



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDER SCHEME

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 03 July 2015

Purpose of Report:

To inform Members of the trial collaboration with East Midlands Ambulance Service on the implementation of an Emergency First Responder Scheme at Harworth and Newark Fire Stations

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has been involved in community first responding with East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) for the past 14 years. The Service currently operates the scheme from Misterton, Southwell, Eastwood and East Leake fire stations.
- 1.2 The current scheme operates with two fire fighters attending medical emergency calls in a blue light equipped response car, mobilised from the local fire station. The service is only mobilised to these incidents if EMAS cannot attend the incident in less than eight minutes, which is a national Ambulance Service performance indicator. The Fire and Rescue Service is always supported at these incidents with an EMAS attendance.
- 1.3 Emergency fire cover is not compromised by the operation of the Community First Responder Scheme, as the crewing of the fire appliance takes priority over the availability of the community responder car.
- 1.4 In the period April 2013 - March 2014 the Service attended 342 medical emergencies in partnership with EMAS. Under the existing scheme the Service receives no financial reimbursement for the attendance at such incidents.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 In 2014 work commenced with all of the Fire and Rescue Services within the East Midlands and Humberside, to discuss a single scheme of first responding across the EMAS area (see Appendix A). This has led to an EMAS wide trial at a total of 22 fire stations, two of which are in Nottinghamshire. This trial is the first in the country to be operating to the same standard across an entire region. DCLG and the Department of Health have taken an active interest in the formation and implementation of this scheme.
- 2.2 The two fire stations that have been selected in Nottinghamshire are Harworth and Newark. All the fire fighters who are involved in the trial have volunteered and are conditioned to the retained duty system (RDS). The trial period will run from 1 April – 1 September 2015.
- 2.2 The scheme operates in a similar way to the existing Community First Responder Scheme. However, the new scheme involves the fire fighters responding to the medical emergency directly from their home address or place of work instead of having to collect the response car from their local fire station.
- 2.3 The crews are mobilised directly by EMAS control, who track their movements to ensure that they are the closest available resource to an incident. EMAS will mobilise our crews if they are within a six minute travel

distance of the incident, who then attend and provide medical interventions until the arrival of EMAS crews.

- 2.4 This direct response reduces the response time to the incidents and has a positive impact on patient outcomes. The fire fighters have all received additional medical training to assist with the new role as well as additional blue light driver training to enable them to respond in a blue light equipped car. In the first month of the trial a total of 23 incidents have been attended by the two stations.
- 2.5 EMAS provides training and overarching clinical governance and has agreed to fund the direct cost of one fire fighter and contribute to the provision of a vehicle. Due to the nature of team-working within the fire and rescue service NFRS mobilises two firefighters in the vehicle to the incident.
- 2.6 The trial scheme will undergo independent validation from the University of Hull and Vanguard Consultants Ltd to ensure that the scheme is delivering positive outcomes for the community.
- 2.7 The twenty fire fighters who are currently involved in this trial have been very enthusiastic from the start about the scheme and the benefits that it offers their communities. It is anticipated that the increased operational activity being experienced by these sections will have a positive impact on recruitment and retention within the RDS workforce.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 EMAS contribute to the use of the vehicle and fund one of the responders. The second responder is funded directly by NFRS and during the trial will be met by the existing retained duty system response budget. EMAS undertake the training of staff and provide all medical equipment and consumables at their cost.
- 3.2 The evaluation of the trial will consider financial elements and provide information to enable future considerations in this area.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

All firefighters who participate in the scheme are required to undertake a disclosure and barring check and undertake training to the required level of competence.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment will be completed as part of the trial evaluation.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Part 2 of the Fire and Rescue Service Act (2004) enables Fire Authorities to use its resources to respond to medical emergencies.
- 7.2 East Midlands Ambulance Service provides the clinical governance that is required to participate in the First Responder Scheme.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The participation in the scheme, and the ability to provide medical interventions has the potential to reduce risk in the community.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report and agree to receive further reports at the conclusion of the trial period.

