



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the
Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole
Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held at
10:00 hours on Thursday 29 August 2019 at
Poole Fire Station, Safety Drive, Poole BH17 7FR**

Members present: Cllr Ann Stribley (Chair); Cllr Steve Baron; Cllr Malcolm Davies;
Cllr Paul Hilliard

Officer attendance: Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer
(ACFO), Jim Mahoney; Area Manager - South (AM), Seth Why; Group Manager
(GM) Steve Waller; Democratic Services Officer, Mrs Marianne Taylor

19/22 Election of Chair

19/22.1 The Director of Community Safety, ACFO Jim Mahoney opened the meeting and asked Members for their nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr Ann Stribley was nominated, seconded and unanimously agreed.

19/22.2 **RESOLVED: Cllr Ann Stribley be Chair.**

19/23 Welcome

19/23.1 The Chair welcomed attendees, including new Members. She outlined the purpose and scope of the Local Performance & Scrutiny committees (LPS).

19/23.2 The Chair congratulated AM Seth Why on achieving his post adding that she looked forward to working with him.

19/24 Apologies

19/24.1 Apologies were accepted on behalf of Cllr T Johnson and GM Dave Graham

19/25 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

19/25.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

19/26 Public Questions

19/26.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

19/27 Review and approve minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole LPS meeting on 30 May 2019

19/27.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

19/27.2 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

19/28 Action Progress

19/28.1 AM Why advised Members that this report contained a list of outstanding actions from previous meetings with regular update comments.

19/28.2 AM Why added that some actions were closed quickly because they were actioned at or immediately after a meeting and some may take longer if they are related to external providers.

19/28.3 Members noted that since the last meeting one action had been completed and the remaining two were in progress.

19/28.4 Members discussed action 251 - reminder letters to schools about taking advantage of Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) roadshows for pupils in years ten and 11. AM Why advised that all outstanding schools were contacted by his team by letter in July.

19/28.5 AM Why invited Members to attend forthcoming SDSA roadshows and suggested the Principal/Headteacher from non-attending schools be invited also so that they may understand the impact of the SDSA show.

19/28.6 For the benefit of new Members, the Chair outlined the premise of SDSA and recommended that new Members take up the offer to attend.

- 19/28.7 *Parkstone Grammar, Talbot Heath and Magna Academy were the schools that have not taken advantage of SDSA and the Chair suggested that if no response was received then Members should consider intervening. AM Why confirmed that he will provide dates to Members for the forthcoming roadshows.
- 19/28.8 Members discussed action 253 - patient referrals to Safe & Well from participating hospitals. AM Why advised Members that the Service was working with the British Red Cross and that Safe & Well had received 47 referrals; with 11 referrals in the very high-risk category, and ten within the BCP conurbation.
- 19/28.9 AM Why advised Members that patient referrals to Safe & Well had been rolled out to most Dorset hospitals as well as Wiltshire hospitals. GM Waller added that this was a national campaign.
- 19/28.10 Cllr Davies wondered if a member of the area team could attend his residents' association, which has 1,600 members, to give a talk about all the activities that a fire and rescue service undertakes. The Chair suggested that a message be published on behalf of the Service to promote Safe & Well visits.
- 19/28.11 **RESOLVED: Members noted the actions and comments.**
- 19/28.12 **RESOLVED: Members approved the removal of completed actions.**
- 19/28.13 **ACTION: The Head of Prevention & Protection, AM Craig Baker, to be asked to contact Cllr Davies to discuss opportunities to promote the work of the Service including Safe & Well visits.**

*following the meeting AM Why confirmed to Democratic Services that a fourth school had not engaged with SDSA, therefore the Grange Christchurch, will also be contacted under action 251.

19/29 Performance report and briefing

- 19/29.1 AM Why introduced GM Steve Waller who took Members through the Performance Report for Quarter 1 (Q1), and the associated presentation, covering the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Local Performance & Scrutiny area (Appendix A).
- 19/29.2 The three priorities that AM Why has responsibility for in his area are:
Priority 1 Help you to make safer and healthier choices
Priority 2 Protect you and the environment from harm, and
Priority 3 Be there when you need us.

