

Report of Area Commander – Community Risk and Training

8. Appointment of Chair of Young Firefighters' Association (YFA) Executive Committee

Purpose of report

1. To ask the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) to appoint a Member of the Authority to be Chair of the Young Firefighters' Association (YFA) Executive Committee.
-

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Authority appoints one of its Members to be the Chair of the Young Firefighters' Association Executive Committee.

Introduction

2. Since its inception, the FRA has provided the YFA with support and governance, and has been pivotal in its development from a fledgling Association to one which is now firmly established within the Service. Support of the YFA has been evident in the FRA's stance of appointing an FRA Member as the Chair of the YFA Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee meets on a quarterly basis at Service Headquarters to monitor the progress of the Association and is attended by representatives of the two YFA branches.
4. The role of Chair had, until the recent local elections, been undertaken by Councillor Lucy Hodgson and has now become vacant.

Background

5. The Service has two established YFA branches based at Redditch and Droitwich. Both groups utilise accommodation and resources at existing fire stations to meet the YFA Members' requirements.
6. The overarching aim of the YFA is to:
 - a. Positively promote Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS) and contribute to its objectives relating to the promotion of community safety within the communities of Herefordshire and Worcestershire;
 - b. Provide young people with the opportunity of joining a uniformed, disciplined organisation that is affiliated to a statutory body;

- c. Support the development both mentally and physically of young people, whilst promoting self-discipline, social consciousness and community awareness; and
 - d. Foster a spirit of adventure and develop qualities of leadership, team building and active participation amongst people.
7. Each YFA branch is considered as a station, with a Station Commander having overall responsibility and a branch co-ordinator overseeing the day to day running. Supporting each branch co-ordinator are the YFA Instructors who have responsibility for developing and supporting the Young Firefighters on a weekly basis. The support and guidance individual branches provide is underpinned by a Watch Commander from within the Community Safety Department with the responsibility for administrative arrangements including policy and guidance documents.
8. The existing branches support the Service in numerous community safety initiatives and operational fire ground exercises throughout the year. This involvement also includes assisting with formal proceedings such as Medals and Awards ceremonies and a number of charity fundraising events.

Conclusion/Summary

9. The appointment of an FRA Member as the YFA Executive Chair will enable the Authority to continue its long standing support and commitment to the Association within the Service.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	None Identified
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	This appointment will support the FRA's existing policy framework towards the YFA.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	This appointment provides the FRA will a level of scrutiny over the management and control of the YFA within the Service.

Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None required.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	None Required – this appointment is open to any member of the FRA and is consistent with a previous approach of the Authority in respect of this role.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – The Role of the YFA Executive Committee

Contact Officer

Mark Preece, Area Commander – Community Risk and Training
(01905 368217)
Email: mpreece@hwfire.org.uk