



## Health - Autumn 2017

### **Establishing the Health Coordination Committee**

In April 2016 the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) took the decision to establish the Health Coordination Committee (HCC) as part of the new structure of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC). The agreement to establish a HCC allows FRS and their partners to build upon the progress that had been made by CFOA's Strategic Health Group and the Fire Health Project Group (FHPG) which involved NHS England, PHE, Local Government Association, the Voluntary sector and other Health and Social Care Colleagues at a national level.

The HCC supports an increased focus on collaborative working with key partners including blue light services and broader collaboration across public sector reform and health and social care. This is its key strength it goes beyond fire services and places our national partners at the centre of how we develop our prevention role.

The HCC provides all FRS with a platform to gather and test best and emerging practice to support the direction of the Police and Crime Act 2017 with regards FRS. The Act which requires Fire, Police and Ambulance services to collaborate resonates with the central aim of the HCC, to promote collaboration with other organisations to improve service delivery.

The overarching aim of the HCC is 'to develop, introduce and maintain a strategy which ensures that the principles of FRS prevention response can be effectively deployed to reduce fire risk, whilst supporting health and wellbeing through effective collaboration with a wide range of partners including the voluntary sector and health and social care services'.

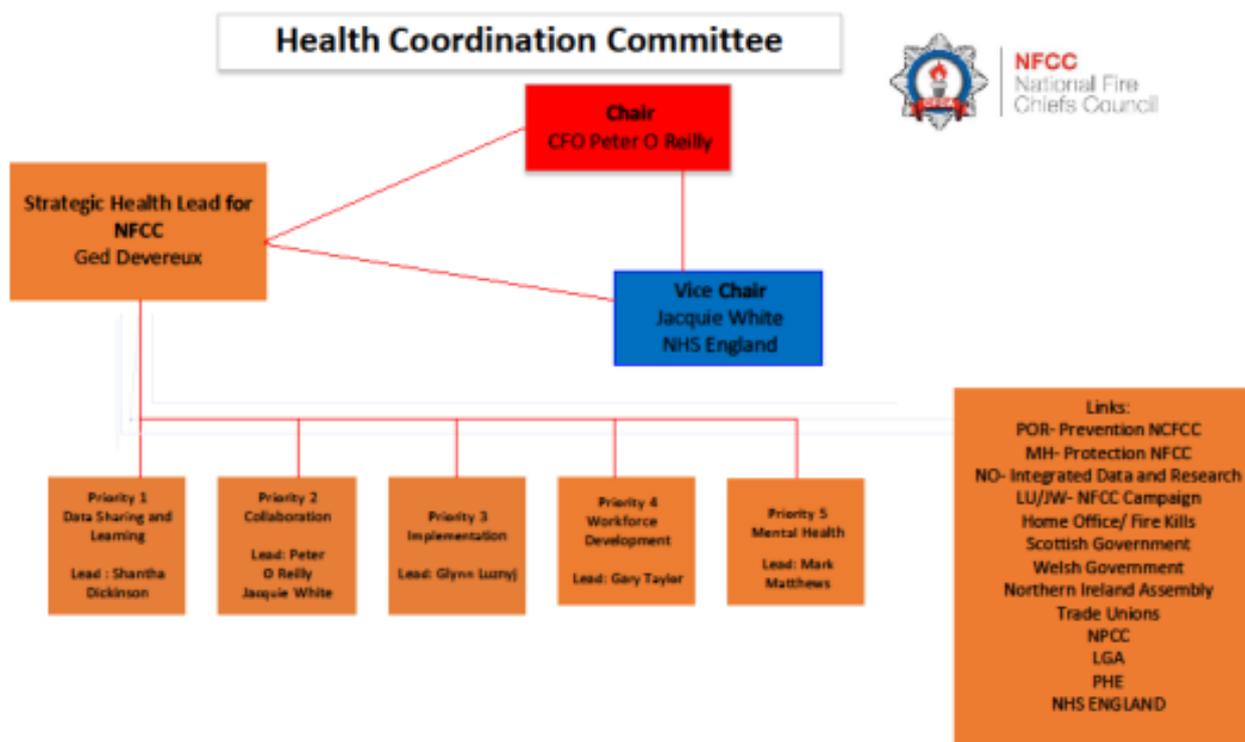
### **Who's who in the HCC**

The membership of the HCC makes the most of the full range of health, social care and voluntary skills available to support FRS to embed their work locally and nationally with our most important partners. The membership of the HCC can be viewed on the committee's webpage.

The Chair of the HCC is currently Peter O'Reilly (CFO Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service) and the Vice Chair of the HCC is Jacquie White (Long Term conditions Lead NHS England). Each of the five work streams are led by a key figure from FRS and over the last couple of months they have been

working hard to gather the right people together from a wide range of partners with the right skills to support our work. The following structure illustrates how the HCC will work.

Figure 1. Health Coordination Committee Structure



## The HCC Work Streams

The five work streams of the HCC work plan were agreed at the inaugural meeting of the HCC, which took place on the 23rd March 2017.

