

## Report of the Assistant Director - Prevention

### Prevention Cause of Concern – Action Plan

#### Purpose of report

1. To present the action plan to discharge the Cause of Concern issued by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in relation to Prevention Activity.
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#### Recommendation

***It is recommended that the action plan created to discharge the cause of concern in relation to our Prevention activity is noted.***

#### Introduction and Background

2. Following their recent inspection, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has issued the Service a Cause of Concern via a letter on 29 June 2021 from Wendy Williams (Lead Inspector). Please see Appendix 1 for a copy of the letter. This states that –

*'Prevention Activity is not a sufficiently high priority for the Service, and it is not adequately identifying those most at risk from fire.'*

3. Whilst this is disappointing, and the Senior Management Board were anticipating this feedback, plans were already developed within the Service to address some of the key areas identified by the inspectorate.
4. The recommendations from the HMICFRS are that, by 31 August 2021, the Service should have plans in place for -
  - a) An effective system to define the levels of risk in the community.
  - b) The development and delivery of a prevention strategy that prioritises the people most at risk of fire and ensures that work to reduce risk is proportionate.
  - c) The review of systems and processes for dealing with referrals from partner agencies. This is to make sure they are managed effectively and the backlog of safe and well visits is reduced and resourced in accordance with risk.

5. The Service was therefore required to provide the inspectorate an action plan by 31 August 2021 setting out how we intend to address the issues identified above. The inspectorate will revisit the Service in autumn 2021 to review progress.
6. An action plan has been finalised and sent to the inspectorate to discharge the cause of concern and is attached at Appendix 2.
7. The action plan has been produced via the Prevention Improvement Panel (PIP), created to support and discharge the action plan, led by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer. The action plan has been endorsed and signed off by the Senior Management Board.

8. **Action Plan**

The action plan centres on the main recommendations as outlined in paragraph 3 and is split into three objectives with each action having a measurable timeframe for delivery.

The action plan will complement the new core Prevention Strategy launched across the Service on 30 July 2021.

The action plan, attached at Appendix 2, confirms that significant work has already been completed to support delivery of the recommendations. For example, the Prevention Strategy is now live and the backlog of Safe and Well Checks has reduced significantly. A number of temporary posts have been recruited to, allowing a full resource mapping analysis to be undertaken.

The Prevention Improvement Panel will work to the action plan and focus on articulating our definition of the categories of people who are most at risk from fire, road traffic collisions and other risks. Using this data and analysis we will identify the risk groups who fall into those categories, and collate a position statement determining what constitutes high, medium and low risk to complement our Community Risk Management Plan using this data to target activity.

The Prevention team have responded very professionally and quickly to the HMICFRS cause for concern, embracing this challenge as an opportunity using it to learn and grow.

9. **Conclusion/Summary**

This paper presents the action plan to discharge the HMICFRS Cause of Concern in relation to Prevention and identifies the key work streams required to make the necessary improvements.

## Corporate Considerations

<p><b>Resource Implications</b> (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the resource profiling work may indicate additional resource is required to provide sustainable prevention services. SMB will be kept appraised as the action plan and Improvement Panel are embedded.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).</p>	<p>This directly links to the HMICFRS Improvement Plan, the Prevention Strategy and Response Strategy. In addition this complements our CRMP.</p>
<p><b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).</p>	<p>Risk assessments will be undertaken as required should recommendations to alter prevention service delivery be required.</p> <p>The Prevention Cause of Concern has been added to the Prevention Department Risk Register and has also been escalated to sit on the Strategic Risk Register.</p>
<p><b>Consultation</b> (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)</p>	<p>Employees and representative bodies will be kept appraised of developments as the action plan is created via JCC.</p>
<p><b>Equalities</b> (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)</p>	<p>An impact assessment will be completed as required.</p>
<p><b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b> (where personal data is processed a DPIA must be completed to ensure compliant handling)</p>	<p>An impact assessment will be completed as required.</p>

## Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Letter from Wendy Williams (Lead Inspector) Regarding Cause of Concern  
 Appendix 2 – Prevention Cause of Concern Action Plan