



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the
Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee
held at 9.30am on 5 November 2019 at
Dorchester Community Fire Station**

Members present: Cllr Pete Barrow (Chair); Cllr Richard Biggs; Cllr Rebecca Knox; Cllr Byron Quayle

Officer attendance: Director of Community Services, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Jim Mahoney; Area Manager (AM), Seth Why; Group Manager Steve Waller; Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse; Strategic Planning Coordinator, Claire Hawker

19/33 Welcome

19/33.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

19/34 Apologies

19/34.1 No apologies were received.

19/35 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

19/35.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

19/36 Public Questions

19/36.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

19/37 Review and approve minutes of the Dorset LPS meeting on 30 August 2019

19/37.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

19/37.2 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed, without amendment, and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

19/38 Action Progress

19/38.1 The Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse reported that two actions had been completed and two were 'in progress'. AM Seth Why gave the following updates to the Committee:

Action number 270 – The headteachers/chairs of governors of schools that had not yet engaged in Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) roadshows had been written to and invited to attend a session. The aim was to get buy in from these schools.

The Committee agreed to close this action but asked to be kept informed with any concerns with SDSA engagement, as they were keen to do what they could to help.

Action number 273 – GM Steve Waller explained that the incident command competency had been reported as higher for on-call staff than wholetime due to a recording issue. He confirmed to Members that no one can command an incident if their competency has lapsed.

19/38.2 **RESOLVED: Members approved the closure of actions 270 and 273 and the removal of the completed actions. It was agreed that the Committee would be kept up to date with any concerns with schools engaging in the Safe Drive Stay Alive Roadshows.**

9.36 Cllr Biggs arrived

19/39 Performance monitoring and briefing

19/39.1 **Priority 1** help you to make safer and healthier choices

19/39.2 GM Steve Waller took Members through the Performance Report for quarter 2 with an accompanying presentation.

19/39.3 GM Waller explained that a new Safe and Independent Living (SAIL) form had been introduced which is available in paper format, as well as being hosted on the Dorset Age UK website for an online submission.

- 19/39.4 This quarter saw the closure of the British Red Cross Patient discharge pilot. The pilot had been managed by the British Red Cross and Age UK and was undertaken by four fire and rescue services in conjunction with the National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC). GM Waller reported that results locally had been very encouraging. 38 referrals had been received via this process, 30 of which were to very high risk vulnerable people. He explained that the pilot would be now be evaluated.
- 19/39.5 On answering a Member's question about whether the pilot had included the whole of the Service area, AM Why explained that it had predominantly been in the south, at Dorchester and Bournemouth hospitals. He also confirmed that the Service would be very likely to continue with the initiative, having seen the benefits. Members asked to be kept up to date with the outcomes and future progress of this initiative.
- 19/39.6 Cllr Knox reported her disappointment that partners appeared to have little knowledge of this initiative, in particular at the Health and Wellbeing Board. She asked how we could get more buy in and understanding of what we are trying to achieve from our partners. AM Why explained that he was working with Dorset Police and other agencies to identify the top 500 most vulnerable people in Dorset. He said that once lessons were learnt, he would present back to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 19/39.7 Cllr Knox said that she was meeting the Chair of Dorset Age UK on 11 November and would be happy to put any messages that we require across. ACFO Mahoney explained that getting information from hospitals is a challenge, that there were tangible benefits to them to be able to discharge earlier and that Age UK may have information about vulnerable people who were not on the Service's radar.
- 19/39.8 **ACTION: Members to be kept up to date on the outcomes and the future of the hospital patient discharge pilot.**
- 19/39.9 GM Waller explained that the awareness training given to our partners seems to be helping them understand the groups of people that the Service considers high-risk as the proportion of Safe and Well visits to high risk people was increasing. On answering a question from a Member, he reported that the numbers of visits were increasing due to a number of factors including a performance management focus and confirmed that the increase in numbers had not meant a reduction in quality.
- 19/39.10 GM Waller explained the new 38-week Fire Cadet course that follows the National Fire Cadet Model, and that the next one would be run from Hamworthy Fire Station. AM Why said that he would confirm where the course following this was going to be held.
- 19/39.11 **ACTION: AM Why to confirm where the Fire Cadet course (after the Hamworthy one) was going to be held.**

