

Report of Director of Service Delivery

8. Protective Security

Purpose of report

1. To inform the Committee of the intention to drive forward and resource the protective security agenda noting the organisational impact and benefits of this, in particular the Public Services Network (PSN) accreditation.
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Recommendations

It is recommended it be noted that:

- (i) ***a Service-wide programme is being undertaken to raise awareness of Protective Security issues; and***
- (ii) ***a scheme of capital improvements to enhance building security is to be undertaken and will be funded from the existing approved minor capital works budget.***

Introduction and Background

2. 'Protective Security' is the generic term used to describe the mitigating actions and policies required to meet a broad range of criminal and terrorist threats to an organisation. Across the UK every Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) is involved in the protective security arena, both nationally and on an inter-agency basis locally.
3. The term Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) comprises of the facilities, systems, sites and networks necessary for the delivery of essential services upon which daily life in the UK depends. This is divided into nine national infrastructure sectors which provide these essential services: Communications, Government, Health, Energy, Transport, Finance, Water, Food and *the Emergency Services*
4. There are broadly 3 main categories of protective security into which an organisation can be divided and which capture the majority of our infrastructure related threats:
 - **Information Security:** such as ICT systems, data and paper systems.
 - **Personnel Security:** including HR related issues, contractor management, staff oversight and access by staff to critical systems and finance.
 - **Physical Security:** including not only assets such as building and vehicles, but clothing uniform, disposal of equipment and security of infrastructure and hardware from comms equipment to mobile phones.

5. A significant amount of guidance and policy has now been issued on these subjects including primarily the HMG Security Policy Framework, which was adopted and issued by CFA in 2013. The Service has been increasingly engaged with this agenda since 2007 including a well-established provision of nationally engaged Interagency Liaison Officers (ILOs or NIOs).

Interagency Liaison Officers (ILOs)

6. This team of four Flexible Duty System (FDS) Officers is led by AC Jon Pryce who is also the Service nominated Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO). The SIRO is a board level nominated person to lead and account for the Service's compliance with protective security arrangements. The Service is engaged in the CFA national protective security forum.
7. The Service's four ILOs are all security cleared and can facilitate any matters or concerns regarding security related issues and the handling of sensitive information both during the early intelligence gathering stages of any operation and following any live incident.
8. Since 2008 the Service ILOs have been involved in a number of incidents – recent activities include:
 - West Midlands nail bomb attack
 - Essex flooding security related issue
 - Hostage situation
 - Illegal distillery
 - Land mines discovered
 - Bomb threats and IEDs discovered
 - Bomb making in domestic residences
 - Missing persons
 - Badger cull in Gloucestershire
 - Liaison with Police regularly at many operational incidents on security concerns.
 - Implemented regular program of training with West Mercia Police (WMP) Duty Inspectors
 - ILOs have developed good working relationships with WMP, Special Branch, Shropshire and Warwickshire FRS ILOs.
 - Training and exercising with WMP, Special Branch, Firearms teams etc.
 - Working with the UK Border Agency when raiding premises within our counties.
9. Alongside some of the excellent work and relationships built through the multi-agency ILO network, most recently within West Mercia Police, the Service has also made progress in many other areas of protective security.
10. For example, supported by the West Mercia Special Branch Security Advisor, a sample of the Service's Fire Stations were risk assessed for vulnerabilities which highlighted some areas of improvement. A programme of improvements to ensure compliance against the mandatory requirements of HMG's Security Policy Frameworks is now in place.

Protective Security for the Whole Service

Areas of Good Practice

- ICT have reviewed a number of practices and steadily improved the Service's security measures for the management of ICT resources. ICT have been proactive in aligning its working practices to industry best practice, security protocols and risk assessments.
- On fire stations key safes have been fitted in all appliance bays to remove the custom of leaving keys in the ignitions of appliances.
- Operational awareness in Fire Control (and HQ), and with FDS officers is high in regard to the role of the ILO and early involvement and consideration of protective security and associated risks. Significant work has taken place to 'flag' certain risks and incident types and this is well embedded.
- The Service has taken a proportionate and restrained approach to protective security and resisted expensive and time consuming measures that would be of little real benefit within HWFRS.

Areas Identified for Improvement

11. The following areas have been identified where there is scope for sustained improvement:
 - Ongoing control and improvement of ICT hardware and mobile devices.
 - Physical security of fire station buildings
 - Disposal of marked assets (vehicles, uniform etc)
 - Awareness and culture of staff towards criminal threats

Conclusion/Summary

12. Whilst the Service can make significant improvements and begin to achieve greater compliance against protective security guidance, it can also work towards future ICT and communications compliance under the same agenda with a focus on the following areas:
 - A programme to increase staff awareness of the protective security agenda will be undertaken with a focus more on sensible precautions and crime prevention.
 - Improvements in physical security measures across the Service's entire building stock through a capital improvement scheme.

13. It is considered that this investment in time, capacity and money is focussed on sensible and proportionate crime and risk prevention. Although the likelihood of high impact terrorist and extremist activity is less likely than in many other FRSs it cannot be ignored, and evidence has shown that events of this nature can and do occur within our counties.
14. The long term revenue costs of crime, alongside the reputational issues are worthy of investment in prevention alone. This ranges from physical security, to prevent building and equipment being stolen or tampered with, to preventing costly fines through poor management of data and information.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	This paper has several resource implications, including capital revenue and capacity resource requirements.
Strategic Policy Links (Identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	This paper meets the strategic demands of the Service and Authority in risk management, delivering a secure and robust service to the community and in meeting the expectations of central government. This appear also supports the necessary areas to comply with PSN accreditation.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	A failure to continue to develop this subject area exposes the Service to some risk regarding expected compliance and reputation.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	This paper has not been extensively consulted upon.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	This paper affects the entire organisation and no specific E&D issues have been identified.

Supporting Information

None

Background Papers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/255910/HMG_Security_Policy_Framework_V11.0.pdf

<http://www.cpni.gov.uk>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-protective-security-strategy-2012>

Guidance note issued to all staff

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