

# Annual Report on Partnerships

## Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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### 1 Purpose of Report

This report provides an overview of the partnership working being undertaken by the Fire Authority and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service (the Service).

### 2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to note this report.

### 3 Background

Partnership working is a key element in the Service's strategy to meet its vision of "Putting Shropshire Safety First," this is also reflected in the Fire Service National Framework. The Service is involved in partnerships, which are risk assessed for liability and reputation by the Service's Risk Management Group. The Service maintains a partnership register, which is reviewed by the Service Management Team in order to monitor the outcome and productivity of each of the partnerships.

The Service is currently in the process of amending the Partnership Brigade Order and Partnership Register to meet the recommendations of Internal Audit. This is anticipated to be delivered in May/June 2019.

A Service priority is the methodology to identify and access some of the most vulnerable people in the community. The Safe and Well agenda has allowed the Service to continue to develop its position as a trusted professional partner.

#### **Duty to collaborate and the Fire Alliance.**

Within the Police and Crime Act 2017 the Government introduced a "duty to collaborate." This has imposed a statutory duty for the Service to "consider whether entering into a collaboration will be in the interests of efficiency, effectiveness or public safety."

In addition, the Area Manager Transformation and Collaboration ensures that Partnerships are scrutinised for Fire Alliance compatibility.

The Fire Alliance has developed throughout 2018/19 and now has four key areas of collaboration that are currently being developed. These were identified as key enablers to support future working and are;

- Fire Command and Control
- ICT
- IRMP
- Procurement.

The next phase of the Alliance is to map further opportunities and potential timetables that will naturally fall out of the work already underway.

## 4 Prevention and Protection Partnership

Partnership highlights:

### **Multi Agency Targeted Enforcement Strategy (MATES).**

This consists of; West Mercia Police, Immigration Enforcement, Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, Probation Service, Shropshire Council Regulatory Enforcement, Telford and Wrekin Council Regulatory Enforcement, Her Majesty's Revenue and Custom.

MATES is aimed at focusing enforcement work of a multitude of departments on high risk premises where there are links to:

- Illegal Working
- Sales of counterfeit and smuggled tobacco
- Rogue Landlords and unlawful houses of multiple occupation
- Dangerous breaches in fire safety and other safety regulations
- Exploitation of workers
- Modern Slavery
- Human Trafficking
- Child Sexual Exploitation

### **Telford & Wrekin Council**

Recent work has been undertaken by both organisations to ensure that previous and future protocols meet the requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

This agreement has been further developed with Adult Social Care and now means that when a care package is reviewed (annually) the client is given the option of a receiving a Safe and Well visit.

This Council protocol has also been used as a template to create and service other partnerships with organisations, such as Bluebird Care Ltd, with the assurance that the agreements comply with legislation and essentially provide a robust number of referrals to the Service.

Telford and Wrekin Adult Social Care and Revenue and Benefits department are now also sending in referrals for the Service; again this work is ground-breaking.

## **NHS General Practitioners**

“Exeter” \* data consists of the names, gender, date of birth and address of those individuals who are over the age of 65 within the community. The Service has been working with partners in the Health Service to use this data to identify the most vulnerable adults in the over 65s group. This partnership is still the backbone of Prevention activity.

\* The Exeter system is a database of all patients registered with an NHS General Practitioner in England and Wales. It is used by all health authorities in the two countries and is one of the largest population databases in operation in the UK.

## **British Red Cross, Home from Hospital Service, Telford and Shrewsbury**

The Red Cross will complete a fire risk assessment on each client within Shropshire/Telford & Wrekin that use the 'Home from Hospital' service. Referrals are then made to the Service. The Red Cross co-ordinators also complete the Service's checklist for new service users.

## **Oswestry Care and Supreme Homecare Partnerships**

Oswestry Care is a private care agency. The Service provides initial and refresher training to the carers that work in the community. This gives the carers knowledge of identifiable fire risk within their client's homes and an avenue of referral. Oswestry Care also fill in the Service's fire safety checklist and return it to the Prevention Team. Supreme Homecare replicate this service.

