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Title:	National Fire Chiefs Council update to the Fire Service Management Committee
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For information or decision:	For Information

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides progress updates on the work activity the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC). Each of the sections of this report provide updates in relation to the various areas of activity.

2. Content Management

- 2.1. Three pieces of National Operational Guidance (NOG) have been published:
 - *Incident command (Third Edition, Version One)*
 - *Operations (Third Edition, Version One)*
 - *Foundation for Environmental Protection (First Edition, Version One)*
- 2.2. Current guidance reviews include:
 - Review of *National Operational Guidance: Subsurface, height structures and confined spaces (1st Edition)* Draft completed – expected release for consultation September 2020
 - Review of *National Operational Guidance: Performing rescues (2nd Edition)*. Draft completed undergoing peer review – expected release for consultation October 2020
 - Review of *National Operational Guidance Training specification: Operations (Third Edition, Version one)* Completed submission to Operations Committee September 2020
- 2.3. A successful Home Office bid coordinated by the NFCC Operational Communications lead Darryl Keen has been approved and two additional staff have been appointed to provide support to fire and rescue services for the Multi Agency Incident Transfer roll out, they will also assist with other communication guidance, training, support and engagement.
- 2.4. Fire service manuals are currently being reviewed as part of the ongoing legacy review. Initial review of documents relating to ongoing NOG review work have been completed.

3. National Operational Learning

- 3.1. National Operational Learning (NOL) have received 67 cases since March 2020, following which 45 cases have been submitted to the National Operational Learning User Group (NOLUG). This has resulted in 24 information notes issued to services and 7 recommendations for changes to NOG.

4. Community Risk Programme

- 4.1. The Community Risk Programme is continuing to make good progress with the Definition of Risk Project concluding its virtual 'Roadshow' over the summer during which it consulted with Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) to review the draft Conceptualisation of Risk Framework. 47 FRSs signed up to the roadshow and 44 responses were received. The feedback from Services was largely positive and the framework was approved at Programme Board in July 2020.
- 4.2. The Home Office has paused its work on the revised Economic & Social Cost of Fire whilst Spending Review work is progressed. Work will start again after the review submission and whilst the Home Office has shared its approach to its work, we are yet to receive a completion date for it.

5. People Programme

- 5.1. The progression of the Leadership project has run smoothly through COVID-19, with very little disruption. As part of the improvement money NFCC has secured from the Home Office this year, £250,000 has been allocated to support the project and this will ensure the project can conduct the necessary research and build capacity to drive the work forwards.
- 5.2. The inaugural Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) project board meeting took place 3 July 2020. It was agreed to commence consultation on the NFCC People Impact Assessment template which had been developed prior to the project boards establishment. The consultation will also offer access to expertise in undertaking impact assessment for FRSs that have not yet incorporated these processes into their organisations. There was a good uptake from fire and rescue staff to be a contributor under each work stream. An initial piece of work has commenced to produce a number of Equal Access and Provision of Service documents with the initial focus on BAME, Neurodiversity, LGBTQ+ and Gypsy, Traveller and Roma groups. It is anticipated the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) will take an interest in FRSs consideration of service delivery to these groups and so these documents should significantly support FRSs in ensuring they arrangements or an action plan in place.
- 5.3. Following the discussion with Chief Fire Officers in June 2020 on the challenges and direction in the area of competencies and qualifications, the programme ran a survey socialising some problems statements and seeking agreement on the direction required by the project to address these challenges. The results of this survey did indicate a good level of consensus on the matter and these findings supported a project scoping meeting that took place in September 2020.
- 5.4. Working closely with twenty seven Services, the rep bodies (FBU and FRSA) and the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education the apprenticeship project has overseen the review of the Operational Firefighter Apprenticeship ensuring it is mapped to both NOS and NOG, and in line with recommendations for the GTI report. The revised apprenticeship standard will be available for use by November 2020. The funding band for this apprenticeship will also be reviewed in this process.

- 5.5. The Fire Safety Engineer (degree level) apprenticeship was submitted to Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education in July and will be available to use by October 2020. Working closely with the IFE, the apprenticeship trailblazer group have successfully brought the apprenticeship EPA and the Engineering Council requirements together using the Professional discussion element of the apprenticeship EPA to meet the needs of the apprenticeship and the Engineering Council requirements for Incorporated Engineer (IENG) membership.

6. Digital and Data Programme

- 6.1. The revised Digital and Data strategy has been approved and will soon be published on ukfrs.com.
- 6.2. A key area of current focus is the new national data hub which is proposed to consist of a centralised approach to governance, collation and analytics of data that will include:
- A scalable technical solution that will standardise the way that data can be shared, accessed and interrogated
 - A central analytics function working across the NFCC portfolio to identify, specify, capture and aggregate relevant local datasets at the national level, providing analysis to determine trends and insight that informs local and national decision making
 - A common approach to data governance
- 6.3. The pandemic presented an opportunity to streamline the way in which COVID-19 data is collected, interrogated and accessed, and is serving as a discrete case study to test the proof of concept. By end of September 2020, all COVID-19 data collection will be funnelled through the platform which leverages existing FRS technology to prove the concept. This will reduce the burden on local data teams, standardise data entry, provide a single national view of the landscape, and provide common BI dashboards for all stakeholders to access the data.
- 6.4. Building on the investment, success and functionality of the web platform and cloud database developed for National Operational Guidance, ukfrs.com has now been developed to become the main hub for all products established through the NFCC portfolio. The main homepage now serves as a hub to access all available products, currently categorised by programme.

