity Report

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### **Executive Summary**

This paper provides a report on the work of the Member Champions for the period up to 31 August 2022.

### **Recommendation**

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**

In July, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) initiated the first meeting to create a pan-Lancashire Water Safety Partnership. Building on a scoping event held pre-pandemic, a wide range of partners were invited to the LFRS Service Training Centre to shape the group and create the strategy and objectives. The formation of this group is a massive step forward in understanding the risk and consistently working together in a joined-up way to target and ultimately reduce the number of accidental drownings in the county.

The Prevention Team in Western attended the Blackpool RNLI Open day in August, this was a multi-agency approach to share the Water Safety message with the general public. The day was extremely busy, the team handed out in excess of 100 leaflets and spoke to many more. The day was a success and enabled the Prevention team to

engage with members of the public and agencies, whilst also sharing contact details with those agencies.

The end of the academic year saw the culmination of thousands of primary school age children having experienced either the Year 2 Childsafe package or Year 6 RoadSense package delivered by LFRS prevention or operational personnel. Although the Service modified packages to maintain delivery where we could during the pandemic, the academic year 2021/22 also saw the Service 'catch up' with the Covid Year 2 pupils who were now in Year 3, so that they did not miss out.

Throughout the summer the prevention teams in LFRS central area have been engaging with their diverse communities to educate specifically to their needs and culture and to gain the trust and relationships to work together moving forwards. This has given not only an uplift to the core work of the team but has built trust as it has been delivered in their language; in their communities. Examples of this include events with Disability Equality North West, Deafway, Sahara Women's Centre, Preston Community Hub and others.

The Prevention Support Team, alongside partner organisations and area teams, have been preparing for the ways in which the Service is likely to encounter the effects of the increases in cost of living. This means that LFRS personnel will be in the position to offer the best support to the people of Lancashire. This may be recognising the signs at an operational incident, offering the most appropriate referrals and signposting advice at a person-centred Home Fire Safety Check or raising awareness through campaigns of key safety messages. One example of this is that people may start using their homes and living differently; LFRS can offer advice on safe heating sources and fit detection aligned to this behaviour change.

## **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan**

The weekend of the 2-4 September 2022 saw mosques across Lancashire taking part in a nationwide event called "Visit My Mosque". Organised by the Muslim Council of Britain, this annual event is a fantastic opportunity to build relationships in our communities, tearing down barriers, replacing them with friendship, and understanding. Mosques across the county provided tours and coffee mornings for families to enjoy. Community Fire Safety Officer Faz Patel is our liaison for the event in Lancashire.

### Launch of the Veterans Working Group

The Service has supported the launch of a Veterans Working Group recognising the value that serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our county to promote closer integration with the armed forces community. Work is now underway to sign up for the Armed Forces Covenant (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-covenant-supporting-information>)

### Pride Events 2022

As an inclusive organisation, we are proud to promote tolerance, compassion and inclusivity. That is why this year, we have our LGBTQ+ liveried appliance which had its first run out in Blackpool Pride on the 11 June. Staff are encouraged, whether they are part of the LGBTQ+ community or whether they are allies, to attend the Pride event and represent LFRS.

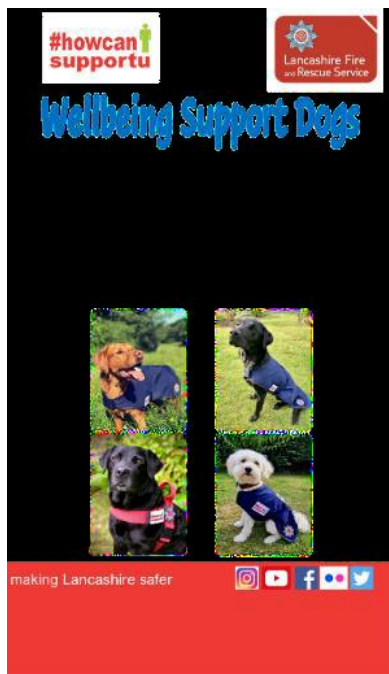
To date LFRS has attended five out of the six Pride events scheduled throughout the summer with the next one in Preston on the 24 September 2022.



