



**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 19 November 2020. This was a remote meeting held in Microsoft Teams.

Members present:

Cllr Ann Stribley (Chair)
Cllr Steve Baron
Cllr Malcolm Davies
Cllr Paul Hilliard
Cllr Toby Johnson

Officer attendance:

Director of Community Safety, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Jim Mahoney
Prevention and Protection, Area Manager (AM), Marc House
Group Manager (GM), Dave Graham
Information Systems Manager, Mark Woodfield
Strategic Planning Manager, Clare Morgan
Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse
Democratic Services Support, Steph Howard

20/21 Welcome

20/21.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Members introduced themselves.

20/22 Apologies

20/22.1 Apologies were received from Area Manager, Seth Why.

20/23 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

20/23.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. There were no disclosures.

20/24 Public Questions

20/24.1 No public questions had been received.

20/25 Review and approve minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole LPS meeting on 27 August 2020

20/25.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

20/25.4 **RESOLVED: that the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

20/26 Action Progress

20/26.1 Corporate Governance Manager, Nicki Whitehouse presented the report, referring to action number 307 to which Group Manager (GM) Dave Graham gave an update on the implementation of Premises Information Plates (PIP) in the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Group. GM Graham explained that the project was making good progress and confirmed that 115 PIP's had already been fitted to buildings, 39 were in development with 62 to be completed.

20/26.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted the actions and comments.**

20/26.3 **RESOLVED: Members approved the removal of completed actions.**

20/27 Performance reporting and briefing

20/27.1 GM Dave Graham took Members through the Performance report for quarter 2, with the aid of the dashboard which was shared to those attending the meeting.

20/27.2 GM Graham went through each Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) under the three priorities, including the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) list for each.

20/27.3 **Priority 1 – making safer and healthier choices.**

20/27.4 GM Graham reported that the availability of wholetime appliances remains very strong and that on-call appliances were available to respond to incidents over 90% of the time. He explained some of the actions the Service is taking to ensure that on-call availability remains stable, including the on-call pay model, introduced in October 2020, a review of on-call staff contract availability and proactive recruitment in local communities by on-call support officers.

- 20/17.5 GM Graham reported the Group's performance against response standards for quarter 2. They were on track or being monitored, only being very slightly less than last year. In response to a Member's question, GM Graham confirmed that the numbers of incidents where the response standards had not been met were very small, and often related to a call when the nearest fire engine was already committed to a response to another incident, in which case the next nearest one would be mobilised within seconds.
- 20/17.6 GM Graham reported that the Service aligns its road safety initiatives to local and national road safety campaigns, including the National Roads Partnership calendar, THINK, Highways England, Road Safety Partnerships, and NFCC campaigns. During this quarter, these had included:
- Social Media support of "One Road, One Week" between 14 - 20 September 2020 and
 - Project EDWARD on and around 16 September 2020. Project "Every Day Without a Road Death" (EDWARD), was run in association with police forces across the UK.
- 20/17.7 GM Graham reported that the Service works with Dorset Police, Dorset Council and South Western Ambulance Service to jointly deliver the Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) programme to young people in Dorset. In light of coronavirus restrictions, a digital version of this programme has been developed. The Service continues to work in partnership with the Ministry of Defence to deliver the Survive the Drive programme to military personnel.
- 20/17.8 In terms of firesetting, GM Graham explained that the Service receives referrals from partners, schools and parents. Two referrals had been seen by firesetter advisors this quarter, and both cases had been closed. 15 volunteers have provided heath patrols at high risk times, delivering 143 sessions, covering 347 hours.
- 20/17.9 GM Graham reported that the coronavirus pandemic has also had an impact on the Service's prevention activities, but teams have adapted so that they can deliver in a different way. The Safe and Well team has conducted fewer visits, with most of their work being reactive and social media being used to get safety messages across to the public.
- 20/17.10 He advised that although Safer Persons and Responsible Communities (SPARC) courses are not currently being run due to coronavirus restrictions, the Princes Trust courses have started again, with seven students attending in Poole.
- 20/17.11 **Priority 2 - Protecting you and the environment from harm**
- 20/17.12 GM Graham explained that there had been a downturn in the number of proactive audits due to the coronavirus restrictions, but Fire Safety teams are adapting new ways of working to prioritise and inspect care homes and other sleeping accommodation to ensure fire regulations are maintained to a high standard. The department is actively contacting care homes who would have formed part of the high-risk premises within the Risk Based Inspection

Programme, to undertake a telephone audit in line with National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) guidance.

