

## **Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee**

**06 June 2016 at 12.30pm**

**at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham**

**Present:** Councillor Tranter (Chair);  
Councillors Barrie, Young, Hogarth, B Singh,  
Spence, Clinton and Skinner

**Apology:**

There were no apologies

**Observer:**

10/16 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

11/16 **Minutes**

**Resolved:-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2016, be approved as a correct record.

12/16 **Diversity Inclusion Cohesion Equality (DICE) Update**

Joanne Simmonds, People Support Manager, provided an overview of the report. Objectives have been brought into line with the Fire Services' Equality Framework.

It was noted that various events had been organised and supported by the Service such as International Womens' Day. The Service had also become a Stonewall Champion in recognition of its commitment and support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) issues. Also extra support was being implemented for women returning to work after maternity leave.

It was noted that the Service now had in excess of 2000 Community Members and in excess of 8,000 Safe and Well visits had taken place across the West Midlands. Additionally all 790 schools were participating in the Schools Safety challenge.

A Member enquired about recruitment of minority groups and whether the Service would stand up to scrutiny in respect of recruitment of minority groups.

The Service had initiatives in place to encourage recruitment from underrepresented groups, for example Taster Days, and was in a position to resume a recruitment campaign.

A Member enquired about facial hair and the wearing of turbans. The Service is aware that the Asian Fire Services' Association and the Health and Safety Executive that the critical issue was around the integrity of the fire helmet seal.

Members would be informed when the recruitment campaign commences.

A Member stated that flexible working alone did not necessarily recognise the specific needs for carers. The Service would investigate this further.

It was noted that the Service had a strategy for Apprentices and that it was being developed. The Service currently employs a number of Apprentices.

A Member enquired whether enough was being done to publicise Safe and Well checks.

**Resolved: -**

That progress by the Service detailed in the report be noted.

13/16

**Analysis of Progress of Quarterly Performance Against the Plan quarter 4 2015/16**

Gary Taylor Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented an overview of the report.

- PI 1 The risk based attendance standard was 4 minutes 47 seconds, with the continued use of the Business support vehicles this remains positive.
- PI 4 and 6 The number of deaths from accidental dwelling fires were down and Safe and Well checks in excess of targets.
- PI 5 The percentage of Home Safety Checks remained a red rating due to a target of 40% not being met. A partnership review was underway to ensure that this was not artificially high and that we were still working with the right partners.
- PI 10 There has been the highest numbers of arson vehicle fires since 2011/12 (725 against a target of 549-641) with a disproportionate figure for Sandwell.
- PI 14 The number of false alarms due to fire alarm equipment has remained over performance against the tolerance levels as a result of the effective implementation of Business Support Vehicles.
- PI 18 -25 The number of employees that have disclosed disabled status has increased by 13% to 88% but is still below tolerance level It was noted that staff can opt for “prefer not to say” as an option and confirmed that It is therefore realistic to set a target of 100%.
- PI 22 The number of RIDDOR injuries were 22 against a target of 18. This is due to the reporting changing to an average of every three years.
- PI 23 Fuel efficiencies were greater with lower emissions generally and this was due to the Brigade Response Vehicles being more fuel efficient.

A Member enquired about drowning awareness

It was the intention of the Service to run prevention based activities for Drowning Awareness Week (18-25<sup>th</sup> June 2016)

**Resolved:-**

- 1) That the Committee noted the status of the Service's Key performance indicators in the fourth quarter 2015/6.
- 2) That the Committee noted the progress made in delivering the three strategic objectives contained in the Plan 2015 -2018
- 3) That the Committee noted the Aspire view performance information system update.

14/16      **Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee 2015/16.**

**Resolved:-**

That the report be submitted to the Fire Authority.

15/16      **Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015/16**

**Resolved:-**

That Committee noted the progress of the work programme for 2015/16.

(Meeting ended at 13:44 pm)

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