



**Hampshire  
& Isle of Wight**  
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

## **HIWFRA Full Authority**

Purpose: Noted

Date: **12 April 2022**

Title: **BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION**

Report of Chief Fire Officer

### SUMMARY

1. This report summarises the progress Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (HIWFRS) has made in collaborating with our Blue Light partners. Success in collaboration has occurred when we have had shared vision, trust and understanding between our Blue Light partner organisations.
2. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 placed a duty on Emergency Services to keep collaboration under review in the interest of efficiency and effectiveness. Hampshire now has a well-established programme of collaboration involving Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (HIWFRS), Hampshire Constabulary (HC) and South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS).
3. The purpose of this report is to update the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority (HIWFRA) on the progress of collaboration of which HIWFRS are a key part of in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

### BACKGROUND

4. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 introduced a new duty on Police Forces, Fire and Rescue Services and Ambulance Services to keep collaboration opportunities under review where it is in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness, and to put those collaboration opportunities into practice. The duty is deliberately broad to allow for local discretion so that the emergency services themselves can decide how best to collaborate for the benefit of their own communities.

5. Demand on Blue Light Services is changing, and collaboration provides us with a real opportunity to create innovative responses to these challenges whilst strengthening future resilience, effectiveness and efficiency.
6. Collaboration is well established in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Numerous examples have been delivered during the past decade and Hampshire is well regarded with collaboration; evidenced within national summary documents and at national events.
7. This history of positive collaboration has been essential in the response to Covid 19, where HIWFRS have been and continue to support South Central Ambulance Service and the NHS in the response to this crisis.
8. Examples include:
  - a. Sharing of estates by Fire, Police and Ambulance
  - b. Sharing of strategic HQ site by Fire and Police
  - c. Arson Task Force
  - d. Co-responding
  - e. Shared Services, with Fire and Police joining County Council colleagues.
9. Primarily, collaboration in Hampshire and Isle of Wight emergency services exists between HIWFRS, HC and SCAS. However, work also extends to:
  - a. Our Networked Fire Services Partnership (NFSP) partners Dorset and Wiltshire FRS and Devon and Somerset FRS.
  - b. Police Forces such as Thames Valley Police and their Joint Operations Unit with HC.
  - c. Ambulance Services of Isle of Wight Ambulance Service (IWAS) and South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB).

## PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE

10. The Hampshire Blue Light Collaboration programme has developed the relationship to further both strategic and operational opportunities.
11. The following items set out the current working opportunities which are at various stages including conceptual, through developing to business as usual for HIWFRS. Each opportunity is annotated with their business stage in the title.

12. Co-responder crewing model Emergency Medical Response (Full partnership agreement in place)

- a. In 2004, the then HFRS set up a co-responder scheme with Hampshire Ambulance Service which later became South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS). This crewing model uses dedicated response cars in specific rural localities where, due to geographical locations, the Ambulance Service were encountering difficulty in achieving the eight-minute government response target time.
- b. The co-responder partnership has been running for more than 18 years and accounts for a large percentage of all co-responder calls across the UK. We currently have 22 co-responder stations responding from 15 vehicles. In 2021/22 we attended over 5,000 calls.
- c. Since the combination of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight FRS, talks are advanced in providing a co-responder scheme on the Island in partnership with the Isle of Wight Ambulance Service (IWAS). We hope to go live in April 2022.

13. Gaining entry to patients for the Ambulance Service and the Police Force. (Full partnership agreement in place)

- a. Our gaining entry work sees HIWFRS being deployed instead of Hampshire Constabulary to assist SCAS and SECAMB, as we have specialist equipment, expertise and legal powers which are readily available. This builds and extends the ad hoc deployments to rescue people.
- b. HIWFRS have proven a quicker response to these types of calls providing better care to patients. Most notably, by using HIWFRS equipment and expertise, there has been a dramatic reduction in boarding up costs following 'gained entry' processes.

14. Cardiac Arrest response (Pilot Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place)

- a. HIWFRS and SCAS have implemented a trial utilising Whitchurch On Call station to respond to incidents where a cardiac arrest is suspected. Our team uses Immediate Emergency Care (IEC) skills and medical equipment to significantly increase a patient's chance of survival by providing a faster response.

15. Assisting Police with searching for High Risk Missing Persons (Full partnership agreement in place)

- a. Every year, Hampshire Constabulary receives numerous calls relating to incidents where there is a concern for the safety of an individual, where that person/s have gone missing and are vulnerable.
- b. HIWFRS assist the Police in searching for vulnerable High Risk Missing Persons using the existing skills of our people and the equipment we carry. This formalises our rescue work in this area.

16. Non-Injury Mechanical Falls (Pilot Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place)

- a. HIWFRS and SCAS have implemented a trial, utilising three front-line fire engines, to respond to Non-Injury Mechanical Falls incidents. These are falls where people are not injured but are too weak to get themselves up.
- b. In the pilot, HIWFRS have successfully responded to over 100 people who have had a non-injury fall, improving the patient outcome by delivering a faster response.

17. Shared Estates (Agreements and contracts in place)

- a. HIWFRS have leased available space to Blue Light partners. This move is part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's wider Estate Strategy to replace some Police premises with modern fit for purpose buildings at no extra cost to the taxpayer. It is the first time in the country that a senior police team have moved into a Fire headquarters.

