

Title of Paper	Fire Standards Progress Report
Decision or Information	For information
Title and Date of Meeting	LGA Fire Services Management Committee 10 th December 2021
Attachments	None

Summary

This paper provides members of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee (FSMC) with a summary of the progress on the professional Fire Standards. The Fire Standards Board are due to meet on 8th December but this report is being prepared in advance of that.

The eight published Fire Standards are available 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 is underway and a summary of progress is included in this report.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- note the contents of this report for information;
- consider how members through the LGA may wish to engage in the peer review on the Leadership Fire Standards; and
- request the ongoing 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	Jan	Feb	Mar	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

Development Update

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

Safeguarding

- Consultation on this standard has been completed and it is being presented to the Fire Standards Board on 8th December for sign-off to commence Quality Assurance (QA).
- It is anticipated this standard will be published in January 2022, subject to QA.

Fire Investigation

- Consultation on this standard is due to end on the 6th December.
- Analysis of results will take place during January and it is expected that the standard will be presented to Board for sign-off to commence QA by January
- Expected publication by March 2022.

Leadership Fire Standards

- Delivery timelines for the three Leadership Fire Standards were aligned in accordance with the Board's decision at its July meeting. The three standards will now be:
 - **Service Leadership** (formerly “well-led organisation) – setting out what an organisation that is well-led would look like
 - **Developing and Promoting Good Leadership** – setting out what an organisation that values and champions good leadership at all levels looks like including leadership development
 - **Service Management** – setting out what an organisation who looks after and supports its people and workforce looks like
- An initial workshop for the Service Leadership Fire Standard was held in June 2021.
- This group's membership was widened to include additional subject matter experts across the sector with knowledge pertinent to all three standards. A further workshop was held in October to discuss the scope and content of the three standards in combination.

- Drafts of the three Leadership Fire Standards have now been produced and are with the NFCC Lead Officers and the working group for comment following workshop feedback.
- Peer review of the three standards is due to commence in December. Assuming that these Fire Standards will be of interest to Fire Authority Chairs and elected members, we are working with the LGA officers to understand how best to engage members at the early stages of development
- Consultation is currently scheduled to commence in January depending on feedback received during the peer review phase. As with all standards the consultation is open to services and all stakeholders to respond to.

Emergency Planning and Resilience

- CFO Phil Garrigan and CFO Stuart Errington were identified as NFCC leads for this standard.
- A working group of subject matter experts from services across the country was established in September to start development work.
- A draft standard was produced in October and a peer review on the draft standard took place in November.
- It is anticipated consultation on this standard will commence in January 2022

Data Requirements and Management

- CFO and NFCC Executive for the Data and Digital Programme, Andrew Hopkinson and NFCC Data Lead, Apollo Gerolymbos have been nominated as leads for this standard.
- A working group of data experts from services across the country along with police and the Government Digital Service met in early November to start development of the standard.
- An early draft has been produced and peer review is due to take place throughout December
- Consultation is scheduled to commence in January 2022.

Forward Plan

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.

Discovery work and research into in each area will help clarify and confirm what standards may be developed in a third and likely final phase. Proposals will be made to the FSB in March 2022.

It is anticipated that the full suite of standards will total approximately 20.

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 8 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.