

FIRE DEATH AND INJURY PANEL

SUMMARY

1. Currently chaired by the Director of Operations (North) the Fire Death and Injury Panel (FDIP) has been operating for over four years, involving latterly external stakeholders as well as internal staff. Its aim is to develop local and strategic action plans drawn from lessons learned from serious incidents. Often the most significant learning points come from challenges from those who often do not deal with emergency response, and therefore the Service welcome the views of other stakeholders.
2. It is felt that due to the local interest and potential for Members to be questioned over a fire death or injury, the Fire Authority considers nominating one or more representatives to attend the FDIP. One option could be a lead from each Unitary Authority area who will be informed when the FDIP is scheduled (normally within seven days of the incident). That Member will decide to attend or request another local elected Member attends on their behalf. At the FDIP the Member will be able to clarify and challenge any activities undertaken or any actions planned.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the Fire Authority consider nominating one or more Member to attend FDIPs in the future.

REPORT DETAIL

4. Humberside Fire and Rescue Service initiated the FDIP to enable a very detailed analysis of the chronological account following a serious fire where there was a fire related death or serious injury.
5. Initially it was held with only the internal staff who had dealt with either the incident or the individual in some capacity from a Community Safety perspective. Information was delivered from:
 - Control Staff- who would highlight any issues with the call handling and performance against the standards of attending crews and officers. They would also identify and challenge the quality of messages passed from the incident ground.
 - The first attending Incident commander- to give an incident overview detailing any challenges or difficulties crews had to overcome.
 - Fire Investigation officer- to give the details of the fire and its behaviour with, if known at this stage, the most probable cause.
 - Operational Intelligence Unit- to ensure the profile using Mosaic measures is scrutinized.

- Local Community Safety- to give an overview of any previous interactions with the victim not only from HFRS but other agencies e.g. Health or Police.
 - Central Community Safety- to ensure the broader Safety issues are discussed here e.g. hoarding, sprinkler initiatives, as well as any patterns which are emerging across the service or beyond.
 - Corporate Communications- to ensure the media releases and subsequent communication strategies are discussed and approved if necessary.
6. At every stage attendees are encouraged to challenge and contribute to ways to improve, in an attempt to reduce the likelihood of future events.
 7. Since 2011 other agencies are invited to attend and listen to the account before contributing their accounts, views and actions. Such agencies who have attended in the past are specific Local Authority provided services e.g. meals on wheels also Primary and Secondary Care units including mental health services, Police and latterly the Coroner's office.
 8. The subsequent local action plan is forwarded to the Coroner and monitored for performance by Central Community Safety.
 9. In the past an independent Member of the previous Governance and Standards Committee attended the FDIP and reflected how beneficial it was to be given detailed information into all activities before, during and following the most serious fires. It is felt that given the changes in governance in the Authority if there was to be an attendance it would be more appropriate for it to be an elected Member of the Authority.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

10. The activities outlined above all contribute to the delivery of the Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

11. Normal attendance expenses would be submitted.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. None arising from this report.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

13. None arising from this report.

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

14. All managed within the Risk and Opportunity Management process.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

15. None.

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

16. None at this time.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

17. For HFA discussion and decision only.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

18. None.

RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

19. That the Fire Authority consider nominating one or more Member to attend FDIPs in the future.

C BLACKSELL

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