



## **DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

### **Minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee held on 23 August 2023, 10.00am at Poole Fire Station, Poole.**

#### Members present:

Cllr Cameron Adams  
Cllr Richard Herrett  
Cllr Paul Hilliard  
Cllr Lisa Northover  
Cllr Clare Weight

#### Officer attendance:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Director of Community Safety, Andy Cole  
Group Manager (GM), Charlie Pack  
Democratic Services Officer, David Shaw

#### **23/10 Election of Chair**

23/10.1 Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole opened the meeting. He asked for nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr Paul Hilliard was nominated by Cllr Cameron Adams and seconded by Cllr Richard Herrett. Cllr Hilliard was duly elected as Chair.

**23/10.2 RESOLVED: That Cllr Hilliard be elected Chair of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee.**

#### **23/11 Welcome**

23/11.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Members.

#### **23/12 Apologies**

23/12.1 Apologies were received from Area Manager (AM), Darren Langdown and Group Manager (GM), Stuart Gillion.

#### **23/13 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests**

23/13.1 The Chair asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the Localism Act. Cllr Richard Herrett made a personal statement that his wife was a member of the Bournemouth Union Student Accommodation Management Group.

**23/14 Public questions**

23/14.1 There were no members of the public present and no public questions had been received.

**23/14.2 RESOLVED: Members noted there were no public questions.**

**23/15 Review and approve minutes of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 22 February 2023**

23/15.1 The Chair asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

**23/15.2 RESOLVED: That the minutes be confirmed without amendment and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

**2/16 Action progress report**

23/16.1 Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO), Andy Cole provided an update to the Committee on the following action.

23/16.2 Action 363 - That the implementation of virtual reality (VR) by the Service be reported at the next meeting of the Committee. ACFO Cole provided a verbal update highlighting that the Service had 50 VR sets that were used for road safety education purposes. The Service was reviewing their use as the sets had been found to be staff resource intensive to use and they had constraints. The National Fire Chiefs Council was also reviewing their use for road safety education.

**23/16.3 RESOLVED: Members agreed that action 363 was complete and that there were no actions outstanding.**

**23/17 Performance monitoring and briefing**

23/17.1 Group Manager (GM), Charlie Pack presented to Members the Performance monitoring and briefing for quarter 1, which covered the three priority areas overseen by this Committee:

**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.

A link to the presentation can be found [here](#) .

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

- 23/17.2 **Priority 1 - Help you to make safer and healthier choices.**
- 23/17.3 GM Pack reported on the partnerships and boards that the Service engaged with in the community and explained their purpose. These included those associated with student accommodation high-rise buildings and providing fire safety to the islands in Poole Harbour. Members stated that they would be interested in attending training exercises as observers.
- 23/17.4 GM Pack provided detail on how fire safety education was provided to schools on a targeted basis and also on the sharing of data between partner agencies, for example via Safe and Well in providing safe and independent living (SAIL). Reference was also made to Business Fire Safety Checks, station and community risk profiles and the operation of the on-call system.
- 23/17.5 GM Pack highlighted to Members that 531 safe and well visits were completed in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area in quarter 1, and there was an increase of 18% in partner referrals compared with the previous year, which were used to target assistance.
- 23/17.6 GM Pack reported on the work undertaken in quarter 1 on prevention in respect of the rise in the cost of living, including the #SaveSafely campaign run in conjunction with BCP Council with the objective of staying safe whilst cutting costs.
- 23/17.7 Details were provided on the number of education inputs in quarter 1 (2055); the number of children and young people educated via youth groups (492) and the awareness campaigns for road safety.
- 23/17.8 GM Pack also reported on the Firesetters Scheme that aimed to reduce firesetting behaviour in young people currently engaging in firesetting. There had been 10 referrals from partners during this period. Following a spate of fires in the Bourne Valley heathland area, videos for upper primary and secondary students had been made with ACFO Cole and sent to every school in the BCP area before the May half term, asking schools to send home to parents/carers. These had been viewed 394 times. The Committee discussed the behaviours behind firesetting and also the merit and effectiveness of Public Space Protection Orders in the context of the use of disposable barbeques.
- 23/17.8 **Priority 2 - protect you and the environment from harm**
- 23/17.9 GM Pack explained that the Service had inspected 354 premises within the Building Risk Review programme and this work had been completed within the defined timescale.

- 23/17.10 During the period, 122 informal fire safety notices had been issued across the Service.
- 23/17.11 **Priority 3 - Be there when you need us**
- 23/17.12 GM Pack reported that the availability of wholetime appliances remained strong. On-call appliances were available to respond to incidents 82% of the time and wholetime appliances 95% of the time.
- 23/17.13 GM Pack reported on the incidents in the quarter. There had been no incidents with the potential for fire deaths in the quarter.
- 23/17.14 Reference was made to multi-agency working and the procedures around callouts to false alarms.
- 23/17.15 The Chair thanked GM Pack for his presentation.
- 23/17.16 RESOLVED: Members scrutinised and noted the performance for quarter 1 2023**
- 23/18 Matters raised by Members (agreed with the Chair)**
- 23/18.1 The officers responded to questions raised by Members relating to fire safety education for residents that did not have English as their first language. The Service's website had comprehensive safety information that was available in 120 languages via a translator application. The Service would also provide fire safety education to community groups when requested.
- 23/19 Date of Next meeting**
- 23/19.1 The Chair confirmed the date of the next Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee meeting as 21 November 2023 from 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 12.00.

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Initials* \_\_\_\_\_