

16. Health and Safety Liaison Panel Update

Purpose of report

1. To provide the Policy and Resources Committee with an update on the activities, and items of significance, from the Service's Health and Safety Liaison Panel.
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Recommendation

The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the Policy and Resources Committee note the content of this report.

Introduction

2. The Health and Safety Liaison Panel last met on 26 July 2012.

Significant Issues Discussed

3. A summary of the previous quarter's Health and Safety (H&S) performance was discussed in detail, followed by a review of the recent H&S investigations. Councillor Watts attended the meeting and was updated on the detail of this process and the issues that arise from it.
4. The issue of 13.5m ladders reaching the end of their usable life or failing routine servicing was discussed, following a catastrophic failure in another Service last year. It was generally felt that the allocation of these ladders could be reduced across Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS); a review is being led by Group Commander Prust.
5. An overview of vehicle accidents was given and, whilst levels are minor and low in general terms, the Panel discussed ways in which awareness could be raised in an attempt to reduce these incidents further on the grounds of safety and cost.
6. A further review and update of reported incidents of abuse to staff was held with no significant issues being identified. There has only been one reported incident in the last quarter. Training has been delivered to key staff in conflict resolution.
7. The Health and Safety Working Group has been tasked with various pieces of work including a review of the measures relating to the use of Breathing Apparatus (BA) and cylinder safety following last year's Health and Safety incidents. The group was also tasked with supporting Human Resources (HR) in formulating a policy on the use of drugs and alcohol.
8. Defibrillators are now in place at all locations across the Service and training has been delivered.

Financial Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	N	

Legal Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and procurement, reputational issues that require consideration	N	

Additional Considerations

9. The table below sets out any additional issues arising from the proposals contained in this report and identifies the relevant paragraphs in the report where such issues are addressed.

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
Resources (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	N	
Strategic Policy Links (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	N	
Risk Management / Health & Safety (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	N	
Consultation with Representative Bodies	N	

Supporting information

None

Background information

None

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