7. Prevention Programme

- 7.1. With uplift funding from the Home Office secured, scoping of the Prevention Programme will now begin.

8. Building Safety Programme

- 8.1. The NFCC Building Safety Programme (BSP) Team have reviewed both the [Fire Safety Consultation](#) and draft Building Safety Bill in depth and are working towards submissions on behalf of NFCC. To this end, the Team organised a series of eight workshops to run from 12 August to 2 September 2020 to brief FRS staff on the content of the documents, what this could mean for FRSs, and to gather views and discussion from attendees which can then be used to inform the final submission with over 45 different FRSs participating.

- 8.2. Whilst the Team are largely pleased with the proposals contained in the Fire Safety Consultation, we will be continuing to work alongside colleagues in the Home Office Fire Safety Unit to ensure additional improvements from FRSs are included and remaining issues are ironed out. Furthermore, NFCC believes that the Building Safety Bill is not strong enough in its current form, especially due to the continuation of non-worsening provisions, which still have not been addressed despite being raised in Dame Judith's Interim Report in 2017.
- 8.3. NFCC coordinated the second review of the *Guidance: to support a temporary change to a simultaneous evacuation strategy in purpose-built blocks of flats*. The revised version of the guidance was published at the start of October 2020 and was joint badged with other stakeholder organisations, following an extended consultation with leaseholder groups and other stakeholders in the wider fire sector.
- 8.4. Over the summer the NFCC, following further financial support from government, the Protection Policy and Reform Unit has been recruiting to build the team in a variety of areas, including fire safety regulations, communications, data management and analytics, governance, and service delivery and improvement. Further recruitment is planned for Autumn 2020.
- 8.5. Following launch of the next phase of the Building Risk Review (BRR), the BSP Team held a question and answer session with over 70 attendees from almost 40 different English FRSs, and have established a dedicated BRR Workplace group and email inbox to ensure smooth and consistent communication and engagement with FRS Protection departments for the duration of the BRR Programme.

DYHPG Guide

- 8.6. In order to address the rise in shared economy tourism and accommodation letting websites, such as Airbnb, the "Do you have paying guests" guide has been reviewed to introduce a new Fire Safety Standard. This has sought to equalise the fire safety requirements expected of traditional accommodation and of lettings by newer companies such as Airbnb.
- 8.7. The "Do you have paying guests" guide has been reviewed to introduce the new Fire Safety Standard and urges pragmatism and proportionality, and the launch is currently planned for autumn 2020.

9. The National Fire Commercial Transformation Programme

- 9.1. The National Fire Commercial Transformation Programme (NFCTP) Procurement Hub is focussed on delivering the best commercial outcome for the c£500 million annual third party influential spend. Total savings reported for financial year 2019/20 is £12.9 million, of which, £3.23 million is reported as collaborative savings. Overall, we have achieved £39.9 million savings over 3 years through improved commercial approach.
- 9.2. The COVID-19 response was the first time we have seen 100 per cent collaboration across the sector in terms of procurement and it is the NFCC's intention is to build on this success going forward.
- 9.3. We now have sector led and specific commercial arrangements covering the majority of expenditure in two of our key 'Fire' specific categories of expenditure – these being national arrangements for Firefighting (structural) PPE, with c30,000 firefighters wearing the standard kit & Workwear ('Clothing' Category) and Emergency Response Vehicles ('Fleet' Category), with all FRS signed up to the framework and over 600 vehicles in the pipeline.

- 9.4. We are currently engaging with both FRS's and our sectors supply base for a number of other high profile national procurements including but not limited to Emergency Response Equipment and Specialist PPE. In addition, we have completed a number of sector wide aggregated procurements within the ICT and Fleet categories and realised significant benefits in terms of efficiency (i.e. less duplication, increased standardisation) and cashable savings. This includes a recent aggregated procurement for Fuel Cards across all three Emergency Services and smoke alarms, which has delivered £2.47 million savings for a majority of the sector against £12 million spend.
- 9.5. The NFCC is now represented at the newly formed National Fire Estates Group, which follows in the success of the Police equivalent to deliver, where feasible, standardised approach to design and facilities management.
- 9.6. Through the hub the NFCC has established better ways of sharing information about what we spend and who we spend it with, providing useful intelligence to prioritise activities and identify common interests both at local/regional and national level. In addition, we share the same platform and have national data sharing agreements in place with the Police which enables the identification of potential cross emergency services collaboration opportunities.