

Community Risk Programme Update

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

To present to the Committee the National Fire Chiefs Council's Community Risk Programme's journey to date, progress and developments, and direction moving forward.

Recommendation

That members of the Committee note the report.

Action

As directed by members.



Date: Friday 11 October 2019

Item No:

Title: Community Risk Programme update to the Fire Services Management Committee

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Briefing Purpose:

To present to the Committee the National Fire Chiefs Council's (NFCC) Community Risk Programme's journey to date, progress and developments, and direction moving forward.

Action required of the Committee:

For members to note the journey and direction of the programme.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Community Risk Programme (CRP) was established in 2017 to deliver the NFCC's strategic commitment to 'Assessing risk' which will deliver a digital toolkit to support integrated risk management planning in UK fire and rescue services (FRSs).

1.2 The products produced by the programme will improve consistency in integrated risk management planning across the UK, including reductions in variability in the understanding of risk and risk management planning processes. The programme represents an opportunity for sector wide improvement which will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of FRS activities through better resourcing to risk, thereby reducing risk and vulnerability in communities.

1.3 Key-decision making is made by the Programme Board, led by the Vice Chair of the NFCC. The Board report to the NFCC's Steering Group.



1.4 The programme's vision captures the areas of improvement required and gaps identified in UK FRS risk management planning, as well as the intended outcome for communities. The vision has been formed following the findings of a research project carried out early in the programme.

2.0 Research Project – evidence building

2.1 In June 2018, the Board commissioned the Nottingham Trent University to conduct a research report into the current state of risk management planning in the UK FRS.

2.2 As part of its research, a survey requesting data and information was sent to all 50 UK FRSs; 43 responses were received. This provided a strong evidence base for analysis to be carried out.

2.3 In addition, 30 international responses were submitted to the research project team, demonstrating a positive global interest in risk management and reduction learning. This was supported in September 2019 by an international symposium which was held in the West Midlands which was attended by 28 international delegates from 10 countries around the world. This will be an ongoing relationship with international partners to ensure that programme is sited and aware of what is happening globally in risk management planning.

2.4 The research report identified good practice, gaps in practice and made recommendations for improvement in UK FRS risk management planning processes.

2.5 Based on its findings, the report made recommendations in the following areas:

- The development and maintenance of a nationally sponsored, developed and provisioned toolkit to support the process of community risk assessment which all FRSs can use.
- Digital support for community risk management planning processes.
- Understanding risk: The development of, from a UK FRS perspective, an explicit national definition of risk and a consistent conceptualisation of risk.
- Use of data: A national database is required for existing FRS data.
- Use of evidence: the creation and maintenance of a guidance document library.
- Assessment methodology: provision of guidance for the relative importance of relative factors in prioritising risk; and establishment of an evidence base of valid risk management methodologies that provide consistent, transparent analysis.
- Risk interventions: the use of academic, government, or partner research into localised, up-to-date predictors of risk including the methods for identifying and targeting high risk groups.
- Evaluation - methodologies: establish an evidence base of evaluation methodologies to ensure that the UK FRS has a consistent, robust, valid and reliable Sector Intelligence Model;



as the Service Standard; and develop an infrastructure (platforms) to share evaluation methodologies to enable nationwide learning and leading practice across UK FRS.

- Further research: in the following areas: Data requirements; Effective methods to identify those at high-risk; Effective public engagement; Effective communication with key stakeholders; Identification and Targeting of high-risk groups (Social targeting); Economic cost of the Fire & Rescue Service; Evaluating the effectiveness of prevention, protection, and response activities.

2.6 The report's findings are echoed in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection reports, which recognise that consistency in UK FRS integrated risk management planning processes will bring significant benefits to communities.

2.7 The research report will be shared in its entirety with UK FRSs and other stakeholders in coming weeks.

3.0 Projects and indicative timeline

3.1 Based on the findings and recommendations of the report, the CRP Board has agreed eight projects to achieve the programme's vision.

3.2 A phased approach to undertaking projects will be adopted due to the interdependencies that exist between them.

3.3 Each project will be led by a project executive from the UK FRS. To date three project executive roles have been advertised and appointments have been made. These are voluntary roles, requiring approximately four days a month of the project executive's time.

3.3 The table below shows the indicative timeline for project start dates:

Project	Estimated start date	Project definition
Definition of risk	AUG 2019	The Definition of Risk is a project to develop from a UK FRS perspective, an explicit national definition of risk and a consistent conceptualisation of risk. The project will also develop from a UK FRS perspective, a definition around a 'high risk building'.



Review existing guidance and produce new (I)RMP Guidance (2 phases)	AUG 2019	The project will commission a review of the current risk management guidance and produce and support the maintenance of an up-to-date guidance document library.
Economic cost of fire	AUG 2019	The project will update the Economic Cost of Fire Study with the most up-to-date figures. Economic analysis is able to provide key data to the Government around the financial benefits of the UKFRS. The project will consider a more comprehensive cost methodology to include adjustments for the known unknowns (i.e. the fires FRSs not called to as referred to by the English Housing Survey). Further data sources would bring a broader perspective to measure how the FRSs are driving improvement across the full range of FRS activity: protection, prevention and response.
Data projects	SEPT 2019	NFCC should develop a national database of existing FRS data (e.g. incident data). Commission research into the integration of different sources of data to enhance existing FRS datasets. Establish a quality assurance process to quality assure existing FRS data and external data sources.
Evaluation (methodologies)	SUMMER 2020	The Evaluation project will commission further research to establish an evidence base of evaluation methodologies to ensure that the UK FRS has a consistent, robust, valid and reliable sector intelligence model.
Competencies for risk management planners	JAN 2020	The project will make risk management a required competency and would allow for minimum standards to be set for the expertise of risk management planners.
Evaluation for fire interventions	JAN 2021	The project will review evaluation of fire interventions to establish whether they are fit for purpose, identify good practice and it would provide the evidence upon which a national benchmarking tool could be built.



Risk assessment methodologies and interventions	JAN 2021	The project will commission further research to establish an evidence base of valid risk management methodologies that provide consistent, transparent analysis across the UK FRS.
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4.0 Stakeholder engagement

4.1 The Board recognise the success of the programme is dependent on meaningful engagement with stakeholders.

4.2 A representative of HMICFRS is a recognised stakeholder and contributor to the programme. The programme has also engaged with the LGA as a key stakeholder of the CRP, seeking a representative to contribute its direction.

4.3 The programme currently has a named contact to engage with in 48 of 50 UK FRSs and communicates regular updates with services via a dedicated Workplace platform to encourage discussion and collaboration.

4.4 A Technical Working Group of subject matter experts supports the programme by quality assuring products and providing expert advice.

4.5 Stakeholders such as LGA, Home Office, HMICFRS, Institute of Fire Engineers and the Fire Brigades Union are informed of the programme's progress at the quarterly Strategic Engagement Forum. Our external stakeholders are invited to contribute on working groups of the projects which are of particular interest to them by contacting the Programme Manager.

4.6 The programme engages with wider stakeholders and interested parties via the NFCC's social media pages, including: Twitter, LinkedIn and Workplace, and on the dedicated CRP webpage on the NFCC website. The programme also has a dedicated mailbox for stakeholders and interested parties to contact the programme team.

4.7 A quarterly briefing is published on the CRP web page, to maintain continuous engagement with the NFCC's wider stakeholders.