

TO: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

FROM: Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Matthew Warren

PRESENTING OFFICER(S): Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Matthew Warren

Telephone 07768 023436
matthew.warren@cambsfire.gov.uk

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FIRE AUTHORITY COLLABORATION OVERVIEW AND UPDATE REPORT

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Fire Authority with an update on the Services collaboration activities and how these are being monitored and reviewed.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Fire Authority is asked to note the collaboration update, as at October 2019, within this report and attached at **Appendix 1**.

3. Risk Assessment

- 3.1 **Legal** – the Service has legal responsibilities as part of its strategy and each collaboration should consider the implications of these.
- 3.2 **Political** - by setting out our collaboration strategy we are able to accurately monitor and review all our collaborations to ensure that they are still meeting our business needs, providing value for money and risk mitigation or opportunity realisation. This allows us to provide assurances of our collaborations.
- 3.3 **Economic** - the proactive monitoring of value for money and benefits realisation through the collaboration strategy serves to ensure we are able to demonstrate effective use of resources.

4. Background

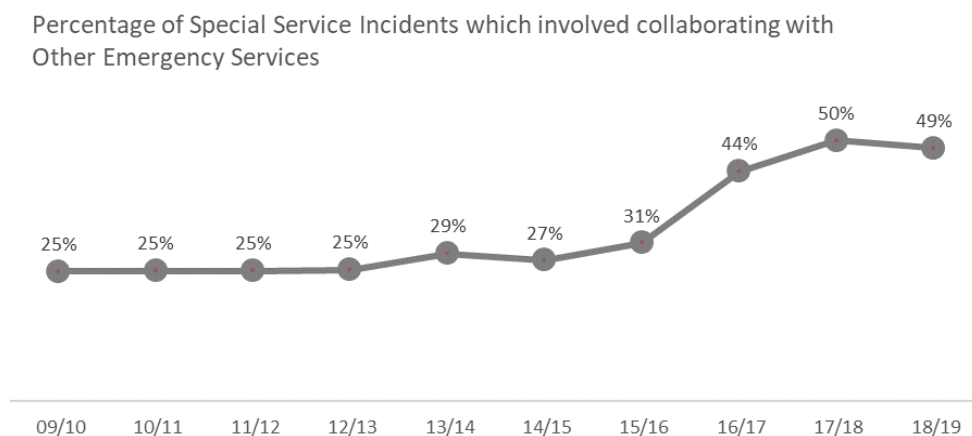
- 4.1 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 created a statutory duty on fire and rescue authorities, police forces and ambulance trusts to;
- Keep collaboration opportunities under review,
 - Notify other emergency services of proposed collaboration that could be in the interests of their mutual efficiency or effectiveness,

- Give effect to a proposed collaboration where the proposed parties agree that it would be in the interests of their efficiency or effectiveness and that it does not have an adverse effect on public safety.
- 4.2 The duty is deliberately broad to allow for local discretion in how it is implemented and recognises that local emergency services are best placed to determine how to collaborate for the benefit of their communities. However the duty sets clear expectations that collaboration opportunities should be considered.
- 4.3 The duty does not preclude wider collaboration with other local partners, such as local authorities and wider health bodies.
- 4.4 In October 2017 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a Member-led review of collaborations. The findings, presented in January 2018, were positive however it did identify that the prioritisation of collaborations was different across the various organisations and this presented a resourcing issue for collaboration activities.

5. Progress on Collaborations

- 5.1 The Service has implemented a collaboration strategy. The strategy sets out the organisations approach to collaboration and puts in place a structure for instigating and monitoring such activities. A collaboration register is now in place that records key information. It identifies the benefits sought through collaboration as well as putting in place mechanisms to review and monitor the achievement of these.
- 5.2 The collaboration register is reviewed quarterly by the 'value for money' group. This group is responsible for ensuring that the register is up to date and the content is accurate.
- 5.3 The Service collaborates with a range of partners, some examples are;
- Provision of the use of fire stations to the NHS blood transfusion service, to allow blood donations, this is cost neutral to the Service but provides a cost saving to the NHS.
 - Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service provide the Services Fire Behaviour Training (FBT). This collaboration provides risk mitigation to the Service whilst we await decisions on the future training facilities.
 - Combined Fire Control is the joint control room for the Service and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service. This has been in operation since 2011 and provides cost savings for both services.
 - The Services ASPIRE leadership programme was initiated by the Service but is now provided across police and fire partners in Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. This provides cost savings as well as allowing sharing of best practice and learning across the organisations.

- 5.4 Work is currently ongoing to realise a further significant collaboration opportunity. There is the opportunity to utilise land owned by Cambridgeshire Constabulary to create a joint training facility at Monkswood. Plans have been developed and planning permission granted. The Service is currently awaiting approval from Cambridgeshire Constabulary to proceed with this collaboration.
- 5.5 The Services recent work to create the IRMP 2020-2024 has also highlighted progress on collaborations. The Service has seen a 55 percent increase in the number of special services that it attends compared to five years ago. This is also a 41 percent increase on the number of special services attended 10 years ago. Special services incidents have increased because the rescue service has been working more collaboratively with other emergency services. The Service has seen an increase in 'effecting entry/exit', 'assist other agencies' and 'suicide/attempts', these types of incidents could involve collaboration. Emergency medical responding trials ran from 2015-2017, and will have contributed to our rise in special services. The graph below illustrates the increase in special services.



6. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Findings

- 6.1 The HMICFRS inspection process considers collaboration under the efficiency pillar and specifically under, 'making best use of resources'. The Service achieved 'good' in this area of the inspection report published in late 2018. HMICFRS noted in the report that the Service is '*exploiting several opportunities to collaborate within and beyond the fire sector.*' The report noted our Combined Fire Control with Suffolk and our ongoing work to collaborate on the new mobilising system. It also noted our shared ICT service and the use of our stations that are provided to Cambridgeshire Constabulary and East of England Ambulance Service.

- 6.2 The report noted that whilst the Service had evidence of review activities for the larger collaborations there was little review evidence of this taking place for all collaborations.
- 6.3 The work noted in this report, to introduce the collaboration strategy and the collaboration register, demonstrates that we are making progress in this area and will continue to review and monitor all of our collaborations to ensure that they are providing benefit to the Service, our partners or the public.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

| Source Documents | Location | Contact Officer |
|---|--|--|
| 10 year Special Service Analysis 2009-2019 Collaboration Strategy Collaboration Register An Inspection of Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service | Fire Service HQ Hinchingsbrooke Cottage Huntingdon | Matthew Warren 01480 444619 matthew.warren@cambsfire.gov.uk |