

**Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee**  
**06<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Conducted as a public meeting at Headquarters and digitally via  
Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** Councillor Dehar (Chair), Councillor Lloyd, Councillor Hogarth, Councillor Spence, Prof Simon Brake

**Virtual:** Pete Wilson

**Officers:** Tom Embury, Sofia Mahmood, Jo Bowcock, Karen Gowreesunker, Hannah Spencer and Chandni Patel

**Please note:**

16/23 **To receive apologies for absence (if any)**  
Cllr Kettle and Cllr Kaur

17/23 **Declarations of Interest**  
There were no declarations of interest received.

18/23 **Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation  
Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Resolved:**

1. That the Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> September were approved as a correct record of proceedings.

19/23 **Progress Update Reducing Health Inequalities CRMP  
Project,**

Cllr Dehar provided a brief introduction on what was to be discussed in this meeting.

Pete Wilson provided an update so far with delivering the tasks and intended outcomes of the Reducing Health Inequalities CRMP Project.

There is a significant overlap between the health inequalities and social determinants that cause reduced mortality and those that increase the risk and vulnerability to fire and other emergencies. The aim of the RHI project is to develop a

coordinated suite of Prevention activities, across the life course, that reduce health inequalities and therefore reduce risk and vulnerability to fire and other emergencies.

Regarding digital outcomes, the data from the surveys continue to indicate that Safe and Well (SAW) is improving people's health, wellbeing, and quality of life and reducing risk and vulnerability to fire. Many respondents who have received Safe & Wells have an understanding of the number of risks associated with smoking. 122 individuals said they stopped smoking from the input of a SAW visit.

The development of the Tymly system to record SAW visits and innovate business processes to support delivery has been a work in progress with the system being piloted in Black Country South Operations Command. At the start of lockdown in March 2020, this pilot was suspended to support business continuity arrangements.

The service has purchased Acorn geodemographic data. This data segments the UK's population. It segments postcodes and neighbourhoods into categories. It also provides health related data. Now that we have this data, we will be able to build a PowerBi dashboard and use incident and SAW data to identify at risk households for proactive contact.

The Partnership & Collaboration Outcomes are that: 'WMFS works effectively with partners across the wider health and social care sector to reduce health inequalities and the role of the fire service is valued by those partners'.

Following queries, Pete Wilson advised that the system does provide different languages to remove any language barriers.

Simon Brake suggested integrating with NHS and other blue light colleagues as we may be able to utilise their resources to tackle some of the issues we are presented with.

## **Resolved**

1. Pete Wilson and Simon Brake are to discuss how we use public service resources to work on the issues we are presented with.

Following queries Pete Wilson advised for those who cannot access online services, the phone line will be open. We have encouraged individuals or agencies to make referrals to any who require it.

## 20/23 **CRMP Consultation 2023 – Partner Outcomes**

Hannah Spencer presented the report and advised that its focus is on the collaboration and partner element of the consultation process.

The Overall partner engagement was positive. We had over 139 responses from partners.

We have identified areas of improvement regarding our stakeholder analysis. This includes neighbouring fire rescue services and some underrepresented groups which will be picked up in the debrief of this process.

Some representative bodies have provided feedback which will be considered in the next steps of the consultation.

It was positive to find most partners said they either 'Completely Trust' or 'Largely Trust' West Midlands Fire Service.

A debrief will be undertaken this month, this will identify good practice in terms of collaboration and transformation as well as any improvements.

Following queries Hannah Spencer advised we received responses from two religious' establishments. Karen Gowreesunker advised that the consultation will have been open to everyone, and this report reflects what we have received back.

Following queries, Hannah Spencer advised that as part of the evaluation, we can look to see if there are any barriers to responding to these requests.

There were some barriers to recruitment which were reflected in the report. IT was also explained that whilst we do not provide specific material for career fairs, we do get invites to career fairs and attend.

Professor Simon Brake spoke about the number of those interested and those who eventually apply are different. There is a drop in the number of those female individuals who apply.

Jo Bowcock advised that we do have low levels of interest regarding Women recruits which is reflected nationally. We do have a significant drop rate and we have collected some data as to why that is.

Visiting schools and approaching universities will help with this. A role in the Fire Service and/or as a Firefighter isn't spoken about in terms of having a career that should appeal to graduates.

Karen Gowreesunker advised that our Organisational Learning and Development (OLPD) team are focusing on our career development pathways so that they are understood and are more accessible to staff.

Tom Embury advised that there is a Scrutiny review of training and development which touches on a few of these areas. How we develop those who are in the service and how we retain those individuals.

Councillor Jas Dehar highlighted that West Midlands is the lead for the recruitment of BAME and thanked officers for all their hard work in ensuring we continue to strive for diversity.

## 21/23 **WMCA Trailblazer Devolution Deal**

Tom Embury provided an update on the report regarding WMCA Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

The Government's February 2022 Levelling Up White Paper promised, as part of its commitment to "Deepening Devolution", it would open negotiations with West Midlands and Greater Manchester Combined Authorities over "Trailblazer" devolution deals designed to provide a blueprint for other Combined Authorities. Following a period of development throughout 2022 16 devolution proposals were developed ranging from transport to crime, climate change to health inequalities.

One of the areas that was not originally included was around community safety and justice. There was a significant proposal put forward by the Authority but was not progressed.

Now that the deal has been agreed we should look at what opportunities we might have and what we can do moving forward.

As per the report there are 3 areas highlighted under section 4.

The first is Housing and Retrofit. Housing and regeneration are already key levers for the WMCA, and the devolution deal provides greater flexibility and funding for redeveloping brownfield sites and delivering social and affordable housing. There will be implications for the Service in terms of where new developments are focused and the methods of construction for affordable housing.

Regarding 4.3 Data; WMCA has ambitions to publish more data as well, taking inspiration from the London Datastore, which brings together city-wide data from multiple authorities and public services in the capital.

WMFS already share data with partners and central government, including providing our performance/operation data to the Birmingham City Observatory for public access. However, there are opportunities to access more data in areas such as transport, economy and climate resilience which could inform the services Community Risk Management Planning and wider strategy.

There are many elements related to transport which are already being reviewed. New developments are happening across the West Midlands which present new risks. An example of this is the Electric Bus fleet in Coventry.

Following queries regarding fires caused by electrical vehicles, Tom Embury advised this is an area for concern nationally. This is new technology, and we are currently seeing the risks and impacts of this technology not being used correctly. In terms of the type of Firefighting involved with electric vehicles, we understand it is different and is being picked up within CRMP.

Social Media has provided a lot of information on prevention techniques regarding Electric Scooters and phone batteries.

Councillor Gavin Lloyd advised having a piece of literature/leaflets on prevention techniques, as whilst these workshops are good there has been no physical information provided to individuals who attended.

**Resolved**

1. Prevention team to look to develop physical information to provide to the communities.

22/23 **Collaboration and Transformation – Work Programme 2023-24**

Some items have been added to the workplan. The Serious Violence Duty update will be provided in January.

The JESIP update will be provided in April.

23/23 **Any Other Business**

To note the date of the next Collaboration and Transformation Committee is scheduled to take place on Monday, 15 January 2024.