- 20/17.13 The Service has a Service Delivery Plan action for 2020-21 to deliver a new risk-based inspection programme . This will include assessing the premises to be inspected as well as premises where incidents are occurring to ensure effective and dynamic targeting. This project is on track to be delivered in time for 1 April 2021.
- 20/17.14 Building Regulation and licensing applications continue to be carried out within statutory timeframes. The number of fires were up slightly in the quarter, but the number in non-domestic properties had reduced since the same period last year.
- 20/17.15 GM Graham reported improved station productivity and reduced costs of calling out on-call firefighters as a result of the new strategy of non-attendance to automatic fire alarms (AFA) between the hours of 8am and 6pm. This has freed up more time for wholetime staff to do community safety work and training. He reassured Members that robust plans are in place for these sites and that when an AFA call is received, contact is made to ensure there is no incident. If no confirmation of this can be made, then the Service will mobilise to the address.
- 20/17.16 **Priority 3 - Being there when you need us**
- 20/17.17 GM Graham explained the Operational Effectiveness Database and how it is used for learning across the Service and operational assurance, capturing lessons learnt for training and the introduction of new equipment. He reported that the system also manages incident debriefs, and their learning outcomes.
- 20/17.18 GM Graham verified that across the group, Her Majesty's Coroner has, to date, confirmed that there has been 1 fire death in 2020-21; this being at the incident on the 27 March at Maple Road, Poole which was determined to be fire related and the characteristics of this fire were accidental ignition of bedding and mattress by discarded smoking materials. There remains the potential for one further fire death which is awaiting a Coroner's verdict, this being the incident that happened in Poole Park on 5 October 2020. Each fire death is investigated at a fatal fire case conference to explore Service and multi-agency learning and improvement, the last conference was held in October 2020. The Service also considers how improvements can be made in the identification of vulnerable individuals and tailor our interventions accordingly.
- 20/17.19 The Service is continuing to carry out limited Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) training with our partners, including the Coastguard, South West Ambulance Service Foundation Trust, police, and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

- 20/17.20 GM Graham confirmed that through Resilience Direct, we share site-specific response plans and cross-border risks to enable an effective multi-agency response in the event of a cross-border major incident. All flexi-duty Officers are trained on accessing Resilience Direct via Incident Command acquisition courses, and at Officer training days held every six months. A typical meeting includes briefings on the latest threat from terrorism, VIP visits, new operational guidance and training opportunities, followed by debriefs of significant incidents for shared understanding. The most significant learning points are raised nationally using the Joint Organisational Learning system. The debrief for the Wareham Forest Fire is being undertaken currently and is expected to provide national learning outcomes.
- 20/17.21 GM Graham took the Committee through a presentation explaining that firefighters had supported South West Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWAST) in attending 1,450 incidents. They had carried out 1,126 face fittings for SWAST and other partners to provide respiratory protection.
- 20/17.22 GM Graham reported that crews had noticed a pattern of firesetting in the Tatum Road area in Poole. The police had deployed extra PCSO's in the area and crews had also increased their presence. With the help of Fire Control, a telephone number related to these incidents were identified and passed to the police and the firesetting ceased.
- 20/17.23 GM Graham advised Members that primary and secondary schools were being provided with online virtual lessons which had received very positive feedback. The Education team had been working on a package of fire safety presentations for university students and working together with student unions and the communication team to make them aware.
- 20/17.24 The Chair thanked GM Graham for his presentation.

20/28 Matters raised by Members

- 20/28.1 No matters were raised.

20/29 Date of next meeting

- 20/29.1 The next meeting of the Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee will take place on 18 February 2021 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 10:53hrs

Signed: _____