



Sector Resources

Colleagues,

As chair of the newly formed NFCC Sector Resources Coordination Committee, it has been an interesting and challenging year getting to grips with the eclectic mix of work streams under my remit. What is becoming clear is that each of my six work streams contain hard working and motivated individuals who are keen to work together to drive forward a collaborative and inclusive approach within the fire sector. To maintain our improvement journey and to assist the NFCC in working towards its strategic aims our priority over the coming months is to ensure our work streams are fully representative and that individuals can count on full support and engagement from the highest level within their organisation. This will become increasingly important as the NFCC begins to seek input from work stream specialists across the committee structure to assist in driving forward its work programme and to ensure generated outcomes meet the needs of the fire sector as a whole.

Updates on the work of each work stream are outlined below and I would encourage any Service who has yet to engage to contact the relevant leads to find out how to do so.

Wishing you all a happy and safe festive period.

Chris

NFCC Sector Resources Coordination Chair

ICT led by Neil Moore - neil.moore@hantsfire.gov.uk

The ICT group has an active NFCC community and now has great representation across the sector. The group is supporting the trial of a new potential replacement system for NFCC Communities but more detail on this will be circulated once the trial has concluded. Meetings have been irregular as the new NFCC committee structure has been established, however dates for quarterly meetings in 2018 are now being arranged and the meetings will be held at the Home Office where possible.

The group has a formal connection with the ESMCP Fire Customer Group through the chair and vice chair and discussion on this programme continues to feature prominently within the ICT group, especially with respect to network security accreditation for the Emergency Services Network (ESN). Collaborative procurement has also featured significantly, with work carried out with an existing supplier on sector-wide discounting. This work is being continued in wider collaboration with the police sector. Another topics of note continues to be cyber security (the National Cyber Security Centre are keen to maintain active contact with the group) and GDPR.

Procurement led by Ann Millington - ann.millington@kent.fire-uk.org

MoU between FRSs and the Fire Commercial Transformation Programme (FCTP).

The purpose of the MoU is to provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of both the FCTP and individual FRSs. The MoU states that;

- the FCTP and FRSs are committed to excellence in fire and rescue commercial/procurement activity, increasing collaboration across the emergency services sector and delivering best value.
- FRSs will actively engage with the FCTP and it is envisaged that subject to any local decisions (on an informed and considered basis) that determine otherwise, will participate in future FCTP collaborative projects.
- FRS will be expected to contribute to projects (leading or supporting) through the virtual teams that will be established within this programme.

I'm pleased to say that we have now received 41 duly completed MoU's and we are actively chasing those FRSs that have not yet submitted theirs. We expect all FRSs to submit their MoU by the end of the year.

Basket of goods

The Rt Hon Mr Hurd will be publishing another basket of goods soon featuring ten areas – we hope this is coming to an end as we will be able to provide enough data in future to assure him we know the areas of spend and how to focus our activity.

PPE

The collaborative PPE project has been recognised as best practice by suppliers. We are still awaiting some authorities making their decision to use the framework.

Savings register

In the previous procurement newsletter the procurement team advised FRSs that a sector wide Savings Register was being created and that FRSs should expect to receive a template for completion in September/October. Due to the 'Basket of Goods' exercise being launched the FCTP have decided to delay this project until the 'Basket of Goods' exercise has been concluded. The Savings Register has been issued to six FRSs as a pilot exercise - feedback from the six FRSs will be incorporated into the final Savings Register to ensure it is easy to understand and complete.

Fleet and equipment led by Iain Hardcastle - iain.hardcastle@hantsfire.gov.uk

The Transport Officers Group are continuing to support other NFCC work streams by providing technical expertise across all aspects of vehicles and equipment, this ranges from helping write technical specifications for the procurement frameworks to providing policy advice on vehicle safety systems. We continue to work with the NFCC Commercial Category leads for Fleet and operational equipment to support the commercial programme, management of the suppliers on the Emergency Response Vehicle framework, and to develop new frameworks for fuel cards and light vehicles. As part of our drive to be evidence based we are supporting the refresh of the previous survey data on vehicle pipelines. This information from each service is key to helping us identify collaborative opportunities, please can all FRS update their data when the request comes around.

We are building strong relationships with our police colleagues at a national level, this is becoming even more important as we now have a number of colleagues that are managing fleets across both constabulary and FRS.

Our focus for the first part of 2018 is to update the best practise guidance and inspection manual, and we will be looking for volunteers to assist with this. We are also starting preparations for our Fleet and Equipment conference/seminar which we plan to hold in June 2018.

Information Governance led by Brian Mottershead - brian.mottershead@nwales-fireservice.org.uk

The NFCC Information Governance (IG) Group consists of IG professionals from the UK Fire and Rescue Services, with areas of responsibility primarily covering the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, as well as many other IG-related issues. The Group is an incredibly useful forum for the free and frank exchange of views concerning IG matters, and benefits from a number of highly-experienced practitioners amongst its membership who are always willing to share their advice and knowledge as and when required. Useful resources are made available to all members, thereby reducing duplication of effort, and discussions about 'round-robin' FoI requests will often result in a UK-wide approach being formulated and a standard response made available for individual FRSs to use, should they wish to. Of note of late has been the number of FoI requests generated in the wake of the Grenfell Tower incident, the majority of which highlighted a lack of understanding, particularly on the part of media organisations, about the type of information held by FRSs and where the regulatory responsibilities lie in relation to such buildings.

The one topic that is occupying the minds of all IG professionals at the moment, not just in FRSs, is the introduction of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which will apply from 25th May 2018. A UK Data Protection Bill is currently going through the parliamentary process which will set new standards for protecting general data in accordance with the GDPR, give people more control over use of their data, and provide new rights to move or delete personal data. The Information Commissioner, Elizabeth Denham, has described GDPR as, "...the biggest change to data protection law for a generation...", and the implications are considerable for how FRSs seek consent for the processing of personal data and advise the public of how their data will be used. In addition, the GDPR requires the appointment of a Data Protection Officer, who reports to the highest management level of each organisation, operates independently and cannot be dismissed or penalised for performing their task. Furthermore, possible financial penalties for data breaches will increase under GDPR from the current level of up to £500K to up to €20M or 4% of turnover. The NFCC IG group is proving to be a vital resource in helping to negotiate the GDPR minefield and ensuring that FRSs are compliant by, or as soon as possible after, 25th May next year.

FirePRO led by James Morton - james.morton@hantsfire.gov.uk

The annual FirePRO Conference was held in Birmingham and included presentations on Grenfell Tower by London Fire Brigade and the Manchester Arena attack by Greater Manchester Police. It was attended by more than 60 comms professionals from FRS across the country which is great for maintaining and building the network to support each other.

FirePRO members joined colleagues from the NFCC RDS working group to provide feedback on the initial concepts for the Home Office's on-call firefighter campaign. This is now being incorporated into the final version of the campaign, which is due to launch in April.

Following approval for the national fire.uk website by ministers, FirePRO is involved in the early stages of providing and shaping content for the site.