

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

Meeting	FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
Meeting Date	20 FEBRUARY 2023
Report of	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Report Sponsor(s)	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/ DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY
Subject	SERVICE IMPROVEMENT BOARD UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on progress against the actions on the Service Improvement Plan. The Service Improvement Plan includes actions relating to South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Inspection Report, Grenfell Tower Inquiry, State of Fire and Rescue Reports and published Professional Fire Standards. The plan also captures improvements generated through local and national learning from emergency incidents and this includes learning through the pandemic.

Note that the HMICFRS inspection report actions discussed in this report relate to the 2019 inspection, not the latest SYFR inspection report published on 20 January 2023.

The Service Improvement Plan is monitored by the Service Improvement Board, who seek to ensure objectives on the Service Improvement Plan are being progressed and delivered in good time. The Board also have a delegated budget, to support the delivery of Service Improvement Plan objectives and will consider resource requests to support the delivery of key service improvements.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Members are recommended to:-

- a) Note the contents of the report and provide further scrutiny and support to enable continual service improvement.

CONTENTS

Main Report

Appendix A - Areas for Improvement (AFI) from the 2019 HMICFRS inspection report for SYFR – Action updates as of December 2022.

Appendix B - Grenfell Tower Inquiry – High Priority Action updates as of December 2022.

Appendix C - State of Fire and Rescue Report – High Priority Action updates as of December 2022.

Appendix D - Professional Standards areas for improvement – Action updates as of December 2022.

BACKGROUND

1. The Service Improvement Board is an internal meeting that monitors progress of objectives that sit on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) Service Improvement Plan. These objectives are generated from various local, regional and national events and reports that have influence in the activities at SYFR. The Service Improvement Board has committed to provide quarterly updates to the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (SYFRA).
2. SYFR changed the frequency of Service Improvement Board meetings from quarterly to monthly to assist the drive of continuous and sustainable improvement across the Service, in particular, actions relating to HMICFRS Report in the run up to HMICFRS Inspection. Following the May 2022 Service Improvement Board meeting, and SYFR's second HMICFRS Inspection, meetings have reverted to quarterly and are now Chaired by ACO Strelczenie.

HMICFRS Inspection Report For SYFR

3. HMICFRS inspection report for SYFR identified 17 Areas for Improvement (AFIs). All of these areas for improvement have been determined to be high priority. Of these priority actions, 13 are completed, 1 is on schedule and 3 are behind schedule.
4. We are aware that HMICFRS have expected to see progress against these areas for improvement. Further information for all 17 AFIs can be found in Appendix A.

Grenfell Tower Inquiry

5. Following analysis of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (GTI) Phase 1 Report Overview, seven actions were determined to be of high priority. All seven actions have been completed.
6. A number of these areas for improvement are reliant on the recommended changes in legislation that to date have not occurred. Although some of these areas are not aimed at Fire and Rescue Services specifically, SYFR continue to work with responsible persons and encourage improvements based on the recommendations from the GTI report. However, in many areas, the lack of legislation to enable enforcement is proving to be a significant barrier to achievement.
7. The decision has been made to include the remaining 23 recommendations from the GTI Phase 1 Report. Until now, most recommendations from the GTI report that have been placed on the Service Improvement Plan, are for the attention of fire and rescue services. Although these additional recommendations are not aimed at fire and rescue services, it is thought that SYFR may be able to influence this work by working with the managers and responsible persons of high-rise buildings.
8. Further information regarding the high priority actions can be found in Appendix B.

State of Fire and Rescue Reports

9. Following analysis of the State of Fire and Rescue Reports, 3 actions have been determined to be of high priority. Of these, 2 are completed and 1 is behind schedule.