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

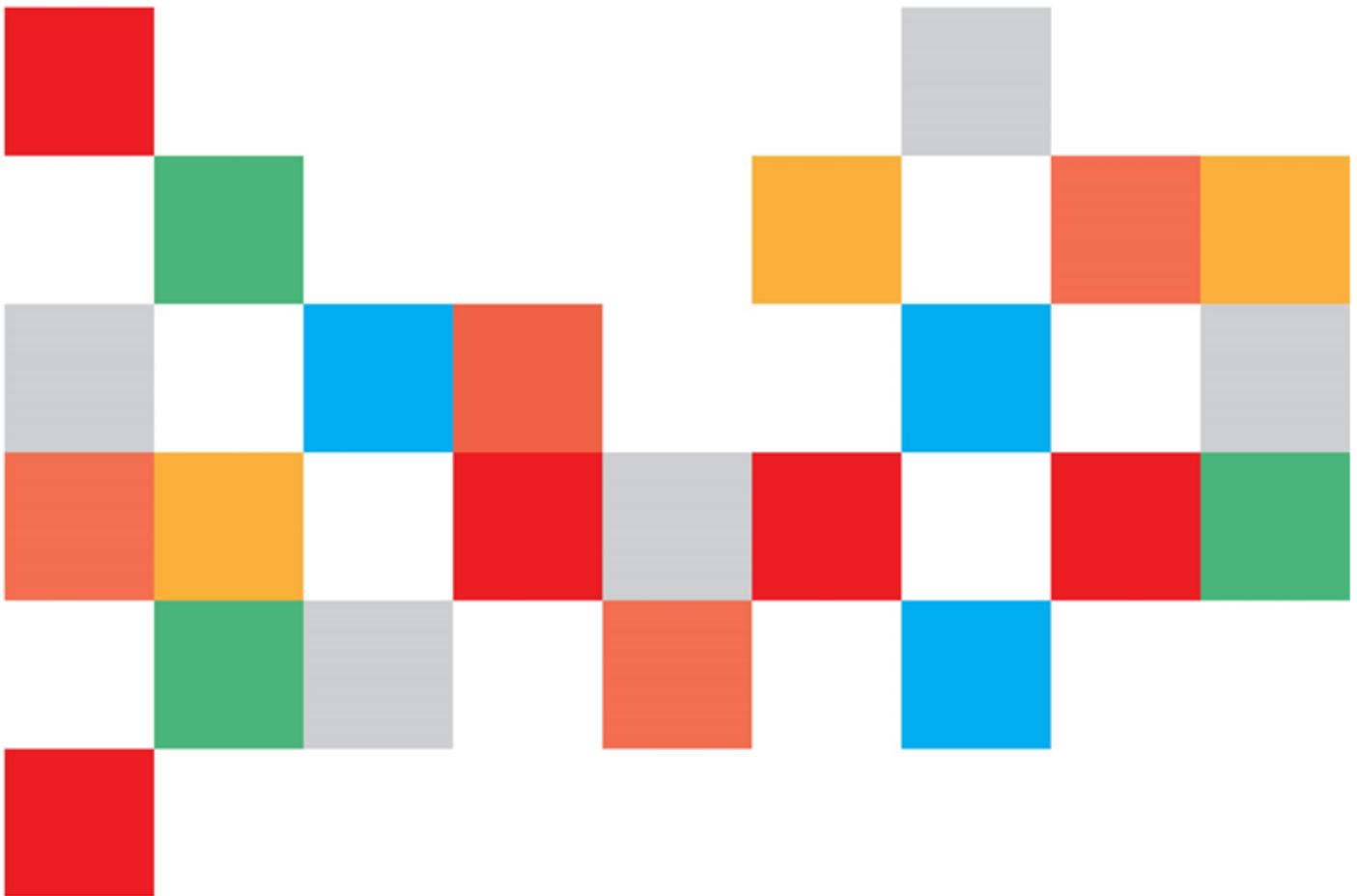
None

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

STRATEGIC BRIEFING NOTE

Emergency First Responder Scheme

EMAS/FRS INTER-REGIONAL SERVICE AREAS



LEICESTERSHIRE
FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE



East Midlands Ambulance Service **NHS**
NHS Trust



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities



HUMBERSIDE
Fire & Rescue Service



Lincolnshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Strategic Briefing Note

Subject: Emergency First Responder Scheme (EMAS/FRS Inter-regional service areas)

Origin: Emergency First Responder Scoping Group

Introduction

Following a meeting (7th July 2014) between the Chief Fire Officers of Nottinghamshire, Humberside Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Services and EMAS Chief Executive, collective authorisation was provided for a scoping group to be established.

The scoping group's task was to provide a proposal to develop an FRS inter-region professional Emergency First Responder Scheme to operate within the EMAS area.

