



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Community Safety Committee

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES UPDATE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 08 January 2021

Purpose of Report:

To present Members with an update on the Service's response to the outcomes of the inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services

Recommendations:

That Members note the progress made against the Area for Improvement (AFI) Action Plan

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Craig Parkin
Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Tel: 0115 967 0880

Email: craig.parkin@notts-fire.gov.uk

Media Enquiries Contact: Corporate Communications Team
(0115) 967 0880 corporatecomms@notts-fire.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Fire Authority in July 2019 Members were presented with the report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) following the inspection of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS).
- 1.2 Furthermore, at the September 2019 Fire Authority meeting, Members were presented with an action plan detailing the 'Areas for Improvement' (AFI), that had been highlighted by HMICFRS and actions required to address these areas.
- 1.3 It was agreed that scrutiny would be conducted through the Fire Authority committee structure with regular progress reports being presented to Members. Of the 25 AFI, 12 were aligned to the Community Safety Committee, eight were aligned to Human Rescues Committee, two were aligned to Finance and Resources Committee, and three were aligned to the Policy and Strategy Committee.
- 1.4 Due to the interim governance arrangements being in place because of Covid-19, the reporting of updates to the various committees was suspended and update papers detailing progress against all AFI presented to the Policy and Strategy Committee.
- 1.5 As an update, of the 25 AFI the Service received, there are now just six remaining. Good progress is being made against these with all AFIs scheduled to be complete by April 2021
- 1.6 Of the 12 AFI aligned to Community Safety Committee, 10 have now been completed and closed and just two remain, this paper provides an update for the two remaining AFI.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 HMICFRS highlighted 25 AFI for the Service to consider. Each improvement area has been allocated to a lead officer, with clear milestones and expected outcomes to deliver the improvement required.
- 2.2 Progress against each of the 25 AFI is monitored, tracked and reviewed through an online 'action tracker', allowing for ongoing updates and scrutiny. These are then reported to the Programme and Performance Board, chaired by the Chief Fire Officer.
- 2.3 The attached appendix provides a summary of progress against each of the 12 AFI that relate to this committee. Of the two remaining AFIs to be completed:
 - AFI 4 relates to; *The Service should ensure it targets its prevention work at people most at risk.* This action is 92% complete and on track to be

completed by the deadline of 31st January 2021, DCFO Parkin leads on this action. The last update gives assurance that this action will be completed on time. Remaining actions focus on evaluation work.

- AFI 9 relates to; *The service should ensure that, when responding to a 999 call, mobile data terminals are reliable to allow staff to access risk information.* This action is 70% complete and on track to be completed by 31st March 2021. ACFO Brudenell leads on this action and the last update highlights this action to be completed on time. Some ongoing issues with an ICT system are known and being tracked closely.

2.4 It is anticipated that the next update Members receive will see both actions completed and a recommendation for Members to support formal closure by the Fire Authority. This will then complete all the AFI workstreams that are aligned to this committee.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no human resources or learning and development implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because the information contained in this report does not relate to a change in policy or procedure.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004 places a duty on NFRS in respect of the delivery of its services to communities.
- 7.2 The Local Government Act 1999 places a statutory duty on NFRS to ‘*secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised*’. The reporting of Service Delivery’s performance ensures that the Service is focusing on key objectives as set by the Fire and Rescue Authority and continuous improvement. This ensures that Members can apply effective scrutiny to be satisfied that statutory obligations are being met.

7.3 The Police and Crime Act (2017) Chapter 4 Section 11 outlines that the English inspectors must inspect, and report on the efficiency and effectiveness of, fire and rescue authorities in England.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

There are no collaboration implications arising from this report, however discussions with Nottinghamshire Police continue in relation to their experience of HMICFRS inspections and how NFRS can learn from that in preparation for future inspections.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the progress made against the Area for Improvement (AFI) Action Plan

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

HMICFRS AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT- OCTOBER 2020 UPDATE

AFI Reference	Reporting Committee	Completion Date	Comments
AFIs Seeking approval for Closure			
N/A for this reporting period			
AFI Reference	Reporting Committee	Completion Date	Comments
ONGOING AFI			
AFI 4	Community Safety	31-Jan-21	<p>The Service should ensure it targets its prevention work at people most at risk</p> <p>Action 92% complete Action progressing and on track for completion by deadline</p> <p>The last update, provided by DCFO Parkin (2-12-20) gives assurance that this action will be completed on time. Remaining actions focus on evaluation work. It also states that Prevention activities continue to focus on areas of need, working with partners, for example the newly released CDP strategic assessment and Health and Well-being Board plan</p>
AFI 9	Community Safety	31-Mar-21	<p>The Service should ensure that, when responding to a 999 call, mobile data terminals are reliable to allow staff to access risk information</p> <p>Action 70% complete Action progressing and on track for completion by deadline</p> <p>The last update provided by ACFO Brudenell, (6-12-20) notes a key report is being presented to SLT which is approved will significantly move this action closer to completion. Some known issues with an ICT issue are being tracked closely to mitigate impact.</p>

AFI Reference	Reporting Committee	Completion Date	Comments
AFI Completed and Closed			
AFI 7	Community Safety	29-Feb-20	<p>The service should ensure staff know how to command fire service assets assertively, effectively and safely at incidents</p> <p>Action completed and closed</p>
AFI 12	Community Safety	31-Mar-20	<p>The Service should ensure all incident commanders have a thorough understanding of JESIP (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles)</p> <p>Action completed and closed</p>
AFI 10	Community Safety	31-Mar-20	<p>The Service should ensure operational staff have good access to cross-border risk information</p> <p>Action completed and closed</p>
AFI 3	Community Safety	30-Apr-20	<p>The service should review and update its prevention strategy to take account of risks</p> <p>Action completed and closed</p>
AFI 6	Community Safety	31-Jul-20	<p>The Service should ensure it makes better use of its specialist resources in implementing its risk-based inspection programme. It should ensure it allocates and quality-assures these inspections appropriately</p> <p>Action complete and closed</p>

AFI 2	Community Safety	30 th -Sept-20	The Service should ensure its firefighters have access to relevant and up to date risk information Action complete and closed
AFI 8	Community Safety	30 th -Sept-20	The service should ensure it implements the process to monitor incident commanders and provide feedback following operational incidents Action complete and closed
AFI 21	Community Safety	30-Sep-20	The Service should ensure staff are appropriately trained in safety-critical skills, such as incident command Action complete and closed
AFI 5	Community Safety	31-Oct020	The service should evaluate its prevention work, so it understands the benefits better Action complete and closed
AFI 11	Community Safety	31-Oct-20	The service should arrange a programme of over-the-border exercises, sharing the learning from these exercises Action completed and closed