

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 20 March 2017

UPDATE ON EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDING PILOT PROJECT

Contact for further information: Deputy Chief Fire Officer Justin Johnston

Telephone: 01772 866801

Executive Summary

Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service (LFRS) has recently expanded its pilot of Emergency First Responding (EFR) with North West Ambulance Service (NWAS). This paper has been brought to the Planning Committee of the CFA to inform Members of the expansion and highlight the significant contribution made towards our purpose of 'Making Lancashire Safer' by engaging in such a partnership and to keep them apprised as to the challenges faced in securing EFR across LFRS as we await national considerations by the National Joint Council (NJC).

Recommendation

The Planning Committee is asked to note and endorse the report.

Background

The Emergency First Responding (EFR) pilot has been in place from Aug 2015 initially involving two stations S51 Ormskirk and N12 Morecambe.

Reponses for the initial phase were to Red 1 & Red 2 call sets which included a wide range of medical emergencies, eg strokes, asthmatic attacks, breathing difficulties, anaphylactic shock, cardiac arrests, fitting, etc. In these early stages the two stations involved responded to over 1000 alerts.

As a result of NWAS representative body concerns, call sets that LFRS respond to were restricted to Red 1 Cardiac arrests only. This significantly reduced the amount of alerts that crews were being called to which now averages at just 1.5 calls per week. The most common station area affected is N12 Morecambe. There have been notable lifesaving interventions achieved in this time at both stations.

Following the successful outcomes of the early stages of the pilot and with agreement from Fire Brigades Union (FBU), further stations were included from December 2016.

On completion of required DBS checks and EFR training, the following 5 stations went 'live' restricted to Red 1 cardiac arrest calls only;

- P94 Nelson – Dec 2016
- E70 Hyndburn -Dec 2016
- E71 Blackburn – Dec 2016
- E72 Great Harwood – Jan 2017
- E76 Darwen – Jan 2017

Since their inclusion in the pilot the additional stations have attended approximately 11 alerts. The reason for the low call volume is as yet unclear. NWS and North West Fire Control are trialling a mobilising process that currently relies on a phone call from one to the other. This process is proving less effective than at first considered and a resolution is being pursued.

A model for a phased rollout by area will allow introduction of 7 further stations by June 2017, and continuing by area until January 2018 when all stations would be involved.

This further rollout is currently awaiting the outcome of the recall to conference of the FBU on 21st March 2017, where they will examine the report released by the NJC in January which detailed its findings on the national pilot.

Business Risk

There are no significant business risks identified with the recommendation to expand the pilot however there are reputational risks in terms of public expectations if we do not ultimately deliver on an improved service that the public of Lancashire have become accustomed to expect.

Sustainability or Environmental Impact

These impacts are captured more fully in the review document however these relate to the full adoption of the schemes as oppose to the continuation of the pilot.

Equality and Diversity Implications

A full equalities impact assessment has been conducted and all matters addressed.

HR Implications

Expansion of the pilot will require more staff to go through the vetting process which may highlight other employment matters for the service to consider.

Financial Implications

Currently LFRS do not recover costs within the pilot however an intention to do so if fully adopted is acknowledged by both parties and costs have been identified. In addition the report produced on behalf of NJC recognises an approximate average £10 community return for every £1 invested in FRS EFR activity.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact Justin Johnston Tel. 01772 866801
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		