

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 MARCH 2018

1. UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF OUTCOMES FROM THE DATA SHARING REVIEW

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT Members note the direction of travel in implementing the recommendations made following the review of data sharing.
- 1.2 THAT Members approve the closedown of the Data Sharing Review but with one outstanding, ongoing piece of work.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to update Members on the progress made in addressing the recommendations arising from the Data Sharing Review which is detailed on the Action Plan as Appendix 1. The Action Plan has, except for one outstanding ongoing piece of work, been completed. The outstanding piece of work is the audit to be conducted six months after the implementation of the Management of Information Standing Order.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The review made recommendations in 5 strategic areas:-

- Governance,
- evaluation of data shared,
- assurance that data is being managed as required by the 'Data Protection Act' and the 'Management of Information Policy',

- to review and simplify the data sharing agreements,
- to determine the current ICT systems and arrangements to enable the appropriate sharing of data,

3.2 The ACFO Service Delivery and the Strategic Enabler for Information, Communication and Technology have considered the findings of the review and established an understanding of improvements and an action plan to address meeting the strategic recommendations.

3.3 The main actions that were identified were as follows:-

- establish an implementation team,
- an audit to be carried out to determine the data being shared (to be undertaken by the Service's Data Management team),
- the launch of the 'Management of Information' standing order,
- training videos produced and released to upskill employees on the 'Management of Information',
- an agreement made of where the responsibility for the governance of data sharing sits within the organisation,
- the template for data sharing agreements has been updated and gone live across the organisation,

3.4 In addressing the recommendations within the scrutiny report, it was considered that the key stakeholders of data sharing were the Data Management team.

3.5 Work is currently underway within Data Management to implement the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR). The new legislation will mean a more comprehensive approach to both the Management of Information and Data Sharing.

3.6 In addressing the main actions identified, it was agreed that a further audit would be carried out to establish if the "Management of Information" Standing Order was being adhered to. This was due to take place six months after its implementation. With the proposed implementation of EU GDPR, to conduct a review currently would be counterproductive as a full review of policies, procedures,

advice and guidance will take place during the preparation period prior to the launch of EU GDPR in May 2018.

- 3.7 The recommendations identified within the Data Sharing Review will be integrated into day to day working within Data Management. EU GDPR has been established as a 3PT project and as such progress will be monitored and managed through this approach. Given this, Members are asked to approve the formal closedown of this Scrutiny work. This means that no further updates on the Data Sharing Review will be provided.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out. The matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The organisation must adhere to 'The Data Protection Act 1998' which defines the way in which information about living people may be legally used and handled. The main intent of the act is to protect individuals against misuse or abuse of information about them. On 25 May 2018, the EU General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR) replaces the Data Protection Act 1998.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Scrutiny Committee, Scoping Document, Scrutiny of Data Sharing
Scrutiny Committee, Agenda Item 4, 15 February 2016
Scrutiny Committee, Agenda Item 6, 5 September 2016
Scrutiny Committee, Agenda Item 4, 10 October 2016
Scrutiny Committee, Agenda Item 4, 27 March 2017
Executive Committee, Agenda Item 4, 12 June 2017
Scrutiny Committee, Agenda Item 6, 4 September 2017

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