- 19/39.12 GM Waller updated the Committee on the successful FireFit event held on Weymouth beach in which 448 children had taken part. This had given an opportunity to deliver water safety messages and complete a session on 'Firefit' to educate young people on physical exercise. On answering a question from a Member, he confirmed that the attendees had been invited by Swim Safe who had written out to schools in the area. Members asked about targeting of children who lived further inland.
- 19/39.13 **Action: AM Why to confirm how schools are chosen for SwimSafe and consider if the programme needs to be rolled out away from the coast, inland.**
- 19/39.14 GM Waller updated Members on the Dorset Road Safe 'Schools Road Safety Engagement' awards ceremony, which was held at Kingston Maurward in September to recognise those schools who are actively engaging in road safety education. Schools in the Dorset Group achieved success in the Secondary School category where Woodroffe Girls' School in Lyme Regis was presented with the silver medal and representatives from Corfe Hills School in Corfe Mullen received the bronze. In the Primary School category, the bronze medal went to Cranborne Church of England Voluntary Aided First School.
- 19/39.15 When discussing the number of people killed and seriously injured in road traffic collisions, Members asked how the data and targeting was being monitored. ACFO Mahoney explained that the corporate target was being considered as the current one was a national Road Safety Partnership target from some years ago. He further explained that the Service could only have an impact on education, but that enforcement and engineering were key factors in this risk and therefore outside of our immediate influence.
- 19/39.16 Members discussed the reports that some of them received from Dorset Council and there was a discussion about how the issue could be discussed at the Dorset Community Safety Panel on which Cllr Quayle and GM Waller sit.
- 19/39.17 **ACTION: Democratic Services to contact Dorset Council to determine what information Members receive on Road Traffic Collisions.**
- 19/39.18 **Priority 2** Protecting you and the environment from harm
- 19/39.19 GM Waller explained the work being done to address Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA's). On answering a question from a Member, he explained that most 'repeat offenders' reacted positively and worked with the Service when they had been contacted. AM Why explained the planned pilot for response to AFA's where there is no sleeping risk. The programme used operational crews, Safe and Well Teams and Fire Safety Teams to drive down unwanted calls.

- 19/39.20 GM Waller explained how the Service reviews its own business continuity plans, including those for fire stations.
- 19/39.21 GM Waller explained that the Service takes part in regular Local Resilience Forum exercises and training events based on the risk register. During the last quarter there had been joint training with Dorset Police along a civil disturbance theme. They had also simulated fire spreading to a primary building, which required crews to be protected by Dorset Police who also removed a barricade.
- 19/39.22 In September, a series of visits to Portland Port for ship familiarisation were arranged. Crews had the opportunity to walk the ship and familiarise pre planning and actions relating to a fire on board. Key points of the ship were visited for layout and information.
- 19/39.23 **Priority 3** Being there when you need us
- 19/39.24 GM Waller took the Committee through the availability performance data and reported that it was good considering the proportion of on-call resources in the group. He reported that the work of the On-Call Support Officers has had a positive impact. On answering a question from a Member about the new on-call pay arrangements and the concerns that had been raised by Dorchester Fire Station, ACFO Mahoney reported that more engagement had been programmed by the On Call Review and Resourcing Team to ensure all staff could realise the benefits of the scheme.
- 19/39.25 GM Waller explained the local performance management of response standards, both on an individual call level and by station and group.
- 19/39.26 Operational licence performance was discussed, and GM Waller explained that those few cases not in date would likely to relate to where people were off sick. He explained the control within the system which would mean people would not undertake duties in areas for which they had no 'in date' operational licence.
- 19/39.27 **RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and approved the performance for quarter 2.**
- 19/40 Media and Communications**
- 19/40.1 AM Why reported that he would arrange for all Members to receive the regular social media messages that go out to staff so they could stay up to date with safety messages and other relevant information.
- 19/40.2 **ACTION: Members to receive the regular social media messages that go out to staff.**

19/41 Update on LPS reporting - LPS Members Dashboard Working Group

19/41.1 ACFO Mahoney reported the outcome of the last Working Group meeting that had been held on 19 September where Members had been given an overview of the new dashboard. He confirmed that this would be implemented on 1 April 2020, and that the Committee would see the new reports from the August meeting when they reviewed the first quarter's performance.

19/42 Issues raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)

19/42.1 No issues were raised by Members. ACFO Mahoney referred to the Phase One Report that had just been published by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. He explained the following:

19/42.2 That the Service had taken a number of actions to ensure that we have considered the operational risk and the information crews have at the incident ground, our response, including the fleet of new Arial Ladder Platforms and underpinning fire safety arrangements in high-rise residential buildings.

19/42.3 We have worked with building owners and managers to ensure that ACM cladding has been identified and the risk mitigated. We have worked with Local Authority partners to improve fire safety in the local high-rise building stock.

19/42.4 We have been a contributor to reviews into building and fire safety since the Grenfell Tower fire including the Independent review of building regulations and fire safety and the Government's Building Safety Programme. We will continue to work with Government, fire and rescue services, local authorities and every residential building owners and managers to ensure the best possible levels in public safety.

19/42.5 ACFO Mahoney went on to say that the recommendations of the report would now be the subject of a gap analysis and any actions identified using the Operational Effectiveness Database. The Authority would be kept informed.

19/43 Date of next meeting

19/43.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 19 February 2020 at 9:30am, at Dorchester Community Fire Station.

The meeting closed at 11.17

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