

Notes of the Policy Planning Forum

**15 June 2015 at 10.30 am
at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham**

Present: Members of the Authority
Councillor Edwards (Chair);
Councillor Idrees (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Atwal Singh, Barlow, Clinton, Davis,
Douglas-Maul, Eustace, Hogarth, Mottram JP,
Quinnen, Sealey, Shackleton, T Singh, Skinner,
Spence, Tranter and Young.

Officers: West Midlands Fire Service
Chief Fire Officer (P Loach)
Deputy Chief Fire Officer (P Hales);
Assistant Chief Fire Officer (G Taylor);
S Burton, J Connor, E Edwards, M Griffiths, M Hamilton-
Russell, M Pym, P Shergill, S Timmington and S Vincent.

Clerk and Monitoring Officer

M Dudley
K Gowreesunker
R Jones
S Sahota

Apologies: Councillors Afzal, Aston and Ward;
Mr Ager.

Observers: Councillors Barrie, Dehar, Miks, B Singh and P Singh.

9/15 **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the Policy Planning Forum and introduced the new Members who had joined the Authority following the recent elections.

Policy Planning Forum 15 June 2015

He also referred to the paper which had been circulated at the Forum which related to the Members' Awareness Session commencing at 10.00 am on Monday 6 July, 2015 at Fire Service Headquarters and gave the dates and locations for the School Quiz Heats and Final between 16 June and 11 July, 2015.

The Chair advised that this meeting would be the last that Rosemary Jones would attend on behalf of the Clerk. The Chair thanked Rosemary for all of her hard work and support to the Authority. All attendees concurred.

The Chief Fire Officer welcomed all attendees to the meeting and joined the Chair in thanking Rosemary for all of her work and support provided to the Authority. He also asked members to attend the School Quiz Heats and Final if at all possible.

The Chief Fire Officer informed members that a team of 6 firefighters from Brierley Hill Fire Station had entered an international Road Traffic Collision extrication challenge, The Holmatro Rescue Experience in Germany and had achieved an overall position of 5th from 29 teams (placed 2nd overall out of the UK teams taking part).

He also advised members of the Breathing Apparatus competition being held at Oldbury Training Hub.

The Chief Fire Officer updated members on the progress of the consultations regarding the proposed staffing changes. The proposals were designed to maintain the service delivery model. The Fire Brigade's Union (FBU) was currently holding branch meetings across the organisation and was not backing the proposals. Consultations would continue over the next two weeks and members would be updated accordingly.

Presentations to the Forum

S Vincent, Strategic Enabler Community Risk Management, introduced the first of two presentations, advising that the presentations focused on two distinct areas, firstly engaging with young people, and secondly, the subject of dementia which was more commonly associated with elderly persons.

Policy Planning Forum 15 June 2015

10/15 Presentation on the Youth Emergency Services

E Edwards from The Future Melting Pot, provided a presentation on the Youth Emergency Services (YES).

The purpose of YES was to:

- Provide a sustainable youth platform for shaping blue light services through a national network of YES forums.
- Promote a greater understanding of the work of emergency services.
- Provide young people with a voice in influencing emergency service policy.
- Engage and enable young people to act as emergency service ambassadors within their local communities.
- Strengthen relationships with young people within the community and enhance understanding of the emergency services.
- Enable the integration of this model into existing consultation and engagement frameworks.

The framework of YES was comprised of an executive board, a working group, and a Youth Forum. These allowed regular meeting and discussions with young people. For example, the model to engage with young people was designed by young people via a core group of 16 – 21 year olds who represent YES, and sub-committee groups comprised of 14 – 21 year olds.

In partnership with the ongoing consultation strategy of WMFS, YES was integrated within the aims of 'The Plan' and the community membership scheme, working with disengaged youth to represent all demographics. The community membership scheme had approximately 70 members in the 17 – 24 age group. YES has been linked to advertising the scheme. YES, in liaison with the community membership scheme would target representation and engagement where this was not normally found.

To date, YES had achieved the development of the model, engagement with young people in different ways, including those from diverse communities and different backgrounds, established a media presence, provided a number of opportunities for people to engage in public speaking, and the delivery of the launch in October 2014.

Policy Planning Forum 15 June 2015

Progress was currently being made on the design and development of an 'off the shelf' programme which could also be utilised by other organisations in the future. Additionally, work continued on a number of campaigns with partners including Health Futures and Centro.

The following responses were made to members' questions and enquiries:

- YES engaged with a diverse range of people from different communities and backgrounds. Diversity was not just about cultural diversity, but the diversity in different needs.
- The 70 young people aged 17 – 24 who have signed up to the Community Membership Scheme were from across the West Midlands.
- The Future Melting Pot is a social enterprise partnership with WMFS. YES was an integral part of WMFS and was aligned with the Community Membership.
- The Coventry area would be included within the YES programme once it had been fully designed and developed.
- The approach that has been taken was set up because it was believed that young people did not perceive any engagement with the Fire Service. The Fire Authority wanted to enable young people to engage and help shape services. As a result, the approach taken was to ensure we were hearing what young people wanted to say.

11/15 Presentation on Dementia Awareness

S Vincent introduced the second presentation by advising members of the role of the Serious Incident Review. The Serious Incident Review was adapted from Serious Case Reviews, a process utilised by various organisations with regard to safeguarding. The Serious Incident Reviews were initiated at more serious incidents. The results of these reviews since the process was introduced had identified that of the most vulnerable in society:

- 86% reside in rented accommodation
- 71% smoke
- 71% have no smoke alarm
- 71% suffer from poor mobility

**Policy Planning Forum
15 June 2015**

S Burton, a firefighter from Woodgate Valley Fire Station and Dementia Friends Champion, provided a presentation on Dementia Awareness. The presentation explained the impact of dementia upon the people and families who live with it, and how dementia linked into the role of a firefighter.

Firefighters came into contact with people who lived with dementia but might not have care support in place and engaged with Vulnerable Persons Officers who could sign post to other such persons and organisations.

There were Dementia Champions across WMFS.

The presentation was largely interactive and involved a number of exercises to explain how dementia affected people, to increase perception and understanding, and to demonstrate what care support could be introduced to help people and their families.

Following the presentation, all agreed that it had been excellent, in both its delivery and content.

The Chief Fire Officer explained that the support provided by firefighters to people living with dementia was an excellent example of the prevention based activities that firefighters conducted everyday. The Chief Fire Officer displayed a video of the fire that occurred at Northfield Manor and emphasised that a firefighter's role still included attending emergencies such as the example shown. The Chief Fire Officer highlighted to members that whilst PPF the work of S Burton was promoting awareness of dementia she was also the Incident Commander at the fire that occurred at Northfield Manor.

(Meeting ended at 11 55 am)

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[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]