

Title of Paper	Fire Standards Progress Report
Decision or Information	For information
Title and Date of Meeting	LGA Fire Services Management Committee 15 October 2021
Attachments	None

Summary

This paper provides members of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee with a summary of the progress on Fire Standards. The Fire Standards Board met most recently on 14th July 2021.

There are now eight published Fire Standards. They are all available to view on the [Fire Standards Board](#) (FSB) website and include:

- Emergency Response Driving
- Operational Response encompassing:
 - Operational Preparedness
 - Operational Competence
 - Operational Learning
- Code of Ethics
- Community Risk Management Planning
- Prevention
- Protection

A second phase of Fire Standards development has been approved by the FSB and a summary of progress against those now in development is included in this report.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- note the contents of this report for information; and
- request the support of fire authority members in enabling and empowering their services to achieve the Fire Standards as part of their local continuous improvement journeys.

Background Information

The Fire Standards published to date and in development are the basis of a suite of complimentary and linked Fire Standards for services in England. It is likely a third phase of development will be initiated in the next financial year to consider Fire Standards for the remaining activity areas.

A forward plan for the next phase of development over the next 12-18 months is shown below:

Key:

Blue shading indicates Fire Standard in development

P indicates planned date for publishing

Grey shading indicates a period for implementation support

Phase 2	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	
Safeguarding									P	Implementation									
Fire Investigation												P	Implementation						
Service Leadership															P	Implementation			
Developing Leaders (Leadership)															P	Implementation			
Service Management															P	Implementation			
Emergency Planning & Resilience															P	Implementation			
Data Requirements & Management															P	Implementation			

Following the above phase of development, the remaining activity areas to be considered for Fire Standards are listed below.

- Digital and Information Technology
- Communication, engagement, and consultation
- Collaboration and strategic partnerships
- Health and wellbeing (of staff)
- Resources (potentially including procurement, contract management, commercial activities, fleet, and estates management)
- Assurance (potentially including external and internal audit, evaluation, and operational assurance)

It will not necessarily follow that a single Fire Standard will be developed for each activity on the above list, but these are the areas of activity that remain outstanding. Early development work in each area will help clarify and confirm whether standards are needed and the scope of each one before proposals are made to the Board.

Development Update

A summary of progress of the Fire Standards in development is summarised below.

Safeguarding

- A draft [Safeguarding Fire Standard](#) is now out for consultation due to on 1 October 2021.
- Members are encouraged to ensure their service is responding to the consultation.
- There is pending legislation linked to the Fire Standard which is seeking to ensure fire and rescue services have appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place, providing reassurance to both the public and staff.

Fire Investigation

- Linked to the recently published Prevention and Protection Fire Standards, development on this Fire Standard started during the Summer 2021.
- The NFCC Lead on this Fire Standard is CFO Chris Blacksell from Humberside Fire and Rescue Service.
- A workshop with a number of subject matter experts took place during the summer and a first version of the Fire Standard has been drafted.
- Peer review is now in progress ahead of the consultation which is scheduled to start during October 2021.

Leadership Standards

- The NFCC Leads for these Fire Standards are CFO and NFCC Vice Chair Justin Johnson from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and CFO Wayne Bowcock from Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- Following consideration of a draft “well-led organisation” Fire Standard at the last Board meeting in July 2021, the Board discussed and agreed to a new approach to developing the proposed Leadership Standards.
- This included re-naming the titles and aligning development timelines. It is intended that this approach will make the development process more efficient and allow all Leadership standards to be presented for consultation together as a small suite of standards much like the three Operational Response Fire Standards.
- The three Fire Standards will now be:
 - Service Leadership (formerly “well-led organisation)
 - Developing and Promoting Good Leadership
 - Service Management (previously Workforce Management)
- The proposed scope for all three Fire Standards has been agreed and shared with the working group developing the standards.
- Alongside referencing what is already in place with the NFCC Leadership Framework and the Code of Ethics Fire Standard, much of the work being completed by the NFCC People Programme over the coming months and years will result in guidance and tools that will underpin the Leadership Fire Standards.
- Development and early engagement work on the Fire Standards will take place over the Autumn 2021 in order to develop drafts ready for a consultation in early 2022.
- Potential impacts on this work include the pending publication of the Government’s White Paper regarding Fire Reforms and outcomes from that as well as the subsequent revision of the National Fire Framework.

Emergency Planning and Resilience

- Development on this Fire Standard started during the Summer 2021.
- The NFCC Lead on this Fire Standard is CFO Phil Garrigan from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and CFO Stuart Errington from Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.
- A working group is being established with an initial briefing workshop with subject matter experts scheduled for September to initiate development and drafting work.
- Peer review will take place late Autumn with a scheduled consultation for early 2022.

Data Requirements and Management

- CFO Andrew Hopkinson from Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is now confirmed as the new NFCC Programme Executive for the NFCC Digital and Data Programme with whom we will be working close on the Data Fire Standard.
- Work on this Fire Standard was paused earlier this year to allow the NFCC Program to complete work which will inform the Fire Standard.
- Development work will be re-started in the Autumn 2021.

Background notes for information

The Fire Standards Board (FSB) is responsible for the identification, organisation, development and maintenance of professional standards for fire and rescue services in England. Led by an independent Chair and Vice Chair, membership of the Board includes the NFCC, employers (both the LGA and the APCC) and the Home Office. The LGA representative on the Board is Cllr Nick Chard.

The FSB continues to meet regularly to review the progress made on Fire Standards development. Its next meeting is scheduled for 14 December 2021.

Given the various stages of development required and the time needed for engagement with services in the early stages as well as through formal consultation, development work and publications are staggered. This is primarily done to align capacity and resources in a considered way, but also to pace the rate at which standards are released to services.

Once approved, Fire Standards will be shared on the [Fire Standards Board website](#).

Services should now be aware of the requirements being placed upon them through these Fire Standards. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HIMCFRS) will be referencing the standards in their inspection arrangements and therefore services should be prepared to evidence their progress towards achieving them.

The Fire Standards Board would welcome and appreciate the support of fire authority chairs and members in:

1. ensuring their services engage in development work and peer review through releasing their subject matter experts to support development work through the NFCC where appropriate and feasible;
2. respond to the Fire Standards consultations as they are published; and,
3. support activities to achieve those Fire Standards through implementation once approved and published.