



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the
Dorset Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee
held at 10:00 hours on Tuesday 22 November 2016 at the
DWFRS Community Fire Station, Poundbury

Members present: Cllr Trevor Jones (Chairman); Cllr Rebecca Knox; Cllr Spencer Flower; Cllr Mike Byatt; Cllr Collin Jamieson; Cllr Ronald Coatsworth; Cllr Susan Jefferies

Officer attendance: ACFO John Aldridge; Ian Jeary, Area Manager; Robert Ford, Head of Strategic Planning and Knowledge Management; Jane Barnes, Performance Manager; Marianne Taylor, Democratic Services Officer; Steve Waller, Assistant Area Manager; Mr Mark Armstrong, Road Safety Manager for Dorset

Observers: 2

1 Welcome

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

2 Apologies

2.2 Apologies were received from Cllr Steven Butler and Mr Nick Maton (CCU)

3 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

3.1 The Chairman asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the localism act.

3.2 There were none

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4 Public Questions

- 4.1 There were no members of the public present and 2 staff members observed. No questions were received prior to the meeting.

5 Minutes of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 30 August 2016

- 5.1 Members approved the minutes

6 Performance Monitoring for the Preceding quarter. (Taken after item 8)

- 6.1 The Chairman wondered what was happening about SMART target setting. Mr Ford explained there is a meeting pm 28 November which will include this, then a report will go to probably in FRA in February. Chairman suggested that the need for SMART should be impressed upon Officers and Members and be included at the FRA in February. The Chairman of the DWFRA, Cllr Rebecca Knox agreed.

- 6.2 In the previous quarter there had been 4 fire injuries

- 6.3 Members asked for page numbers to be added to the Quarterly Performance Report

- 6.5 Members discussed block graphs and were reminded that if SMART is introduced they will have a traffic light system.

- 6.6 Dorset Area are planning on carrying out more youth engagement because of the number of deliberate fires spiked during school holiday period; they will also work with partners to put in a fire safety theme.

- 6.7 KLOE of most concern is response to second properties.

- 6.4 **Action: Mr Ford to add page numbers to quarterly performance report.**

7 Briefing from the Area Managers (taken before item 6)

- 7.1 AM Jeary gave an update on weather conditions, noting the breach of the sea wall in Swanage. One rescue was carried out at Bridport

7.2 PRIORITY - Help you to make safer and healthier choices

- 7.3 AM Jeary was pleased to note there were no fire related deaths in the last quarter.

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7.4 KLOE 1 - Education programmes

An overview of education activities, target groups and progress was given.

- 7.4.1 The teams have carried out 1129 Safe & Well visits and 2 SPARCs courses had taken place. Teams are also working closely with other partners.
- 7.4.2 Funds were raised through the Station Open Day for the FireFighter's charity and Julia's House hospice. A number of driving courses were hosted including gold driver and safety awareness, which reached a total of 356 drivers. In partnership with Police & Crime Commissioner we have hosted two driver awareness days. The Dorset Area also collaborated with Kwik Fit to run a course.
- 7.4.3 Access to Schools is important. A number of schools and colleges have not yet responded to invitation to be involved. Members asked for a list of schools involved and schools/colleges not accessing the Safe Drive – Stay Alive (SDSA) project as this will be useful for them to prompt access to more schools/college. AM Jeary added that he was also in contact with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) who are rolling out SDSA.
- 7.4.4 AM Jeary highlighted the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)'s responsibilities to understand how they can be part of the chain to disseminate information.

7.5 KLOE - Supporting vulnerable people

- 7.5.1 The Dorset area is working closely with hospital trusts to support patient discharge. The Service adds value by ensuring those vulnerable people who are discharged from hospital are living safely and by closing gaps in the safety net. Members had a number of questions. The Chairman suggested perhaps Lorraine Hunt, Head of Prevention, could attend the next meeting. Mr Ford explained that we are developing an evaluation tool to help understand the range of information received.
- 7.5.2 There are a number of concerns about accessing information to carry out Safe and Well visits. The service is part of a data sharing charter together with all local authorities, however, the service has not been able to gain information from West Dorset, Purbeck, and Weymouth and Portland Councils on vulnerable people, such as benefit claimants.
- 7.5.3 Members were concerned that this might not be progressed. The Chairman said he would be involved with promoting this, providing the necessary information was received from the CFO. A letter will be formulated and sent after consultation with the CFO.

7.6 KLOE - Road safety education

- 7.6.1 AM Jeary has given a presentation to Dorset Community Safety partnership (CSP), which he said they found helpful. The CSP consists of Members from

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districts and boroughs across the county and Cllr Butler is on this committee for the Authority. Members wondered how information could be disseminated and Cllr Knox suggested need for all Authority Members to be in touch with leaders.

7.7 **KLOE - Safeguarding**

7.7.1 Members were interested in what takes place and how Safeguarding works within the Service.

7.8 **KLOE - Supporting local businesses**

7.8.1 Working with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) & Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) the Service carried out 62 audits on care homes, one nursing home has fitted sprinklers as a result of their audit.

7.8.2 The Service had an outstanding enforcement action for a licenced food premises which is related to sleeping arrangements above. A Member was concerned that restrictions about sleeping above food premises are resulting in empty properties and wondered who might be doing something about this in Bridport or other localities. Members were unaware that West Dorset has a strategy to bring back into use first and second floor accommodation. The Area Manager confirmed there is no resistance from the Service to bring these properties back into use and would rather have accommodation let, in the right circumstances and safely. AM Jeary also confirmed that the Service works with trading standards to inspect food premises.