All the work streams are now up and running however we are still interested in hearing from colleagues that would like to know more about each work stream and if you would be interested in contributing to the work of the HCC work streams. If you are interested could you please contact the work stream leads directly, details below:

Priority 1. Data Sharing and Learning – Shantha Dickinson (<mailto:Shantha.dickinson@hantsfire.gov.uk>)

Priority 2. Collaboration – Peter O'Reilly (<mailto:oreillyp@manchesterfire.gov.uk>)

Priority 3. Implementation – Glynn Luznyj (<mailto:glynn.luznyj@staffordshire.gov.uk>)

Priority 4. Workforce Development – Gary Taylor (<mailto:gary.taylor@wmfrs.net>)

Priority 5. Mental Health - Mark Matthews ([mark.matthews@esfrs.org](mailto:mark.matthews@esfrs.org))

### **The latest from the work streams**

The full work plan of the HCC can be found on the NFCC website, whilst the work plan has been agreed it will be subject to change as opportunities arise and the political and policy landscape change.

If you have any comments on the work plan and what else you would like to see us addressing through the work plan please contact Ged Devereux, the Strategic Health SME, for the NFCC for a further discussion (<mailto:devereuxg@manchesterfire.gov.uk>). Meanwhile the latest developments from the work streams can be viewed below

**Data Sharing and Learning** – Support the effective sharing and implementation of data analysis between fire and health and social partners, government departments and the voluntary sector.

A pressing issue for the work stream is to consider the challenges that data sharing presents to us all as a barrier to better partnership working, this will include considering how we use Exeter Data in the future, how we are readying ourselves to be compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDRP). The work stream will be looking to bring together FRS analysts and data leads in 2018 to see how we can work better together and learn from each other in a community of practice. If your services analysts would benefit from joining this community of practice please contact Ged Devereux (<mailto:devereuxg@manchesterfire.gov.uk>).

**Collaboration** – Build relationships with national health and social care partners, government departments and the voluntary sector to encourage closer collaboration between fire and health and clearly communicate the benefits of these relationships.

Our key task is to engage ministers and key politicians to illustrate the full prevention role that FRS do and can play in the future as we modernise and reform public sector services. In the coming month's members of the work stream will be drafting updates for key ministers and re-engaging with the All Party Parliamentary Fire Rescue and Safety Group to explore how we can develop a joint work strand with the HCC.

**Implementation and Communication** – Promote and evaluate the use of the 'Safe and Well' model and the effective use of all FRS resources to reduce fire risk and promote wellbeing.

The aim of this work stream is to showcase all the excellent work that FRS are already doing to extend their prevention capacity and capability. Over the next weeks and months we will be compiling best practice as we aim to promote this practice as common practice for all FRS. We're keen to hear from services about work they are doing so please get in contact with the team if your service has a case study to share.

More immediately we are working with PHE to fully engage all FRS in the Stay Safe and Well This Winter. Stay Well This Winter focuses its resources on some of society's most vulnerable people - frail, older people and those with underlying health conditions, plus their carers, as well as pregnant women and the parents of small children, to help them take better care of their health and avoid becoming so ill that they need to go to hospital.

Fire and Rescue Service specific toolkits can be ordered free of charge through the Public Health England Campaign Resource Centre here:

<https://protecteu.mimecast.com/s/ak7XBs0a5zSL?domain=campaignresources.phe.gov.uk>

**Workforce Development** – Workforce development, to develop the skills and training requirements necessary to allow the FRS workforce to enhance fire prevention capability to support improved health outcomes, and develop the necessary standards and qualifications to support fire emergency medical response arrangements.

Safe & Well supporting materials have been uploaded to a centralised area upon the CFOA research portal. <http://www.cfoa.org.uk/21432> .Currently the information has been split into individual Fire and Rescue Services and supporting external partners. The aim of this work has been to link the materials to case studies which identify how FRS's can work closer with external partner agencies and at the same time identify training development for their staff. Further work to identify mental health assessment tools for FRS and learning materials for Making Every Contact Count (MECC) is being carried out and has now been uploaded to the CFOA/NFCC research portal. Most recently the work stream is working with Sally James, a public health workforce specialist working with Health Education England and now with the NFCC. Sally is working on a workforce development programme for embedding the Making Every Contact Count (MECC) model into UK Fire & Rescue Services. Sally will be contacting all FRS over the next couple of weeks to gather good practice and shape future developments so we can design a MECC model that works for FRS.

**Mental Health** – This will underpin those issues relating to mental health and fire risk and also issues relating to mental health and FRS response to a wider range of emergencies in support of colleagues from other blue light services.

Under the leadership of Mark Matthews this work stream is now forming and is aiming to develop our understanding of mental health and how it is impacting on increased fire risk. As we approach World Mental Health Day (10th October) we are working with Public Health England and colleagues working in Mental Health Services to promote the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health which is underpinned by an understanding that taking a prevention-focussed approach to improving the public's mental health is shown to make a valuable contribution to achieving a fairer and more equitable society. The Concordat is intended to provide a focus for cross-sector action including FRS to deliver a tangible increase in the adoption of public mental health approaches across local authorities, the NHS, public, private and VCSE sector organisations, educational settings and employers. It acknowledges the active role played by people with lived experience of mental health problems, individually and through user led organisations.

For further details on the work of the HCC please contact Ged Devereux:

[devereuxg@manchesterfire.gov.uk](mailto:devereuxg@manchesterfire.gov.uk)