Priority 1

- 19/29.3 GM Waller outlined the purpose of the presentation and its connection to the performance report, advising Members that the presentation referenced appropriate page numbers in the Q1 performance report.
- 19/29.4 GM Waller outlined how the Service targets resources to the appropriate partner agencies and groups such as Safe and Independent Living (SAIL) and Age UK; and Safe and Well advisors' ability to connect people to appropriate services.
- 19/29.5 GM Waller advised that there has been a 16% increase in Safe & Well visits with 86% of visits to the high and very high-risk groups. GM Waller advised Members about the acronym 'CHARLIE' and the CHARLIE card aimed at professionals to support referrals for Safe and Well visits. Members discussed the benefits to vulnerable people.
- 19/29.6 ACFO Mahoney added that the Service has few powers in relation to dealing with hoarding therefore we work with key agencies, in a sensitive manner, to help overcome any concerns we may have. He added that the Service is seen more positively than other services which often helped when contacting this and other vulnerable groups.
- 19/29.7 GM Waller advised Members that 1,036 children attended fire education sessions through 11 different schools; and that the Service had delivered a Safer People and Responsible Communities (SPARC) course in June for the 12 to 17 age group at risk of offending or exclusion from schools. GM Waller added that SPARC is aimed at supporting young people to learn team work and other skills to improve confidence and self-esteem.
- 19/29.8 GM Waller confirmed to Members that 'Prince's Trust 118' cohort graduated in April with two further courses due in August and September.
- 19/29.9 GM Waller advised that there will be a new Fire Cadet course launching in September at Hamworthy Fire Station aimed at 14+ age group. He added that young people are referred to the course and then go through a selection process. Members were interested to learn how the referrals were made and the resultant potential for future volunteers and apprentices.
- 19/29.10 GM Waller advised that two SDSA events, reaching a total of 600 students, had taken place with a further two events due to take place in Q2. Members discussed attendance by students to the SafeWise centre in Weymouth and also the 'survive the drive' initiative to Ministry of Defence (MoD) personnel.
- 19/29.11 GM Waller added that cycle safety is currently high on the agenda, partnering with BAE systems in Christchurch. He added that the Service supported Cycle to Work Safely day in June.

Priority 2

- 19/29.12 GM Waller confirmed to Members that some safeguarding referrals had been made during Q1, with the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) having overall responsibility for safeguarding. He added that area managers attended Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) and liaise with safeguarding leads. ACFO Mahoney added that staff had recently attended updated training with improved awareness being evident through greater numbers of safeguarding concerns being reported.
- 19/29.13 GM Waller referred Members to the statistics on pages 17-22 of the Performance report (Appendix A) and outlined the Service's involvement in festivals and events through Safety Advisory Boards. He added that there was a new Fire Safety Business Support team and that this was part of the Service's statutory work alongside the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), as are inspections, audits and licencing applications.
- 19/29.14 GM Waller advised Members that the business support team recently promoted its own sprinkler and fire door seminar with another planned later in the year. He added that alongside this the Service also investigated complaints, carried out inspections and supported businesses to recover from a fire.

Priority 3

- 19/29.15 GM Waller outlined the use of the provision of operational risk information system (PORIS) to Members, adding that PORIS captured information about premises, identifying a range of potential risks which are evaluated regularly. He further added a description of the mobile data terminals (MDT) used by crews, along with the type of information held to support reduction of risk to firefighters, the public and property.
- 19/29.16 GM Waller outlined the use of the area heat map which provided information relating to areas where fire related activity had occurred and any associated trends.
- 19/29.17 GM Waller described to Members how the Service works with LRFs, including the role of the Civil Contingency Unit (CCU) and our business continuity which provides back-up plans such as which other fire station could to be used as the work base should the normal base be out of action.
- 19/29.18 GM Waller added that business continuity plans were reviewed regularly to ensure their on-going viability. GM Waller also outlined how the Operational Effectiveness Database (OED) might work to improve resources, equipment and personal protective equipment; helping firefighters feel engaged with the Service and connecting to national learning and recommendations.
- 19/29.19 GM Waller confirmed that regular LRF exercises take place and include such risks as no-deal Brexit or flu pandemics using table top reviews. He added that Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP)

training was ongoing with Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), HM Coastguard, Police and the South Western Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST).