10. Further information regarding the high priority State of Fire and Rescue actions, can be found in Appendix C.

Professional Fire Standards

11. All 14 published fire standards have been placed on the Service Improvement Plan. All standards have been determined to be of high priority. Of these, 9 are on schedule, 2 are completed and 1 is behind schedule. There were two new standards published in December 2022.
12. Further information regarding the Professional Fire Standard actions, can be found in Appendix D.

Fire and Rescue Service HMICFRS Inspection Updates

13. Our second HMICFRS inspection report was published on 20 January 2023. The State of Fire and Rescue 2022 report was published on 20 January 2023. A separate report has been provided to the Fire and Rescue Authority on these matters.
14. The inspection programme is reviewed at the end of each cycle to consider changes in the fire and rescue landscape and findings from inspections. A number of changes have been made.
15. Firstly, activity will be focused on the evidence needed to demonstrate the 'characteristics of good' and there will be a move to a 5-tier grading system, with an additional grade of 'adequate'. This will provide a greater degree of information on where service improvements are needed, better reflect the performance of each service, and provide a common grading approach throughout FRS and policing inspections.
16. Graded judgements at pillar level will be removed for effectiveness, efficiency and how a Service looks after its people, to better focus service improvements on the 11 principal areas of inspection. The 11 questions within the pillars will still be graded.
17. To report in a timelier fashion, HMICFRS will report their inspection findings in smaller batches, rather than the larger tranches used for previous rounds of our inspections.
18. A preliminary inspection schedule has also been provided. It is anticipated that we will be inspected in Spring 2024.

FIRE STANDARDS

19. The latest published Fire Standards are:
 - Leading and Developing People: Launched 21 December 2022
 - Leading the Service: Launched 21 December 2022
20. Two standards are currently in the consultation phase:
 - Fire Control
 - Communications, Engagement and Consultation

21. All future standards will be placed on the Service Improvement Plan.
22. More information on all the fire standards can be found at:
<https://www.firestandards.org/standards/approved/>

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR ASPIRATIONS

- ☒ **Be a great place to work-** we will create the right culture, values and behaviours to make this a brilliant place to work that is inclusive for all
- ☒ **Put people first-** we will spend money carefully, use our resources wisely and collaborate with others to provide the best deal to the communities we serve
- ☒ **Strive to be the best in everything we do-** we will work with others, make the most of technology and develop leaders to become the very best at what we can be

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If you have ticked 'Yes' please provide brief details in the box below and include the third party/parties it would involve:

SYFR will work closely with fire and rescue services and other organisations to continuously benchmark against the recommendations and inspection criteria.

CORPORATE RISK ASSESSMENT AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY IMPLICATIONS

23. SYFR need to ensure they have the capacity and capability to implement any recommendations in the SYFR inspection report and continuously improve. There also needs to be the capacity to ensure all the inspection work is completed.

EQUALITY ANALYSIS COMPLETED

- ☐ Yes

If you have ticked 'Yes' please complete the below comment boxes providing details as follows:

Summary of any Adverse Impacts Identified:	Key Mitigating Actions Proposed and Agreed:

- ☐ No
- ☒ N/A

If you have ticked 'No' or 'N/A' please complete the comments box below providing details of why an EA is not required/is outstanding:

If required, an equality impact assessment has will be completed for the agreed recommendations.

HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ N/A

If you have ticked 'No' or 'N/A' please complete the comments box below providing details of why a Health and Safety Risk Assessment is not required/is outstanding:

If required, a health and safety risk assessment will be completed for the agreed recommendations

SCHEME OF DELEGATION

24. Under the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority [Scheme of Delegation](#) a decision *is required / *has been approved at Service level.

Delegated Power	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No

If yes, please complete the comments box indicating under which delegated power.

IMPLICATIONS

25. Consider whether this report has any of the following implications and if so, address them below:., Diversity, Financial, Asset Management, Environmental and Sustainability, Fleet, Communications, ICT, Health and Safety, Data Protection, Collaboration, Legal and Industrial Relations implications have been considered in compiling this report.

List of background documents		
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