## **Housing Association Support**

The Service offers and delivers Safe and Well advice to Housing Association residents (Sevenside / Wrekin Housing Trust) and has delivered numerous visits as part of the programme. Both major housing groups offer vulnerability referrals to the Service. This support now includes hoarding case management.

## **Sure Start**

The Service carries out visits to Sure Start centres, which enable people to have a basic 'Safe and Well' visit carried out in an independent environment instead of their home. The partnership provides access to vulnerable parents.

## **Rural Partnerships**

The Service's Fire Crime Officer writes regular articles for the National Farmers Union (Midlands), Shropshire Rural Hub and Neighbourhood Watch, raising awareness of rural fires, especially those involving farms and barns.

The Outreach Vehicle and members of the Prevention Team also support Police rural crime events in Shrewsbury and at Harper Adams University.

## **The Carers Trust 4 All.**

This is the rebranded former British Red Cross scheme which supports young carers across Shropshire. These young people look after adults in the family home, often parents, with a variety of issues. An agreement provides a referral pathway that has been built into the Carers Trust annual review form. The Trust will refer clients who have consented to such a visit on a monthly basis.

### **Domestic Abuse Forum, Sanctuary Scheme and MARAC**

The purpose of this Forum is to encourage agencies and organisations to work in partnership, in order to create an environment where domestic violence and abuse is not tolerated and to reduce the impact on victims in Shropshire. This comes under the Safer Stronger Community Partnership. The partnership is supported by **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)** and referrals to Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) are triaged by West Mercia Police. The Service's Fire Crime Officer liaises with partners to address areas and individuals of specific concern and measures, such as lockable letterboxes, are employed to target harden premises against the risk of attack.

### **Team Shrewsbury**

Team Shrewsbury is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which forms the basis of an Integrated Community Management Partnership between various public sector partners, and the business, community and voluntary sectors.

It was established to demonstrate the parties' commitment to collaboration and innovation in the delivery, management and use of the public realm. The MoU defines and formalises the relationship between the parties and sets out their roles and responsibilities within the Team Shrewsbury partnership. The group has made contributions to river safety, arson reduction and reduction in anti-social behavior (ASB).

### **Night Time and Day Time Economy Group**

The Service is one of the responsible authorities under the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Known as the Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership it is made up of a wide range of public, private and voluntary agencies and is responsible for reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and domestic abuse in Telford and Wrekin.

The Night Time & Day Time Economy meetings review individual cases, emerging crime and ASB issues in Telford and Wrekin. The vision is "A community that feels safe and protected".

### **Shropshire Council Adult Social Care**

Coming soon, this is a partnership to deliver a wide range of referrals from a multitude of vulnerable groups. This work is ground breaking and has already been the subject of media enquiries. This work is awaiting a final sign off from Shropshire Council following the introduction of their new ICT systems.

## **5 Operational Response Partnerships and Other Collaborations.**

### **ESMCP (Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme)**

This is the partnership for the replacement for the current Airwave radio system. The Emergency Services Network (ESN) is built on the current EE commercial network and coverage is anticipated to be improved. Public safety should be enhanced due to the way in which critical bearers will allow the emergency services use of the system during major incidents.

A regional team have been established to support local User Organisations (FRSs). This has recently been re-structured in line with the likely future timetable of the project.

### **Burns Care Network**

The Burns Care Network was set up to share casualty information on casualties with burns-related injuries at incidents attended by various stakeholders. The lead hospital for this network is University Hospital Birmingham. This Service and several other regional and national stakeholders within the Midlands region have signed up to this protocol.

### **Light Vehicle Maintenance**

West Mercia Police now carry out the Service's light vehicle maintenance. The Service has access to the Police diagnostic centre and the discounts available to the Police.

