

Report of the Assistant Director - Prevention

Update on the Prevention Cause of Concern

Purpose of report

1. To provide an update on the Service's progress against the Cause of Concern issued by His 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 update on the Service's progress against the Cause of Concern in relation to Prevention activity is noted.

Introduction and Background

2. Following the issuing of the Cause of Concern in June 2021 for its Prevention activity, the Service provided the Inspectorate with an action plan setting out how the issues would be addressed.

Progress

3. The Prevention Improvement Panel (PIP), was created in July 2021 to support and discharge the action plan. The PIP has evolved in to a monthly Prevention Strategy Meeting and a process for reviewing all areas of the completed action plan has been put in place.
4. The Prevention team have been actively liaising with partners to promote the Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) to develop partnership working arrangements for example, attending COVID vaccination booster clinics to generate HFSVs.
5. Work is progressing to review the definition of risk in the community. The Definition of Risk for Dwelling Fires and Road Traffic Collisions will be published on the Service website in the near future.
6. The NFCC Home Fire Safety Check Online Tool has generated 200 visits. Teams are promoting this across the partnership network and via local media and social media platforms.
7. The Prevention team are continuing to focus on embedding The NFCC Person-Centred Framework (PCF) with the Station Prevention Champions

being the main point of contact to communicate prevention aims and information.

8. The Service has invested in various Prevention initiatives, such as the Young Citizens Challenge and equipment for Service Volunteers.
9. All Prevention activities will continue to evolve and align with the NFCC Fire Standard for Prevention and general feedback from HMICFRS.
10. Between 22 November and 24 November 2022, the Inspectorate revisited the Service to talk with relevant people, to assist with triangulating evidence and to review the systems and processes in place following the issuing of the Cause of Concern.
11. A hot debrief was held on 2 December with the Chief Fire Officer, Andy Groom and Damian Henderson from HMICFRS. The debrief focused on the initial findings following the revisit but did not give a clear indication as to whether the Cause of Concern has been discharged.
12. At the debrief, it was felt that there is generally a positive direction of travel in relation to the areas under review. This included the Cause of Concern action plan being comprehensive and being advanced by the PIP. It was considered that Prevention is now a strategic priority with a Prevention Strategy in place which is regularly reviewed with and that a Definition of Risk has been developed.
13. It was acknowledged that the Service have invested in the Prevention structure and other key areas and that operational crews and Prevention staff are actively engaged in the journey with allocated targets for outputs.
14. There were also some items of further development highlighted, such as further developing the scrutiny and monitoring of targets, further work to be done on embedding some of the initiatives with the help of the Station Prevention Champions and working with the crews to help them to better understand vulnerability and risk.
15. It is hoped that the Service will receive the outcome of the revisit in early January 2023.

Conclusion/Summary

16. This paper presents an update on the Service's progress to date to discharge the HMICFRS Cause of Concern in relation to Prevention.

Corporate Considerations

<p>Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)</p>	<p>Additional resources have been approved to provide sustainable prevention services. Various departments to be included in this area of work.</p>
<p>Strategic Policy Links (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, which in turn supports delivery of the Community Risk Management Plan (2021-2025).</p>
<p>Risk Management / Health & Safety (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>Consultation (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.</p>
<p>Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)</p>	<p>An impact assessment will be completed as required.</p>
<p>Data Protection Impact Assessment (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>