

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority Periodic Report of the Chairman on Authority Matters

Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

1. The Authority has appointed Mr S J Sweeney as its Chairman and Mr D M Jellyman as its Vice Chairman for the ensuing year (up to the dissolution of the Authority on 1 August 2018).

Performance

2. The Authority has been advised of the performance for the fourth quarter of 2017/18.

All Attended Incidents - There have been 1833 incidents in Quarter 4 of 2017/18, compared to 1799 during the same period last year. The trend over the five quarters was going down.

Accidental Dwelling Fires - There have been 152 Accidental Dwelling Fires in Quarter 4 of 2017/18 compared to 133 during the same period last year. The trend over the five period timeframe is up.

Safe and Well Visits Delivered - During Quarter 4 of 2017/18 there were 7287 Safe and Well Visits delivered compared to 6616 Quarter 4 of 2016/17.

Accidental Dwelling Fires in Gold, Silver or Bronze Households - The number of Accidental Dwelling Fires in Gold, Silver or Bronze households is 18 during Quarter 4 compared to 13 during the same period last year.

Safe and Well Visits Delivered to Gold, Silver or Bronze Households - The number of Safe and Well visits delivered to Gold, Silver or Bronze households is 2375 during Quarter 4. 1381 Safe and Well Visits were undertaken in Quarter 4 of 2016/17.

Deaths and Injuries in Accidental Dwelling Fires - There have been two deaths and six injuries during Quarter 4 of 2017/18 compared to zero deaths and four injuries during the same period last year.

Sprinkler Project

3. The Community Sprinkler Project continues to gather momentum fitting 33 high rise residential buildings with sprinklers over the next 3 years. This project is an example of the work Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) carry out with community stakeholders, demonstrating the Service's commitment to the three priorities identified within the Corporate Safety Plan.

The Fire Engineer has been supporting the owners of four high rise towers in Lichfield, dispelling the myths of sprinklers and educating Directors and residents. Stoke-on-Trent City Council has a proposed start date of July 2018 for their first 18 high rise blocks to be retro-fitted with sprinklers. This is estimated to take 20 weeks, with completion expected in December 2018. The design used for this initial block will be replicated in the other 17 blocks across Stoke-on-Trent. Tamworth Borough Council are nearing completion of the design of sprinkler systems for their 6 high rise blocks, which forms part of a major refurbishment project. The estimate is that the whole

project will take 40 weeks and installation will commence in June 2018 and be completed by March 2019.

Prince's Trust

4. Stafford Team 11 was a huge success with 13 young people and a staggering 12 students achieving a positive outcome immediately after the end of the programme. A celebration event was held at the Service Headquarters on Friday 27 April where the young people were joined by their family and friends, as well as their local work placement providers, to celebrate their achievement.

The Police in Stafford were very supportive throughout and they provided workshops and activities and this relationship will continue to grow where more activities will be planned together for Stafford Team 12. One such example of this, is through the Police and Cycle-R the provision of bicycles for the students along with maintenance and road safety workshops. This will help reduce bus fare costs and support the health and wellbeing agenda across the programmes. Currently the staff are involved in programme planning and outreach where they already have 17 young people confirmed for the next programme starting on Monday 4 June.

The latest Team programme in Cannock saw 13 young people complete the programme. Ten young people went on to achieve a positive outcome, two have found employment, eight have successfully enrolled on to a college or apprenticeship programme (starting September) and three have applications pending and continue to be closely supported by staff. There was an additional celebration event on the Friday 27 April at which these young people graduated from this programme.

Staff are now preparing for the next Team by carrying out outreach work, taster days and programme planning. After this programme the staff will move to Tamworth to conclude the funding of Building Better Opportunities by delivering two Team programmes in Belgrave Community Fire Station. £3,000 has been successfully applied for the Local Community Fund with local Tamworth Councillors to help improve the Student Firefighter area of Belgrave Community Fire Station with better facilities to accommodate the Prince's Trust students.

The eighth Get Started programme was delivered 21 May - 25 May 2018 in partnership with Make Some Noise in Cannock. During the week, students improved their confidence by developing music and lyrics and created different songs by the end of the programme. This has proven to be a popular course and has provided a gateway for 12 of the students to attend the Cannock Team programme to assist them with getting back into education or employment.

Fairbridge 12 in Rugeley saw 8 young people start the programme and 7 finish it. Six of those 7 have progressed on to the team programme in Cannock. Fairbridge 13 has recently concluded. There were 9 that started this programme and it is anticipated at least 5 will join Stafford Team 12 from this.

Staffordshire Flame

5. On 4 May 2018 firefighters and staff at Headquarters gathered in the Service's Memorial Garden where they witnessed the unveiling and dedication of the Staffordshire Flame, a sculpture commissioned by the Memorial Garden Board. The sculpture was developed with the kind generosity of partners including Owl projects, Mallards Steel, PM Training and Audley Builders. Money raised at the Stokie Christmas Market also helped towards its design and build.

The flame statue sits in the centre of a dedicated area of the Memorial Garden at Headquarters and will be used by staff each year to commemorate the National Fire Fighters Memorial Day initiated by the Fire Fighters Charity.

Feedback from HMICFRS

6. In December 2017 Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service was selected to support the HMICFRS as one of three out of 45 English Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) in a pilot of the new methodology. This pilot was designed to assist the HMICFRS in testing and developing its methodologies for inspecting the fire sector whilst also supporting the professional development of the newly appointed inspectors.

The approach taken by the Service was aimed at facilitating the needs of the Inspectorate, including the opportunity to involve as many staff as possible to raise the awareness of the process in Service.

During the formal debrief on 20 April, a number of findings were relayed to the Executive Team for future consideration in readiness for the full inspection in summer 2019. The Service Improvement and Equality Committee were provided with a post pilot report on 26 April highlighting the impact on the Service and the benefits gained from being involved. An action plan has been developed based on the findings and was reported to the Service Delivery Board on 11 June which will now be integrated into the respective Directorates and reported to the Service Delivery Board. A formal report has not been published by the HMICFRS on this occasion and a grading has not been awarded to the Service as this was a pilot inspection.

On 30 May the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive presented an update to a number of Chiefs and Authority Chairs at an event organised by the HMICFRS.

On 31 May the Service Liaison Officer gave an update to a number of Managers from other Services which was followed on 6 June by a presentation at the second national event for Service Liaison Officers, also hosted by the HMICFRS.

Governance Update

7. The previously set timetable for Governance passing from the present FRA to the PCC was due to take place on 1 June 2018. This was subject to the necessary Statutory Instrument (SI) being laid before Parliament and a set period of time passing to allow any concerned MPs to challenge the process. The original SI included Staffordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hereford and Worcester/ Shropshire as areas due to transfer governance at the same time. Since the original timetable was set the other effected Authorities had commenced Judicial Review proceedings against the decision and as these were in train the original SI could not be put before Parliament.

It has been confirmed that Staffordshire's Statutory Instrument (SI) has been separated from the others and was placed as a free standing SI on 8 June 2018 which meant that it could proceed through the process to implementation. The date set for the Statutory Instrument coming into force is 1 August 2018 and the Fire and Rescue Authority will be dissolved at that time.

S J Sweeney
Chairman

D M Jellyman
Vice Chairman