

Stage 1 Reporting for the WPI Process

July 2010



JRA Summary



The most recent annual Joint Risk Assessment produced by the Wales Audit Office contained the following key messages;

The Fire and Rescue Authority has made progress in reducing the levels of operational risk identified by the Peer Assessment Team and is working to further improve the operational response of the Service;

The Authority has made progress in reducing the level of risk identified in the last Joint Risk Assessment;

The Fire and Rescue Authority faces further risks in respect of financial pressures, achieving service standards, improving procurement, climate change, resilience and the retained duty system.



What we have achieved so far



We have achieved a great deal in all areas of our work and this has allowed us to play our part in making our communities safer and more sustainable. We have worked for a number of years on activities and initiatives to make homes and business premises safer, to reduce arson and to improve our arrangements for responding to emergencies.

We work extensively with children and young people in order to educate them on road safety and on fire safety and to influence their behaviour.

We manage risk within our organisation to ensure that we are able to provide our services in all eventualities. Partnership activities with other services and agencies help improve our resilience and sustainability. Our risk reduction planning takes account of our partners' wider improvement objectives, and this allows us to work together to deliver joint improvement.

The most important asset for this Service is its people. We have invested in our employees so that in addition to being professionally trained and qualified they are also educated to reflect the values of the organisation with regard to fairness, equality and diversity.

We take account of best practice advice and regulations to make efficient use of our resources. Seeking alternative funding and efficiency gains allows us to deliver a value for money service working with partners and communities where we can.

Our planning strategies are developed to reflect the Wales Programme for Improvement approach, and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and links our improvement objectives to the benefits we want to see within our communities.

Our five year strategic plan has set out our vision, and each year our Draft Annual Action

Plan will consult on specific proposals for key areas of work for the following year in order to deliver this vision. Your responses to last year's consultation have helped shape what we are doing in 2010-2011 and here is a report of our progress so far.

1 - Improving the way we reach vulnerable members of society



To ensure that we reach the most vulnerable members of our communities we work with our partners to share information and identify those most at risk. We provide our partners with fire related training to improve our capacity for providing safety information to vulnerable members of society.

Following last year's consultation we are:-

- Strengthening our links with partner organisations to improve the way we reach vulnerable people.
- Improving our understanding of some vulnerable groups such as the elderly to allow for better engagement.
- Using academic research to improve the way we identify vulnerable people.

2 - Sharing our facilities with our communities



We want our buildings to continue to be a valuable resource within the community and be used to promote our services and other safety awareness programmes.

Following last year's consultation we are:-

- Sharing our facilities with services such as the Police and Ambulance.
- Improving access, welfare and security arrangements at existing community stations.
- Improving the quality of our buildings and increasing the number of fire stations that have community facilities.
- Promoting the use of our fire stations as a base for safety events.

3 - Engaging with communities



We want to make sure that we are active in promoting community safety and in raising public awareness of all aspects of our work. We set out to strengthen our links with communities increasing the voice that people have in shaping the services we provide.

Working with our partners in the wider public arena has allowed us to develop and deliver local community strategies. We work collaboratively with other emergency services and play a role in Local Service Boards and Community Safety Partnerships.

Following last year's consultation we are:-

- Improving our engagement opportunities by working with local authority Citizen and Community Engagement Strategies.
- Holding Community Meetings throughout the Service to promote our consultations and providing advice on all aspects of our services.

4 - Improving Road Safety



We recognise that far too many people are killed and injured on the roads of Mid and West Wales and that we have a role in making our roads safer. We work in partnership with other emergency services and road safety agencies and together produced a Road Safety Strategy for Wales. All of our fire engines have been upgraded with state of the art rescue equipment to help us deal with accidents when they do occur.

Following last year's consultation we are:-

- Developing our Mobile Safety Awareness unit to bring Road Safety information to vulnerable and hard to reach groups.
- Assisting our local police forces with initiatives such as 'BikeSafe' the motorcycle safety project and passpluscymru to educate young drivers.
- Using our newly acquired FireBikes to engage with motorcyclists and promote road safety.



5 - Delivering Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs)



We have been carrying out HFSCs for a number of years fitting free smoke alarms and providing advice and safety equipment to homes across Mid and West Wales. This is a vital part of our work and through this initiative we have seen the number of fires in the home, and fire related injuries reduce year on year.

We work with partners and provide them with fire related training and this has improved our ability to reach vulnerable members of society.

Following last year's consultation we are:-

- Providing training to community partners to enable them to carry out HFSCs.
- Using academic research to improve the way we target HFSCs.
- Providing an improved system for recording and managing the HFSC service.

6 - Reducing deliberate grassland fires



Arson is a drain on our resources and a danger to our communities. Our Arson Reduction Team works with schools, business communities and local authorities and targets areas most affected by deliberate fire setting. Education programmes for schools and young people also focus on the dangers of fire. We work with communities and other agencies to prevent deliberate grassland fires and to minimise the environmental impact caused by air and water pollution.

Following last year's consultation we are:-

- Developing the partnership work of our Rural and Forestry Team (RAFT).
- Continuing our work with partner agencies to implement the Grass and Heather Burning Code and encouraging responsible controlled burning of farm and common land.
- Supporting the prosecution of indiscriminate fire setters through the Crime Stoppers scheme.
- Developing promotional and educational materials to highlight the dangers of grass fires.

Service Improvement



The Service has set a five year plan to reduce incidents according to guidance issued by the Welsh Assembly Government and local need. Targets have been set again this year in line with this plan, further details are available on request.

For more information on any of the information contained in this document please contact the Strategic Planning and Performance department,

- e-mail rrp@mawwfire.gov.uk
- Telephone 0370 6060699 and ask for Strategic Planning & Performance Department
- Write to the Chief Fire Officer, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Headquarters, Lime Grove Avenue, Carmarthen, SA31 1SP

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