



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the
Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee
held at 10:00 hours on Wednesday 23 November 2016 at the
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Devizes Training Centre, Devizes,
Wiltshire**

Members present: Cllr Chris Devine, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Graham Payne, Cllr Mollie Groom, Cllr John Knight, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Peter Edge.

Officer attendance: ACFO Mick Stead; Gus Cuthbert, Area Manager; Byron Standen, Group Manager; Mr Bob Ford Head of Strategic Planning and Knowledge Management, Ms Jane Barnes, Performance Manager; Mrs Marianne Taylor, Democratic Services Officer.

1 Welcome

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

2 Apologies

2.2 Apologies were received from Cllr Jones, Cllr Rogers; Cllr Christopher Newbury

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. There were no disclosures.

4 Public Questions

4.1 No public questions had been received and there were no members of the public present at the meeting.

- 5 Minutes of the Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 1 September 2016**
- 5.1 The chairman asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- 5.2 Members confirmed their approval of minutes with no amendments.
- 5.3 The Chairman took Members through the Actions as follows:
- 6.22 - covered in presentation;
 - 6.23 assistive technology - ACFO updated Members on the potential that is being trialled in the south to link our Safe and Well teams into funding streams associated with the disabilities facilities grant (DFG) and to telecare providers. Opportunities are also being investigated in Wiltshire but this has been delayed due to procurement of services.
 - 6.24 –ACFO updated - Members would like to know when school visits are planned
 - 6.25/6.26 Sprinklers in schools – action completed by Cllr Payne, nationally there has been confirmation that the policy will not change and local lobbying helped to raise the issue at a national level.
 - 6.27 - Wiltshire Council are likely to expect an update on the success of Merger in July 2017. ACFO suggested it might be better to report the outcomes of the annual governance statement in September. This will be an issue for the full Fire Authority to agree.
 - 6.28 – covered in presentation;
 - 7.3 – layout in the presentation;
 - 7.4 – covered in the presentation;
 - 7.5 – add in-depth look in recruitment and retention – covered in item 9;
 - 10.6 - verbal report on the Averies fire – in the presentation;
 - 10.7 - confirmed as completed.
- 5.4 **Action: Discussion on the production of the report for Wiltshire council to be deferred to the Full Fire Authority.**
- 6 Performance monitoring for preceding quarter (taken with item 8)**
- 6.1 The Chairman raised the need to discuss with Officers the layout and style of Appendix A. ACFO Mick Stead reminded Members that performance reports are generated through the electronic system Sycle and the intention is that reporting will be moving to a dashboard approach in the future.
- 6.2 Performance information was approved by Members.
- 6.3 **Resolved: Members approved the performance report.**
- 7 Verbal update on Averies Fire (taken after item 8)**

7.1 AM Cuthbert updated Members on the of the Averies Fire in Swindon in 2013 and advised Members that waste site fires are on the local resilience forum's (LRF) community risk register.

7.2 AM Cuthbert added that additional equipment and facilities have been purchased where required.

8 Briefing from Area Commander

AM Gus Cuthbert introduced his presentation inviting Members to ask any questions they feel necessary.

8.1 Priority 1

8.2 KLOE1: Education programmes

8.2.1 Members were made aware that all schools in the area, except one, are currently engaged in fire education programmes, and that two Salamander courses have been run.

8.3 KLOE 2: Vulnerable People

8.3.1 Nearly 400 Safe & Well visits have been carried out and there are seven advisors in Wiltshire area. Members were advised there will be an item in next Policy & Resources Committee meeting under budgets to increase capacity.

8.3.2 Safe & Well Advisors work in partnership with GPs and others, they refer individuals to the Service through Safe and Independent Living (SAIL).

8.3.3 AM Cuthbert confirmed that the Canal Trust is one of the partners they work with as the communities who live and travel the canal network can be very transient and not in contact with any partner agency

8.4 KLOE 3: Working with Partners

8.4.1 The Safeguarding Coordinator has attended the local Safeguarding Board; referrals are made to the Bobbyvan and to the hearing & vision teams. The ACFO confirmed that proper procedures are followed through Safeguarding, using data sharing protocols

8.5 KLOE 4: Road Safety

8.5.1 Safe Drive Stay Alive in Wiltshire area has visited 40 of the 45 schools booked for visits. There are some schools who are not currently engaged in this activity.

8.5.2 Members raised concerns about cyclist. AM Cuthbert confirmed this part of the discussion on the Strategic road safety agenda chaired by the Police & Crime Commissioner's office and the work we are engaged in with wider road safety.

