

Fire and Rescue Services Bulletin

Dear colleagues

Welcome to the second LGA fire bulletin! A great deal has happened since I last wrote to you in March; we've held a very successful annual fire conference (despite some challenging weather!), many colleagues will have been through the stresses of local elections and more recently Sir Ken Knight has published his review on the future of the fire and rescue service (more of which later).

Yours faithfully,

Kay Hammond

Cllr Kay Hammond
Chairman, Fire Services Management Committee



Stories

Facing the future: findings from the review of efficiencies and operations in fire and rescue authorities in England

[Sir Ken Knight's review, 'Facing the future'](#), was published on 17 May and I responded with the following statement:

"Sir Ken's review rightly recognises the sharp decline in call-outs and fire incidents which continue to reduce vastly because of the excellent preventative work, such as community safety schemes, which fire and rescue services have in place.

"Fire authorities are always looking to increase efficiencies with many already operating differently in order to manage an unprecedented decline in funding and will continue to find savings through measures such as shared service arrangements, reducing the number of fire stations and new flexible employment practices.

"But it is clear that without major reforms to the service this will not be enough to sustain it in the future. Therefore we will study Sir Ken's findings with great interest and are pleased that the Government intends to consult fully with the sector before it makes its own response."

The LGA will be responding fully in due course and I would encourage fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) to let us know their opinions to ensure our response reflects the views of the sector.

Fire Services College

The college has taken on board many of the concerns customers have raised about course costs and Capita have announced that they are now able to offer discounts of up to 20 per cent for discrete

high volume requirements from customers. Capita are also looking to further reducing the total costs of training; over the next six months, they will be redesigning many of our courses to make them shorter and more flexible as well as exploring options for regional or even local delivery, thereby reducing time away from duty.

Firecontrol – Public Accounts Committee oral evidence

The Public Accounts Committee took oral evidence from Chief Fire Officers John Bonney and Paul Hancock, Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser Peter Holland and Sir Bob Kerslake, Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on 13 May. [Read the transcript of this session.](#)

Future control room services scheme

In March DCLG published an [update of the 'Future Control Room Services Scheme: summary national picture'](#).

Fire Leadership Academy

The LGA will be holding a leadership academy specifically aimed at fire and rescue authority chairs and portfolio holders on 11 and 12 September at Warwick University. The programme for the academy is currently being finalised and will be made available to members shortly. The Leadership Academy forms part of the LGA's 'offer' to fire and rescue authorities and is available free of charge.

LGA Annual Conference 2013

A fringe session looking at the findings of Sir Ken Knight's efficiencies review will be held at the [LGA's annual conference](#), taking place from 2 to 4 July in Manchester. The session will provide a good opportunity for delegates to come together to consider the findings of the efficiency review and the implications for individual fire authorities. We will have speakers from metropolitan, combined, and county services to let us know their views on key parts of the review.

LGA Annual Fire Conference 2014

The LGA's annual fire conference will be held in Cardiff next year, on 11 and 12 March 2014. Further details on the possible theme and draft programme will be circulated in due course. We are planning to extend the conference to two full days to allow more time to discuss important issues affecting our sector.

Skills for Fire and Rescue

The Fire and Rescue Service Council has endorsed a new three year relationship with [Skills for Fire and Rescue](#) (previously Skills for Justice). As part of the new deal the costs will be frozen for three years. Skills for Fire and Rescue will:

- continue to develop national occupational standards and qualifications to meet the needs of the Fire and Rescue Service
- support the development of the Fire Professional Framework
- support JESIP through the identification of the skills needed to work more effectively across blue light services
- develop a community safety apprenticeship framework
- underpin national operational guidance with appropriate standards and qualifications

Chairman's engagements

Since the last bulletin was published in March I have attended a number of meetings and events on your behalf, including:

- the Fire Services College Management Board
- Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme Board
- a visit to Humberside FRA
- the opening of the Firefighters Charities' newly refurbished Marine Court facility in

- Littlehampton
- speaking at the All-Party Parliamentary fire safety group on the issue of sprinklers
- attended Cheshire Fire Authority to participate in the celebrations of the long standing and successful partnership with the Prince's Trust.

Sprinkler campaign update

The LGA's [online sprinkler toolkit](#) continues to be updated with recent [examples of press coverage](#) demonstrating the usefulness of sprinkler systems, as well as [ideas for generating your own press coverage](#), [advice for using social media](#) and [guidance on writing your own press release](#), as well as a list of [sprinkler myths dispelled](#). Please send any coverage to be included on these pages to clive.harris@local.gov.uk.

Good practice

Staffordshire's arson prevention work

A young man from Tamworth is helping Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service to engage with youngsters to warn them about the dangers and serious consequences of starting fires. Please email rebecca.gill@staffordshirefire.gov.uk for additional information.

Shropshire's scenario planning

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) conducted an extensive scenario planning exercise which was then used to develop the 2013-2020 Integrated Risk Management Plan and recent Prevention, Protection and Response strategies. The 20:20 scenario planning is an innovative approach to engaging staff. Around 80 of these events are being undertaken across the county to gain dynamic feedback on local risks. For further information please email louise.goodhead@shropshirefire.gov.uk.

Cornwall involves uniformed youth groups in delivering safety messages

Cornwall FRS has used uniformed youth groups to assist with local residents (particularly vulnerable people) during the recovery phase of incidents. This has been seen as innovative and it has been recognised at national and international level potentially resulting in a new Prince Charles Community award. Kevin Thomas (kthomas@fire.cornwall.gov.uk) can provide additional information on this work.

Hereford and Worcester's collaboration with the police

There is an increasing spirit of collaboration between the Hereford and Worcester FRS and the police and this is being harnessed and furthered by the development of a joint police and fire station at Bromsgrove. Further collaborative opportunities are also being explored with particular consideration given to shared infrastructure. For further information please contact Jean Cole: jcole@hwfire.gov.uk.

Emergency planning and risk reduction in Surrey

Surrey FRS has set up a dedicated business unit responsible for risk reduction, emergency planning, resilience and business continuity, and is actively engaged in contingency planning through partnership working with other LRF Category 1 Responders. Sally Wilson (sally.wilson@surreycc.gov.uk) can provide further information on this work.

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