### Recruitment to Apprentices Firefighters

The Service has recently advertised for firefighter apprenticeships; a targeted recruitment campaign was delivered aimed at attracting applicants from a diversity of backgrounds. Of the total number of applications received, 88% were from men, 12% were from women, 6% were from people who identified as BME, 12% from people who identified as LGBTQ+ and 3% from applicants who declared a disability. Candidates will now go through a rigorous recruitment and selection process.

### **Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Andrea Kay**



To promote the main wellbeing resources available to staff, roll-up banners have been designed which will be displayed in rotation throughout the year at Service Headquarters and Service Training Centre to remind staff of how to access support when needed. There have been some positive comments about the banners and the Wellbeing Support Dogs banner has been very well received at Open Days in terms of

attracting members of the public to engage with colleagues about the importance of wellbeing for all our staff.

In September we will be holding a 'Coffee and Chat' session to make World Suicide Prevention Day and will provide an update at the next full CFA meeting.

Financial Wellbeing articles are regularly posted via the Routine Bulletin and the Engine House detailing where support is available from to assist with budgeting, accessing foodbanks if needed, linking between financial wellbeing and mental health etc. The Health and Wellbeing title page on the Engine House leads with cost-of-living support information and links to the Nutrition and Hydration page monthly recipe/meal plan.

We are also developing a series of recipe cards to support our colleagues and their families with the rising cost of cooking healthy meals. The recipe cards focus on three elements to promote the idea of 'Tea & Table; not Tea & Technology' with recipes that encourage:

- Cooking Together – encouraging social interaction/promoting good mental health and wellbeing
- Energy Conscious Cooking – suggesting the most energy efficient way to cook healthy meals
- Budget Busting meals – sticking to a budget of less than £1 per portion per meal

A full update will be provided in the next CFA report.

### Climate Change and Environment

As a result of communications with stations with the year-end carbon emissions by site, we have two more volunteers for Environmental Champion bringing the current total to 39. This leaves us with a handful of stations still in need of a champion, whilst pleasingly, a few have two or even three champions supporting their station.

The Winner of the Energy Saving Competition is currently in communications with SHE Department to introduce repair/sewing kits to stations. These kits will highlight the issues of a 'throw-away' culture and give advice and tips to encourage staff to make small repairs to uniform where appropriate, whilst at the same time providing the supplies to do so.

There was a joint promotion highlighting wellbeing and the environment for Cycle to Work Day in August. A newsletter has just been circulated to promote Second-Hand September and work is underway to promote Recycle Week later in the month.

### **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. Final delivery figures from this academic year were around 4000 students. Throughout Road Safety Week in November 2022, there will be an increased effort to promote the package and get schools booked in.

Road Sense is a Year 6 Road Safety Education Package delivered by LFRS. Delivery this academic year exceeded 17,000 pupils. Feedback from teachers is very favourable, both towards the new version and delivery. A new evaluation tool is being trialled which makes the process easier and more meaningful for teachers and LFRS staff. A small number of schools still requested virtual delivery which was facilitated by the Prevention Support Team and delivered to individual schools to ensure the session was fully interactive. The aim of LFRS was to deliver to all Year 6 groups in Lancashire last academic year; a target that has been met excluding a very small number of schools who were offered the package but did not take us up on this.

Biker Down continues to be extremely popular with five courses expecting to be run between September to Christmas. The Biker Down team have just taken part in a BBC Radio Lancashire 'Bike Night' where they were interviewed and given the opportunity to promote the course. The event proved a success with 19 new bookings being received for the Autumn courses. Since September 2021, over 275 motorcyclists have attended a course and received a first aid kit that was purchased with the Road Safety Champion budget. Whilst the target was to deliver 12 sessions this was exceeded with 21 courses taking place. Work is currently being undertaken to refresh the delivery material for 2023.

Members of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership attended St George's Park on the 7 July 2022 for the annual TyreSafe Briefing & Awards Ceremony. Staff from Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service delivered Megan's Story which is an educational resource to raise awareness of the dangers associated with driving unknowingly with under inflated tyres. On conclusion of the session, staff were on hand to complete a Q&A session with the audience and later in the evening, the partnership along with Megan's family received an award in recognition of the package and the contribution in raising further awareness, which will hopefully see a reduction in related road traffic incidents.

### **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: N/a