7.8.3 Working with partners to help reduce hoarding

7.8.4 **KLOE - Unique Heritage and Environment**

7.8.5 The service is working with the Environment Agency (EA) carrying out joint audits of waste sites.

7.9 **KLOE - Local Resilience Partnerships**

7.9.1 AM Jeary Confirmed that the process of trialling mobile misters is on-going. Technical Fire Safety are discussing the best use of this equipment. The Area Manager confirmed there are mobile misters across DWFRS. He suggested this might be something partners (eg: Housing Associations, social services) purchase for their vulnerable households.

7.9.2 AM Jeary is working with the Melcombe Regis regeneration board to improve the outcomes for the people and places of Melcombe Regis. This is a multi-agency project and Dorset Area will be working with local partners to make the community safer. Actions will include: joint homes in multiple occupation (HMO) and licensing inspections, targeted safe and well visits to the most vulnerable and the commissioning of youth engagement activities.

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- 7.10 **PRIORITY - Be There When You Need Us**
- 7.10.1 AM Jeary is aware that the number of false alarms is too high and there need to be a focus on reducing this so he is working with Technical Fire Safety to identify the top 10 reasons. He added that the drop-in events at stations were not well attended by local business and this needs to be encouraged because it is one of the ways the Service helps business owners understand prevention, rather than using enforcement.
- 7.10.2 Teams are working more closely with and attend local Partnership Coordinating Group (PCG) meetings in order to gain access for vulnerable people in the community. Dementia and Domestic Abuse are both a priority.
- 7.11 **KLOE - Appliance availability**
- 7.11.1 The area manager confirmed the figures in the Performance report.
- 7.12 **KLOE - Appliance response**
- 7.12.1 Members were reminded that the current figures do not compare with previous DFRA figures as these included Bournemouth & Poole
- 7.13 **KLOE - operational competence of staff**
- 7.13.1 AM Jeary confirmed that competence levels are good. Crews are travelling to Westmoors for training which extends the working day of firefighters. AM Jeary is investigating ways of moving instructors to locations closer to crew bases.
- 7.14 **KLOE - Improving response services**
- 7.14.1 There are currently some gaps in the response service and we are looking at new ways of working. The co-responding service is falling since South West Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST) have started their trials for new ways of working and this is having a detrimental effect on crew morale. SWAST are triaging their calls before mobilising their vehicles. Other trusts are piloting a similar scheme.
- 7.14.2 Response to other properties: could be improved, working to identify and understand causes.
- 7.14.3 And finally more Safe Drive Stay Alive sessions are booked for the next quarter; the Service has nearly completed alignment of RDS recruitment; and on 11 December there is an open day at Weymouth Fire Station called a "Christmas Cracker".
- 7.15 **Action: List of schools in Dorset area who are engaged in SDSA and those who have not so far responded to the Service's invitations.**

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- 7.16 **Action: Invitation to Loraine Hunt to attend Members meeting.**
- 7.17 **Action: CFO to be asked to provide supporting evidence that accessing information has been challenging and affecting the Services commitment to undertaking Safe and Well visits to vulnerable people in the Dorset area.**
- 7.18 **Action: Providing support received from CFO as outlined in 7.17, The chairman to write on behalf of the local Members and the Service.**
- 8 Presentation by the Dorset Civil Contingency Unit – apologies received.**
- 8.1 Re schedule for next committee meeting.
- 8.2 Presentation by the Road Safety Manager for Dorset – Mark Armstrong**
- 8.3 The Chairman briefed Mr Armstrong on the background to requesting this presentation. Asking about the partnership, what it will do, and how we measure nationally.
- 8.4 Numbers of fatalities have reduced in the last 14 years. The lowest of 18 was in 2010. Current for this year to 31 October is 13. Casualties to 31 October 2016 is 332.
- 8.5 There are a range of strategic priorities, education is a big part of this. Mr Armstrong confirmed that part of his role is to ensure that all the road safety partnerships are working to the same aims.
- 8.6 Operation Dragoon, a new initiative focussing on individuals, works by profiling offenders. This may involve background checks and drug related work. Individuals cause under the community speed-watch initiative could result in PC or PCSO visit to driver.
- 8.7 Mr Armstrong feels that the Road Safe team are making progress with reducing the number of deaths on our roads.
- 8.8 The Chairman asked what consideration has been given to involve local police publicising the real cause of a driver fatality. He went on to say there is an opportunity to involve all police in helping the driving public understand cause and effect rather than blaming “the road”. A newsletter goes out through Parishes 4 times a year. The chairman suggested this could be used to highlight driver error or distraction, eg: texting while driving.
- 8.9 A Member suggested Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) figures should be considered alongside numbers of vehicles on the roads, and not in isolation.
- 8.10 Chairman thanked Mr Armstrong and invited him to attend from time to time.

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- 8.11 A member wondered what other actions might this committee take? Cllr Knox suggested that the Dorset Health & Wellbeing, Community Safety partnership would be working on tying together all activity and knowledge to best use the information received. For instance, education and adult services are more interested however communication is an issue. It was suggested that Cllr Butler might be asked to take a feedback role. Members wonder if Cllr Knox could have a formal discussion with ACFO Ben Ansell and agree to an annual statement or report
- 8.12 **ACTION: AM Ian Jeary to discuss publicising the real cause of driver fatalities resulting at the next Road Safe meeting he attends.**
- 8.13 **Action: Cllr Knox to progress discussions with ACFO Ben Ansell as the CFO Designate, about the annual report.**

9 Date of Next Meeting

- 9.1 1st March 2017 at Dorchester Community FS

Meeting closed at 12.05 am

Signed: _____