



## Emergency Response trials

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) is very disappointed with the decision taken by the FBU to withdraw from the Emergency Medical Response trials.

The participation of Firefighters in Emergency Medical Response has enhanced the professional reputation of the Fire and Rescue Service within our communities, and has proven beyond any doubt to save lives and prevent unnecessary long term illness.

The NFCC understands the concerns of the FBU over ongoing pay restraint. However we do not believe ceasing participation in Emergency Medical Response in any way advances the arguments of the FBU over pay.

The NFCC strongly urges the FBU to reconsider this decision. The trial also reaffirmed the trust and confidence the public has in the fire service and the wider work they do.

From September 2015, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) were dispatched in parallel with North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) when someone suffered a suspected cardiac arrest and whoever reaches the casualty first proceeded to provide life-saving treatment.

This shortened the response time between the call for emergency services and supports ambulance crews to undertake advanced clinical work on the scene, while GMFRS provide support capacity.

### **A 12-month independent review of GMFRS cardiac arrest response highlighted during a 12 month period:**

- 63 lives were saved
- 77 people had serious neurological complications avoided
- Ambulances were on scene on average eight minutes less
- For every £1 invested there was a return of £6, which mainly went back to health
- 77 people given 'good' neurological outcomes

By responding more quickly and providing additional capacity, the figure of 77 people highlighted above, means GMFRS were projected to support 77 casualties to go on to live independently, who would otherwise have experienced dependency on others for the rest of their lives.

This analysis found that the return on investment for this initiative over five years would be likely to create a gross fiscal saving to the public purse of £5.2 million over five years.

### **It was projected that:**

- 86% of this benefit would be experienced by CCGs, largely due to improved secondary care outcomes as the result of faster response times, but also the result of prevented fatalities.
- It is estimated that gross fiscal benefits for CCGs will amount to approximately £892,000 per annum over five years.

- 14% of this benefit will be experienced by North West Ambulance Service. This benefit is experienced in the form of a 'per call-out' demand reduction in the duration of total on-scene time.

The review was carried out by New Economy, which was established to deliver policy, strategy and research advice to promote economic growth and prosperity in Greater Manchester, working on behalf of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership. The report included a cost benefit analysis and a detailed analysis of impact and outcomes.