

Summary of activity to support Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) – June 2009

Summary

The IDeA is developing a programme to support improvement in Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) using capacity building funding from Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Local Government Association (LGA)

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report, and provide a steer regarding any issues of interest.

Action

Officers to take forward any recommended actions.

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Background

1. The IDeA is developing a programme to support improvement in Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) using capacity building funding from Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Local Government Association (LGA). The programme targets general people and performance management and addresses more strategic HR management and leadership development for elected members of fire and rescue authorities and regional management boards.
2. Planned activities include:
 - open days hosted by fire authorities to share good practice and improve the effectiveness of performance management
 - workshops for senior managers and heads of HR to look at people strategies as a key component of change
 - the development of a leadership academy module for fire authority members
3. Fire and Rescue Services also have access to the Agency's generic improvement offerings, which may be commissioned by the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEP) or directly by the FRS. This includes:
 - supporting the development of both elected members and senior officers to be effective leaders
 - peer support and specialist support to address people and performance management
 - achieving efficient use of resources
 - working with individual brigades on tailored projects
 - peer challenge on equality and diversity and support to progress against the Equality Standard
 - participation in the beacon scheme

The regional picture

4. All regions are developing strong links with FRS. The vast majority of regions include FRS on key decision making groups and boards

Financial Implications

5. There are no financial implications for FRAs.

Implications for Wales

6. Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships cover England only so there are no implications for Wales.

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