



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Policy and Strategy Committee

EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDER TRIAL

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 11 November 2016

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 Carlton, Edwinstowe and Worksop Fire Stations.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) have 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 Chief Fire Officers Association, National Joint Council (NJC) and Representative Bodies have agreed parameters for trials of new Emergency First Responder (EFR) schemes. Agreed trials receive authorisation from both the employers and employees sides of the NJC. This trial period has been extended to 17 February 2017, after which the various trials will be evaluated and future approaches considered. Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service had the retained duty system EFR trial accepted onto the national scheme with permission to expand it to other duty systems.
- 1.3 Members will recall, following a paper to the Community Safety Committee in July 2015, 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. 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 now the Home Office) and the Department of Health have taken an active interest in the formation and implementation of this scheme.
- 1.4 The two fire stations selected in Nottinghamshire were Harworth and Newark. All the firefighters involved in the trial are volunteers and are conditioned to the retained duty system (RDS). The trial period ran from 1 April – 1 September 2015 and has subsequently been extended to the end of the national trial period.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 As a result of the learning from the trial at Harworth and Newark, discussions have taken place between NFRS and EMAS to extend the trial to 3 wholetime fire stations.
- 2.2 The extension of the existing trial will enable NFRS to provide valuable evaluation data to the national trial and will therefore inform the national position on Fire Service EFR schemes and therefore any subsequent local considerations.
- 2.3 The trial locations will be Carlton, Edwinstowe and Worksop Fire Stations. These locations provide strategic support to EMAS and a mixed spread of activity levels within NFRS to help the Service understand the operational impact of attending EFR calls.

- 2.4 The differences between the trial at the wholetime and RDS locations is that EMAS control will pass calls to Tri-Service Fire Control who will mobilise the required resource if it is available. NFRS will respond in a pumping appliance with a full crew as opposed to a dedicated EFR car with one or two Firefighters.
- 2.5 Fire Control, the Officer in Charge of the EFR crew and service management retain the authority to make appliances unavailable to EMAS for NFRS operational needs and staff welfare reasons at all times.
- 2.6 The direct mobilisation of a full crew 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.
- 2.7 EMAS supports training and provides overarching clinical governance and has agreed to contribute to the costs of medical calls attended by NFRS with EMAS.
- 2.8 The trial will undergo similar evaluation to the RDS trial at the end of the trial period. Performance will be reviewed on a monthly basis. NFRS has a memorandum of understanding with EMAS for this trial which includes safeguards and exit clauses for both organisations.
- 2.9 Staff and representative bodies have been fully consulted with and included in the design of this trial. All staff participating are volunteers.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 EMAS will make a one off contribution of £5k towards the anticipated EFR activity levels of the three NFRS appliances between 1st November 2016 and 17th February 2017.
- 3.2 EMAS support training of staff and provide medical equipment and consumables at their cost. EMAS also provide clinical governance for EFR duties undertaken by NFRS.
- 3.3 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 baring 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 EFR 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