- 19/29.20 GM Waller reported that wholetime availability in Q1 was 100% and on-call was 81%. He added that on-call relies on employers supporting release from the work place to attend incidents. He further added that recruitment has been very successful in the BCP area with the Service reporting net gains in on-call firefighter turnover, annually.
- 19/29.21 In response to Members enquiry AM Why confirmed that the latest figures for response (p27 of Appendix A) were below the trend. AM Why outlined how these are monitored with station managers scrutinising results.
- 19/29.22 GM Waller provided Members with information about the recently purchased 42m aerial ladder platform (ALP), which went into active service in May, and is known to be the largest of its type in the south west. AM Why outlined some of its uses advising that 42m ALP replaced a 32m ALP, following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, giving greater capability in accessing the 180+ high-rise properties within the BCP LPS area.
- 19/29.23 GM Waller took Members through a local incident which used a number of appliances within the BCP area. He went on to provide statistical information relating to operational licences, incident command and breathing apparatus competence which can be found on pages 32 to 36 of the performance report (Appendix A).
- 19/29.24 GM Waller added that range training packages were available to staff and were under continuous review for improvement; and that GROW eLearning was also available to Members.
- 19/29.25 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and approved performance for quarter 1.**
- 19/29.26 **ACTION: AM Why to organise a Members visit to Westbourne to see the ALP.**
- 19/29.27 **ACTION: Democratic Services to send link and information about GROW to new Members.**
- 19/29.28 **ACTION: AM Why to provide information about forthcoming events, West Moors training centre and shadowing opportunities to Members.**
- 19/30 Update of Local Performance & Scrutiny reporting - (LPS) Members' Working Group (verbal)**
- 19/30.1 ACFO Mahoney advised Members that he is the officer linked to the LPS working group (WG), Chaired by Cllr Bob Jones, which is striving to ensure Members have the information they need to effectively and efficiently

scrutinise the relevant quarter's performance. He went on to outline the range of challenges involved in different locations across the Service.

- 19/30.2 ACFO Mahoney added that the proposed 'dashboard' will provide real-time information to Members to sit alongside retrospective scrutiny of each quarter's reporting and trends, including benchmarking - such as the national trend showing an increase deliberate fire setting.
- 19/30.3 Members asked if there were patterns or known reasons behind the increase in deliberate fire setting. ACFO Mahoney advised Members that there was a correlation between deprivation, anti-social behaviour and fire setting. School holidays and hot periods also contributed to arson incidents.
- 19/30.4 ACFO Mahoney added that the LPSs are still unique within fire and rescue services nationally; adding that they were well thought of by the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review which took place in June.
- 19/30.5 ACFO Mahoney confirmed the date of the next meeting of the Local Performance & Scrutiny Members' Working Group as 19 September.
- 19/30.6 The Chair praised the work of the Service in its attitude to innovation and commitment to improvement.

19/31 Issues raised by Members (agreed with Chair)

- 19/31.1 The Chair reminded Members that as 'Buddies' they were asked to visit local fire stations and work-places. AM Why advised Members that he would write to them providing relevant information about contacts at their nominated stations.
- 19/31.2 Members were advised by the Chair that there is a feedback protocol in place for Buddy visits; and that feedback was used to inform the Service, and the Authority, about strengths, weaknesses opportunities and concerns.
- 19/31.3 **ACTION: Democratic Services to write to Members to advise them of their Buddy work places and relevant managers.**

19/32 Date of Next Meeting

- 19/32.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 6 November 2019 at 10:00 hrs at Poole Fire Station.

The meeting closed at 11:30

Signed: _____