

## **Report of the Chief Fire Officer**

### **10. Chief Fire Officer's Service Report**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To inform the Authority of recent key developments and activities.
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#### **Recommendation**

***The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the report be noted.***

#### **Place Partnership Ltd**

2. On Tuesday 1 September 2015, Place Partnership Ltd (PPL) moved into their new headquarters on the ground floor of Service Headquarters. The new company is the UK's first single-assets management company for public sector property and is led by Managing Director Andrew Pollard. Our Head of Asset Management, Ian Edwards has now moved over to Place Partnership Ltd (as have all other property staff) to take on the role of Director, Project and Facilities Management. PPL will now deliver all property functions for the Fire Authority including the capital building projects.

#### **New State of the Art Trauma Bags**

3. New trauma bags that HWFRS employee Thom Morgan helped develop, are now on every frontline appliance in the Service and will ensure that members of the community receive the highest quality, sustainable medical care.
4. Leading the way nationally, HWFRS is the first fire service in the country to roll out these new trauma bags which will allow firefighters to deal with any time critical, life threatening injuries more efficiently. The Go Bag is far more lightweight, compact and contains all of the essential equipment needed, meaning that it can be taken quickly into difficult or restricted situations to allow rapid casualty access. When opened it also presents the equipment in way that addresses the casualty's needs in the correct sequence. Each panel of the bag securely contains the appropriate kit in the relevant order so that the firefighter can work methodically through a patient assessment using the kit like an aide memoire, ensuring nothing is missed.
5. With the full support and encouragement of the Service, Thom worked with military personnel at MARCH Trauma System Ltd developing a bespoke trauma bag for the fire and rescue service. Over time, the configuration of the bag has been redesigned, trialled and tested to incorporate the kit appropriate to the Service's role in the pre-hospital scene. For his contribution towards developing this new trauma bag, Thom will be awarded with a Chief Fire Officer's Certificate of Commendation at the Herefordshire Medals and Awards Ceremony on 20 November 2015.

## **Jubilee Award**

6. Sonja Sinclair-Elechi has worked for Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS) for 20 years and received a Jubilee Award at the House of Lords on 30 July 2015. The award was presented by Baroness Massey of Darwen for her outstanding service in the public sector. The Jubilee Awards for Service aim to recognise individuals from the public sector who regularly go above and beyond their usual duties and who have made a significant impact on the lives of others.
7. As well as working as a payroll officer for the Service, Sonja also works on a voluntary basis for the Service's Critical Incident Stress Team (CIST) that runs vital stress debriefing sessions after traumatic incidents. As part of this team, she encourages staff to talk through the incident and share their thoughts and feelings. In addition to this, she also helps educate them on signs of stress, self-help and where they can find additional support. Not only does she carry out this role to the very highest of standards, but she also does this at very short notice and often in the evenings and at weekends.

## **Worcestershire Medals and Awards Ceremony**

8. On Friday 11 September 2015, firefighters, members of the public and Fire Service support staff from across the county received awards at the annual Worcestershire Medals and Awards Ceremony. The event, which was held at Worcester Guildhall, honoured staff for their outstanding service and commitment to the Fire Service.
9. During the ceremony, accolades were presented by Lt. Col. Patrick Holcroft LVO OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, The High Sheriff of Worcestershire, Sir Anthony Winnington Bt., and also by Chief Fire Officer Mark Yates and Vice Chairman of the Fire Authority Councillor Roger Phillips.

## **Fire Station Open Days**

10. The service has opened its doors to local communities during the recent summer months, providing an excellent opportunity for our volunteers and staff to provide fire safety advice to the public. Station open days also enable crews to showcase equipment and to demonstrate various scenarios such as chip pan fires and house fires. The following stations held open days which were keenly attended by the local communities; Pershore, Ledbury, Evesham, Kidderminster, Droitwich, Malvern, Redditch, Bromsgrove and Hereford.
11. In addition, the new Worcester Fire Station held its first open day on Saturday 12 September 2015. Throughout the day visitors witnessed a range of demonstrations including two road traffic collision scenarios, the smoke house, a chip pan fire demonstration, two Young Fire Fighters Association displays and "show and tells" covering operational equipment.
12. Visitors also enjoyed displays/stands from our partners including, West Mercia Police, West Midlands Air Ambulance, The British Red Cross, Fortis Living and the opportunity to practise CPR with West Midlands Ambulance Service and HW

Community First Responders. The event saw fantastic crowds who were keen to see the new facility and helped raise funds for a number of charitable causes.

## **Dying 2 Drive**

13. As part of the Service's suite of community safety initiatives the Dying 2 Drive scheme, now in its tenth year, once again took place in September 2015. The multi-agency road safety scheme aimed at reducing death and serious injury amongst young road users in Herefordshire had the highest ever number of schools signed up for this year's events, with almost 1500 young people attending.
14. This year's events commenced with a hard hitting road traffic collision reconstruction, involving all of the emergency services and live casualties. The reconstructions were closely followed by powerful, interactive workshops run by HWFRS, West Mercia Police, Herefordshire Council, Safer Roads Partnership, West Midlands Ambulance Service and St John Ambulance. During these workshops, the consequences of bad decisions were explored and, amongst other activities, students were shown how to perform live saving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
15. The feedback received has been exceptional with all schools commenting upon the clarity of the key safety messages together with the impact the sessions had on the young people who took part.

## **Contact Officer**

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