Scoping Group Terms of Reference

Identify the potential to develop a professional blue light (24/7) EFR pilot scheme (for evaluation purposes) across participating Fire & Rescue Service areas in partnership with EMAS on a cost recovery basis for Fire & Rescue Services.

Provide a strategic proposal for progression to the CFO/Chief Executive group meeting on 8th September 2015.

Outcomes

The scoping group met on 20th August 2015 (meeting minutes - appendix 1). The group concluded that a pilot scheme for evaluation is viable and identified the following set of principles to be adopted as a proposal to develop an EFR pilot commencing 1st April 2015 across all participating Services (18 stations in total - appendix 2)

Funding/Equipment/Training

It is accepted that each FRS has differing positions on subsidy of existing arrangements for current existing EFR schemes and that they are likely to converge in the near future.

EMAS have agreed to fund the following elements for a pilot scheme:

- Call outs (calls for service) funding limited to x1 responder. Additional resourcing costs to be met by FRS where applicable.
- Equipment (in line with the EMAS equipment policy for EFR schemes).
- Training (training support currently aligned to IEC syllabus where applicable - including salbutamol administration) until FRS's are ready to switch across to the new national standard FPOS syllabus.
- Vehicle Costs - Running and transport costs

FRS's will operate on a cost recovery basis only and a common cost recovery model will be developed that provides a tailored approach to each FRS.

FRS will support costs on a local needs basis, including training, additional personnel and PPE.

EMAS funding illustration (appendix 3)

Operating Model

It is accepted that Fire & Rescue Services currently have differing operating models for current existing responder schemes. Services have agreed to review own operating models to identify areas of commonality and areas with potential for convergence. The project team will develop a common approach and interface for FRS with EMAS.

EMAS Priority Location requests

EMAS have requested a number of locations identified as a priority for a pilot EFR schemes (appendix 2). Fire and Rescue Services have provisionally agreed the pilot locations subject to strategic confirmation.

Clinical Governance

EMAS will provide clinical governance for all locations involved in an EFR pilot scheme under a continuation of existing arrangements.

Project Timelines & Performance Criteria

The group agreed that across all FRS and EMAS structures that a suitable provisional *go live* date is 1st April 2015 for a 6 month evaluation period and the provision of a viability report and recommendations to this meeting in December 2015.

Performance criteria will be measured against existing EMAS operational Key Performance Indicators. FRS will report own evaluations of the pilot project to the project team for inclusion in the December 2015 return.

Wider Benefit Potential

- An increase in positive patient centred outcomes.
- Increased EMAS community engagement in rural localities
- An increase in positive public perception of Ambulance and Fire Service Partnerships
- Greater call activity across Fire and Rescue Services
- Mid/long term harmonisation of trauma qualifications across FRS aligned with Ambulance trust national qualifications
- Improvements in practitioner interoperability
- Support of EMAS and FRS strategic vision and objectives
- A practical and political first on this scale of partnership.

Recommendations

1. The Scoping group be directed to reform as a task and finish EFR project team at its next meeting on 17th September 2014 to develop:
 - A professional blue light (24/7) EFR pilot scheme (for evaluation purposes) across participating Fire & Rescue Service areas in partnership with EMAS on a cost recovery basis for Fire & Rescue Services.
 - An EMAS EFR Scheme Cost Recovery document to be produced to capture common principles and tailored recovery provision.
 - A Concept of Operations document to be produced to support EFR schemes and provide information on key components, define the broad structures (from call handling through to completion of emergency response and associated documents). The document to be devised as an aide to communication between EMAS and FRS's and will capture variations in local operating procedures.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding to be drawn up by the project team for FRS and EMAS to provide a record of agreed mutual expectations for FRS and EMAS.
 - An EFR pilot scheme across all FRS's to be established to commence live operations on 1st April 2015 (provisional target date) at the locations requested by EMAS and provisionally agreed by each FRS (appendix 2) for a period of 6 months assessment.
2. The EFR Project Team to report periodically a centralised position on progress and finally in December 2015 with recommendations for cessation, continuation or extension of the EFR pilot project.
3. A line of Communication be established to provide updates to the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFO Ian Hayton, Cleveland FRS - CFOA Lead for co-responding) & the Association of Ambulance Chief Executive

Submitted by:	GM McCourt (HFRS) GM Coleman (NFRS) Mr Barnett-Connolly (EMAS)
Date Submitted:	8 th September 2014