

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

16 DECEMBER 2019

1. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY, FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS)

At the meeting the Authority noted that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) was due to publish the following day a summary report of their findings from tranche 3 inspections of fire and rescue services across England. This would enable the Service to draw comparisons against its own performance which had been the achievement of an outstanding rating along with good in all other areas with no areas requiring improvement. It was expected that a complete 'State of Fire and Rescue' report summarising the national picture would be provided in the New Year by Sir Tom Winsor.

After Authority meeting took place the results were published. The inspections assessed how effectively and efficiently fire and rescue services prevent, protect the public against and respond to fires. They also looked at how well services look after their people.

LFRS remains one of only two services in the country to receive an outstanding rating along with all other areas rated as good, and no areas requiring improvement in any of the 11 categories assessed.

The Service has remained focussed on continuous improvement since the inspection in 2018 and progress is being made in areas including improving protection services, identifying high potential staff and aspiring leaders and prioritising its risk-based inspection programme.

2. ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) sets out the Government's high level expectations, priorities and objectives for Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA's) in England. Included within the framework is the requirement on all FRA's to provide assurance on financial, governance and operational matters.

The Statement of Assurance was considered and approved by Members. It provided the required accountability and transparency to our communities and the Government that LFRS continued to deliver efficient, effective value for money services.

This statement sat alongside the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), Statement of Accounts, the Annual Governance Statement, the Annual Service Plan and Annual Progress Report. It detailed what measures were in place to assure that the Combined Fire Authority's performance was efficient, economic, and effective and provided further evidence that LFRS continued to deliver under the expectations detailed within both the National Framework and its own IRMP.

3. FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS

A report detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents within the period 1 September 2019 to 30 November 2019 was provided.

There were 2 successfully completed prosecutions and 6 pending prosecutions under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Fire protection and business support information was provided and Members noted that there were 8 arson convictions during the period.

4. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

This report included information for the 2 Unitary and 12 District Authorities relating to Fire Safety Initiatives and Fires and Incidents of particular interest.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer introduced:

- Caroline Hooson and Louise Rainford, Youth Engagement Co-ordinators who gave a presentation on the Prince's Trust programme. The programme enabled those aged 16-25 to develop confidence, motivation and skills through a 12-week course. The course content included relevant key issues such as: education on knife crime, safeguarding and health & wellbeing (ie: the delivery of the wasted lives young driver education programme). Details of: funding, structure and the areas from which the Service delivered the programme were presented. It was noted that people who were referred onto the programme included those who were educationally disengaged, homeless or had offending behaviour, substance misuse or mental health needs.

LFRS had been a delivery partner since 2001 and during that time had delivered fire safety education directly to 6,000 people. Outcomes were measured both in terms of hard outcomes (people who successfully achieved further qualifications) and softer outcomes (people who were better able to deal with the future challenges they faced). A number of case study examples of positive multi-agency working were presented.

The Authority congratulated all Prince's Trust staff for their hard work and dedication. Members who had not yet attended a Prince's Trust presentation were urged to do so; particularly as the presentations given by the young people on the programme at the end of the 12 weeks told of their inspirational and heartfelt experiences.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer then introduced:

- Lee Cook and Lee Garnett, Incident Intelligence Officers who gave a presentation on the benefits of the use of the drone at incidents. It was noted that LFRS had six Incident Intelligence Officers providing 24-hour cover to support any significant fire investigation and all were trained (and appropriately licensed) to pilot the drone which was of a high specification (this included the ability for authorised remote access to live footage).

In addition to major incidents, the drone was mobilised to leaking pipelines, collapsed structures, explosions and rescues from various types of incident including assisting the Police with wide-area searches for missing persons. It was also noted that should the drone be used out of the county, a second drone was used with resilience arrangements provided through collaboration with Lancashire Police and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

Members were advised that the drone would be on route to an incident at the same time as the fire engine and that over 2000 flights (for both drones) had been completed since September 2016 of which 350 incidents had been attended this year.

Footage from various incidents was shown to demonstrate the benefit of access to the footage from the incident ground. The drone supported incidents by:

- Clearly showing the extent of the fire spread;
- Aiding the positioning of fire breaks;
- Highlighting the use of compartmentation;
- The use of thermal imagery;
- Assisting in planning wide-area searches;
- Vital in investigation and evidence collation;
- Providing information to other agencies; and
- Improving firefighter safety.

The Authority congratulated the team for the work undertaken to support the safety of the people in Lancashire.

FRANK DE MOLFETTA
Chairman

LFRS
Fulwood