

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee

Item: 9

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Blue Light Collaboration

Report by Assistant Chief Officer Stewart Adamson

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1 Summary

- 1.1 There is increasing focus from central Government on collaboration across Blue Light services. The Policing and Crime Bill is progressing through Parliament and is expected to complete its journey in the spring.
- 1.2 Working together at an Authority level, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA) and the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority (IWFRA) commissioned a workshop attended by officers to consider opportunities for further collaboration.
- 1.3 An organisational structure has been established in Hampshire and IOW to drive opportunities and manage risks with Blue Light collaboration. This structure sees a Blue Light Executive, reporting to relevant Authorities, setting the strategic intent for five work streams to deliver new ways of working to increase the safety of the public.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That PRSC considers the work and plans for collaboration with the Blue Light services in Hampshire.
- 2.2 Further updates on collaboration will be presented to HFRA members via the Activity Report within the agenda of the full Authority meetings

3 Introduction and background

- 3.1 Hampshire has a strong tradition of blue light collaboration, which has developed over a long period of time. Examples are the Co Responder scheme – the leading medical response scheme in the UK between HFRS and SCAS, and the Arson Task Force – the leading joint Police and Fire team in the UK to support the investigation and prosecution of arsonists.
- 3.2 The introduction of the Policing and Crime Bill this year will place new expectations on Blue Light services. The Bill will see a duty to collaborate, in specified circumstances, introduced. This paper sets out the current activity for further development of blue light collaboration in Hampshire and IOW.

4 Workshop

4.1 On 19th October 2016, a jointly commissioned workshop (by OPCC, HFRA, IWFRA), was held at Hampshire Fire and Police Strategic HQ. This workshop attended by officers, and facilitated by Deloitte, was set out 4 areas to consider:

1. The benefits of collaboration;
2. Common activities;
3. Key challenges;
4. How to overcome the challenges;

Officers from HFRS, Hampshire Constabulary (HC), and South East Coast Ambulance Trust (SECAM) participated, including the Chief Officers for Fire and Police.

4.2 Following the delivery of the full report, the OPCC is preparing a report and establishing a meeting for HFRA, IWFRA, PCC and Ambulance trust representation, to discuss the workshop outcomes and establish the next steps for collaboration in Hampshire. This meeting is scheduled for January 2017.

5 Operational Collaboration - Blue Light Executive

5.1 During Autumn 2016, officers from HFRS, HC and South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS), established informal links to consider blue light collaboration at an operational level and to build upon the work completed to date. A “Blue Light Executive” meeting was established to drive this work.

5.2 The Blue Light Executive meeting was established to have oversight of collaboration in Hampshire, set the strategic goals and consider transformational opportunities and changes across the blue light community.

5.3 The Blue Light Executive will report to the relevant Authority for which lead members are responsible to, i.e. HFRA for the Chief Officer of HFRS.

5.4 At a meeting on 4th November 2016, the meeting considered and approved the content of a report produced by officers scoping further collaborative opportunities. This report approved the development of the operational structure set out in Appendix A.

5.5 HFRS established a post of Temporary Assistant Chief Officer for a 6 month initial period to develop the operational structure and consider short, medium and long term opportunities across the blue light community. The full requirements of a team and other investment will be established on a shared basis across Blue Light partners.

6 Operational Collaboration - Blue Light Delivery

6.1 The Blue Light Delivery group will manage the day to day development of this collaborative programme and consider service improvements. The group will meet and be represented by senior officers from across the blue light community. This group will maintain oversight and coordination of five core areas of work, the work streams.

7 Operational Collaboration – Work streams

7.1 Managing Demand

This will consider the demand of each blue light service, opportunities to avoid duplication or using the skills of one service to deliver on behalf of all three.

Examples of projects include:

- Analysis of call types attended by blue light responders;
- Profile of those at most risk or frequent users of services.

7.2 Specialist Capabilities

There are some areas of special response we share a need for support. This will include the development of shared assets based on need.

Examples of projects include:

- Hazardous material officer support;
- Finding missing persons.

7.3 Organisational Support Services

This builds upon the recent success with a shared HQ and vehicle maintenance. It is the essential support services which allow emergency services to respond to public demand.

Examples of projects include:

- Further development of a shared estate;
- Training provision and accommodation.

7.4 Workforce

With our shared services partners at Hampshire County Council, we will consider how to align and learn from each other with some of the areas common to our people across the blue light community.

Examples of projects include:

- Development and deployment of volunteers;
- Equality and Diversity.

7.5 Prevention

Building upon the analysis from work stream 1, we know that people most likely to need to use emergency services share some characteristics. This work will build upon the prevention programmes across the blue light community to avoid duplication and stimulate innovation.

Examples of projects include:

- Working with Children and Young People;

- Working with Health providers.

7.6 A report on progress will be presented to the next Blue Light Executive meeting, scheduled for 4th May 2017. It is proposed that further updates on collaboration will be presented to members via the Activity Report within the agenda of the full Authority meetings.

8 Supporting our corporate aims and objectives

8.1 The purpose of the collaborative work by blue light partners is to increase public safety. This aligns with the HFRS mission of *making life safer*.

8.2 This work will directly contribute to our priority of working with partners. As stated within the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2015 – 2020, “We will place partnerships at the heart of all our work.”

9 Risk analysis

9.1 The Policing and Crime Bill passing through Parliament currently may place additional restrictions or requirements on blue light collaboration. These are not known at this time.

10 Impact Assessment

10.1 The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the equality and human rights legislation.

10.2 Impact Assessments will be carried out as part of the proposals within the work streams. The intension is that pilots will be established and enable us to learn.

11 Resource implications

11.1 Human Resources

An additional head count of a Temporary Assistant Chief Officer will be established for an initial 6 month period.

11.2 Physical Resources

No additional implications.

11.3 Information and Communications Technology Resources

No additional implications.

11.4 Financial Implications

It is anticipated that there will be some additional costs for this work to progress. This may include an additional officer and include some costs for the commissioning of feasibility work to fully explore investment, risks and opportunities.

All additional financial costs will be managed in accordance with normal HFRA protocol.

12 Consultation

- 12.1 The development of the Blue Light collaborative work in Hampshire is with the full support of both Hampshire Constabulary and South Central Ambulance at Chief Officer level.

13 Conclusion

- 13.1 Collaboration across the blue light community in Hampshire and IOW is well developed and has been done so for a significant period of time. The introduction of a new Bill of Parliament with collaboration as an expectation may only have a limited impact on our work, as we develop more operational collaboration with partners.
- 13.2 In Hampshire we have established a management structure (Appendix A) to lead collaboration and build upon the opportunities to work together to increase public safety to our communities in Hampshire and IOW.

14 Background papers

- 14.1 The following documents disclose the facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of the report:

Draft legislation – Policing and Crime Bill
Report by Deloitte following Workshop of October 2016.

Note: The list excludes: (1) published works; and (2) documents that disclose exempt or confidential information defined in the Act.

