

Report of Assistant Director: Prevention

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Cause of Concern Action Plan

Update November 2021

Purpose of report

1. This report is to update Members on the progress in implementing the Prevention Action Plan following the cause of concern issued by HMICFRS after the 2021 inspection, letter dated 29 June 2021.
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Recommendation

It is recommended that the Authority notes progress on actions to deliver the HMICFRS Cause of Concern Action Plan.

Introduction and Background

2. At the Audit and Standards Committee meeting on 30 Sept 2021, Members received a copy of the action plan to address the Prevention cause of concern, following the findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection of Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service in April 2021.
3. The action plan has now been updated to outline progress made up to the beginning of November 2021. The report covers the 3 objectives identified by HWFRS to sign off the cause of concern which were:

By 31 August 2021, the service should have plans in place for:

- An effective system to define the levels of risk in the community.
- 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.
- 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

HMICFRS Action Plan – Progress Update

4. The delivery of the action plan is overseen by the Prevention Improvement Panel, which is chaired by the Assistant Director for Prevention. The panel meet every two weeks to drive the plan forward.

5. The Performance & Information team also ensure that actions carried out are fully evidenced and available for evaluation and audit. The latest update of the action plan, covering up to the beginning of November 2021, is attached to this report (see Appendix 1).
6. The update shows that good progress is being made in addressing areas identified within the three objectives following the Prevention cause of concern letter.
7. In particular Members are asked to note that the Prevention Strategy (2021-2025) has been in place since April 2021, with a one year Prevention Strategy Action Plan now available to support delivery.
8. The backlog of safe and well visits was eliminated by 18 October 2021, ahead of schedule.
9. The Senior Management Board recently considered a paper detailing options for the annual number of Home Fire Safety Visits the Service will achieve and approved the recruitment of additional posts to facilitate this core area of work.
10. Work progresses in line with the action plan to define and articulate levels of risk in the community and review systems and processes for referrals working with partner agencies. The updated action plan is available in Appendix 1.

Conclusion/Summary

11. The first update of the action plan shows that progress has been made up to October 2021 with the overall action plan is on target to be completed by July 2022.
12. Members are recommended to note the progress made in delivering the cause of concern action plan. Further progress updates will be reported each quarter.
13. Members should note the full HMICFRS inspection report will be published in December 2021. Following its release a full review of feedback and recommendations will be prioritised, with action plans produced as appropriate. A report on these will be provided to the February FRA meeting.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	The action plan highlights areas for improvement relating to prevention. SMB have recently approved additional resources to support sustainable delivery of targeted prevention activity.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	Actions proposed in the action plan are directly linked to achieving the Prevention Strategy and therefore linked to the CRMP and the MTFP. All proposals will be assessed to ensure they meet the Service's overall Core Purpose and Vision.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	Any risks associated with proposals will be assessed through the action plan.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Proposals to deliver the action plan have the support of the Senior Management Board and relevant Service departments. The Prevention team have been engaged and involved in the drafting, review and delivery of the action plan.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	An EIA is not required for this report. EIAs will be completed as appropriate when preparing proposals through the action plan.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Prevention Cause of Concern- Action Plan – Update 17.11.21