### **Telford Central Development**

Re-development of the Telford Central site in a way that maximises the benefits to the public purse, through working in collaboration with partner agencies, the public and charities.

The proposal includes facilities for:

- Emergency Planning Unit - Shropshire
- Emergency Planning Unit - Telford and Wrekin
- Training Facilities - West Mercia Police
- Tactical Command Centre - Multi-agencies Shropshire
- Virtual Strategic Command Centre - Multi-agencies Shropshire
- Meeting, conference and community use facilities – public charities and partners both public and private.

## **6 Equality and Diversity Groups and Partnerships**

The Service's Equality and Diversity team works with a range of partnerships and groups, including Shropshire Disability Network, Safe Ageing No Discrimination (SAND), Older People's Forums in Shropshire and Telford, the Shropshire Hate Crime Reporting Group, Gender Matters, the Rainbow Film Festival, and Fairness, Respect, Equality Shropshire (FRESH).

The Service is a Disability Confident Employer, which is a scheme designed to help recruit and retain disabled people and people with health conditions for their skills and talent.

SFRS are members of AFSA (Asian Fire Service Association). In 2018, the Service was awarded a certificate for being a founder member of this group.

The Service was among the first corporate members of FRESH, which was established in 2013 to support improved equality and anti-discrimination policy and practice within and beyond Shropshire. The Service is committed to FRESH and its work, and hosts many of FRESH's meetings at Service Headquarters.

SFRS are members of Women in the Fire Service. The Service is also addressing the HMICFRS recommendation that the Service should provide/enable minority support groups within SFRS.

## **7 New Brigade Order and Partnership Register**

A new Brigade Order and revamped Partnership Register are in the final process of being completed. It is anticipated both will be live by May/June 2019. This work followed the 2018 Internal Audit recommendations that;

- Consideration should be given to the way in which new partnership agreements are approved to ensure that approval is obtained prior to entering into a partnership. This should be included in the guidance provided to officers.
- Consideration should be given to the information required at the start of individual partnership arrangements and this should be included in the partnership register. If the Authority wants to take a different approach to collaborative working this should be formally documented and recorded separately for transparency.
- Agreements should be held for all partnerships that the Authority has entered. These should be signed by all parties and should include the responsibilities of all partnership organisations.

The new process will address all the above concerns and ensure the Service is legally compliant. The process has also allowed the Service to review its GDPR arrangements and processes to again ensure legal compliance

## **8 Identified Revenue Funding**

There is no additional revenue funding required at this stage

## **9 Capacity**

There is no impact on capacity.

## **10 Collaboration / Partnership Working**

The Area Manager Transformation and Collaboration will continue to explore opportunities both within and outside the Alliance.

## **11 Community Safety**

There are no community safety impacts arising from this report.

## **12 Environmental**

There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

## **13 Equality Impact Assessment**

This report sets out factual details of partnerships, in which the Service is involved. An equality impact assessment has not been completed for this report.

## **14 Financial Implications**

Information on income and expenditure within partnerships is collected and updated in line with the frequency of monitoring, which takes place on each partnership and is recorded on the Partnership Register. The Service Management Team reviews the Register every six months.

## **15 Health and Safety**

There are no health and safety impacts arising from this report.

## **16 Human Rights (including Data Protection)**

There are no human rights impacts arising from this report.

## **17 ICT**

There is no impact on ICT.

## **18 Legal Comment**

There are no legal implications arising from this report. The functions exercised within the partnership working arrangements fall within the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the aims and objectives of the Fire Authority.

## **19 Public Value / Service Delivery**

The work supports the Service's Strategic Aims 1 - 4.

## **20 Reputation**

There is a reputational risk if the Service enters into an inappropriate partnership or fails to deliver on a partnership's obligations.

## **21 Security**

There are no security impacts arising from this report.

## **22 Training**

There are no training implications within this report.

## **23 Appendices**

There are no appendices attached to this report.

## **24 Background Papers**

There are no background papers associated with this report.