- 8.6 **Priority 2**
- 8.7 **KLOE 1: Vulnerable People**
 - 8.7.1 Domestic abuse and hoarding are issues that are being targeted with a multi-agency approach. The Service provides fireproof letter boxes and advice on safe rooms. We are actively engaged in information exchange.
- 8.8 **KLOE 2: Legislative Fire Safety**
 - 8.8.1 Worked with 120 business also carried out 38 fires safety audits. The Service was present at Wiltshire Council events for Licensees.
 - 8.8.2 AM Cuthbert to speak to head of fire safety about planned events in Salisbury. The Service needs to ensure businesses understand their responsibility as business owners for the maintenance and management of their fire safety systems
- 8.9 **KLOE 3: Identifying risks**
 - 8.9.1 Work has been focussed on risk identification and reduction in commercial premises to generate operational intelligence but also to give safety advice to occupiers. This ensures both a protection and a response element is applied to premises of highest risk.
- 8.10 **KLOE 4: Local Resilience Partnerships**
 - 8.10.1 The Service continues to make closer links with flood wardens, and were recently involved in an exercise in Bradford on Avon. The Chairman asked about skills for river work GM Standen confirmed that the Service is working with the Environment Agency.
 - 8.10.2 There is much learning being shared across borders, particularly from Devon & Cornwall after their experiences during floods. The Service and the Environment Agency continue to look at how this learning can be best utilised within Wiltshire
- 8.11 **Priority 3**
- 8.12 **KLOE 1: Appliance Availability**
 - 8.12.1 Covered separately in the meeting.
- 8.13 **KLOE 2: Response arrangements**
 - 8.13.1 Covered separately in the meeting

8.14 **KLOE 3 - Competence**

8.14.1 There are changes to trauma and oxygen training which may reduce overall performance however competence will still be maintained. This may affect how performance is measured and figures may dip temporarily. Otherwise competency figures remain positive.

8.15 **KLOE 4: Learn from Risks**

8.15.1 Local and multi-agency debriefs are ongoing and are audited. Members suggested bringing an item to P&R on the upgrade to heavy rescue and other equipment as a result of the debrief process.

8.16 Competencies

8.16.1 AM Cuthbert provided an update on how the Service manages competency for key skills. Outlining the expectation for the operational licence in the North is greater than that in the South, this is currently being reviewed to standardise the approach. Alignment of operational licenses should be in place in April and the Service will invest in new competency framework. Members would like to see this in the Annual report to WCC.

8.16.2 Members were assured there would be no adverse change in frequency to training of core competencies, with the caveat that it may be subject to other regulatory changes

8.17 Operational Response

8.17.1 AM Cuthbert outlined the DWFRS distribution of fire stations in the Wiltshire area. He then took Members through the finer detail of the response times. Some risks are out of the Command Area control, there are some occasions we can do something such as where a training need has been identified. Response teams collate information which in turn informs prevention work to assist in reducing risks levels in parts of Wiltshire.

8.17.2 AM Cuthbert reminded Members there were no national response standards, however in real time we are on par with our peers in similar geographical areas

8.18 Crewing levels

8.18.1 Measured in hours, rather than people, most stations in Wiltshire Command area are short of hours, the exception is Salisbury. The consequence of this is some appliances may be off the run.

8.18.2 Evenings and night-times are the highest risk times of a serious fire occurring. The work currently being carried out is to try and match crew hours with high risk times. Members were interested in how RDS are both recruited and retained, the type of remuneration received and what impact this may have on crewing and turnout

- 8.18.3 When asked if the format was what Members wanted, Members agreed the format was good: a presentation and questions and answer session worked well for them.
- 8.18.4 **ACTION: An inclusive and friendly letter to be sent to principle or headteacher of the identified school explaining the level of take up across the county and asking that they consider their position positively.**
- 8.18.5 **ACTION: verbal update at P&R on purchase of heavy rescue equipment.**

9 Recruitment and Retention (establishment & strength)

- 9.1 All District Commanders have been actively trying a variety of ways to improve availability. With events happening and all locations.
- 9.2 There is a need to stop and see how successful these campaigns have been to ensure we are recruiting in the right way, creating a demand we can cope with internally.
- 9.3 The consensus of opinion, generally, is that it takes too long from expressing an interest to getting a RDS fire fighter on the 'run'.
- 9.4 AM Cuthbert outlined some costings for RDS & WTD in the Service Area. Then highlighted some of the Service wide work which was ongoing looking at the impact on retained staff, families and employers. Members are aware of the Service's need to be flexible in its approach to retaining RDS and support from primary employers.
- 9.5 AM Cuthbert was very pleased to report no fire deaths in the Wiltshire Command area.
- 9.6 A Member asked about the high number of false alarms – there is a 10% failure rate (false alarms) as the industry standard. Fire safety look at top 10 offenders of false alarms and work towards improving the issues. He confirmed there are very few malicious false alarms. Members would like to know more about false alarms in their area and supply Members with more information.
- 9.7 The Ambulance Service has changed the categories for Co-responder calls. The category for co-responders to 'respond to life threatening incidents' only and this has resulted in less call-outs for Service Co-Responders.
- 9.8 AM Cuthbert highlighted a number of unusual fire and rescue incidents for example: a light aircraft crash; children playing 'Pokemon Go' getting trapped; and a number of others incidents.
- 9.9 Members would like a copy of the presentation to be circulated with these minutes.

9.10 **Action: AM Cuthbert to provide information on false alarms within the Sycle performance report.**

9.11 **Action: AM Cuthbert to provide the presentation for Mrs Taylor to circulate with the minutes.**

10 Issues raised by Members

10.1 A Member suggested putting an asterisk against RDS attendance to an incident. This will help with identifying RDS timing issue.

11 Date of Next Meeting

11.1 The chairman confirmed with Members the date of the next Wiltshire Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 3 March 2016 at the Five Rivers, Salisbury.

11.2 The Chairman suggested inviting officers and local fire fighters to observe the meeting if they are free.

11.3 **Action: Democratic Services to book Nadder at HQ for the meeting on 3 March 2016.**

The meeting closed at 12.06

Signed: _____