In addition to the Police, we currently collaborate through sharing estates with:

- a. Border Force
  - b. SCAS
  - c. IWAS
  - d. Coast Guard
  - e. Health NHS.
- b. The space we provide enables several benefits: collaboration between partners, secure office space and areas for parking appliances and preferential partner rent for affordable accommodation. This also shares in the buildings service charges (water, gas, electricity, etc) and ultimately brings a greater saving to Government by not having multiple under-utilised buildings.

18. Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) (MOU in place)
  - a. All three emergency services in Hampshire use the critical diffusion methodology of Trauma Risk Management (TRiM). The teams communicate and train together and have the resilience of each other to cope with any peak in demand. HIWFRS and Hampshire Constabulary regularly carry out joint training and CPD events and share TRiM staff handbooks and promotional materials.
19. Community Safety Prevention (MOU in place)
  - a. HIWFRS and Hampshire Constabulary have established a Community Prevention Group to work together on elements such as working with vulnerable people, working with Children and Young People and sharing data.
  - b. HIWFRS share safety messaging through a Campaign Calendar to ensure a joined approach.
20. Operational Assets (Agreements and contracts in place)
  - a. HIWFRS have two joint working agreements, one with Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service for the management and maintenance of their fleet. With Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, we have shared access to an asset management system.
  - b. HIWFRS also regularly take part in a collaborative approach to selected procurement and share technical specification and expertise with other blue light services.
21. Supporting the NHS and SCAS during Covid 19 and the winter pressures (Fixed period agreements in place)
  - a. HIWFRS have agreements in place with the NHS and SCAS to support them during the current Covid 19 pandemic and winter pressures. Examples of this work includes:
    - (a) Responding to cardiac arrest calls on fire engines using HIWFRS Immediate Emergency Care skills, equipment and defibrillator to significantly increase a patient's chance of survival by providing a faster response. Since we began providing support to SCAS we have attended 82 incidents and on approximately 45% of occasions, we have been in attendance prior to the first ambulance resource.
    - (b) Providing HIWFRS staff to drive ambulances. This supports SCAS with their increased demand and staffing absences due to the pandemic.

- (c) HIWFRS have supported the vaccination programme through providing vaccinators and support staff at vaccination centres throughout the county. Several of our fire stations have been and continue to be used as vaccination centres.
  - (d) Non-Injury Mechanical Falls utilising a dedicated car positively crewed during peak demand periods to respond to falls where people are not injured but are too weak to get themselves up. This reduces demand on SCAS and the NHS.
- b. These capabilities have been successfully delivered through local, informal agreements. Staff have agreed to work outside the scope of their normal Fire and Rescue Service contracts to deliver these activities. This is not a sustainable nor preferable position for HIWFRS.
  - c. If this risk continues to be prevalent, HIWFRS are likely to be requested to contribute, to ensure lives are saved. Negotiation of amended contractual terms and conditions will be required.

22. Local Resilience Forum (LRF) – Shaping Resilience

- a. HIWFRS have been working with our LRF partners as we look ahead to the future of working together. This subgroup of the LRF Strategic Group is chaired by Chief Fire Officer Neil Odin.
- b. One aspect being considered is the future arrangements of the LRF and how this group continues the strong response to crisis arrangements, whilst balancing improved arrangements with risk prevention work.
- c. We also lead an element of work seeking to build a shared picture of vulnerability. Essentially this will provide knowledge of the people we define as vulnerable and be the platform for greater joint service provision to ease vulnerability together.

SUPPORTING OUR SAFETY PLAN AND PRIORITIES

- 23. Our approach to collaborating with partners supports our priorities as set out in our Safety Plan 2020 – 2025.
- 24. This work aligns to the priorities of the Fire and Rescue National Framework document and the duty to keep collaboration with emergency services under review to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service they provide.

## CONSULTATION

25. Each project is subjected to consultation where necessary. It is through this consultation that the Service develops its collaboration ideas in partnership with key stakeholders.

## COLLABORATION

26. All work within the Blue Light Collaboration Programme is collaborating with our blue light and health partners in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness and to put those collaboration opportunities into practice.

## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

27. Blue Light Collaboration has become part of normal business under the accountability of the Director of Operations. No additional resources are required.

## IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

28. Each initiative has project management built around it which includes impact assessment. The management of projects are led by the most appropriate organisation as lead and reviewed as a collective.
29. The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the equality and human rights legislation.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

30. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 requires Police Forces, Fire and Rescue Services and Ambulance Services to keep collaboration opportunities under review where it is in the interests of their efficiency or effectiveness.
31. The reporting of progress is set out within the HIWFRA Constitution and demonstrates the Authority's commitment to this duty.

## RISK ANALYSIS

32. The risks associated within the Blue Light Collaboration are managed collectively by the three partners, with the HIWFRS Director of Operations, the Deputy Chief Constable and the SCAS Director of Operations meeting on a regular basis.

## CONCLUSION

33. The Hampshire Blue Light Collaboration Programme is well developed and has proved successful in delivering more efficient and effective outcomes for the public of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

34. HIWFRS continue to drive the collaboration work in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Multiple initiatives and projects have been developed to achieve the outcome of providing better outcomes for the residents of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

RECOMMENDATION

35. That progress of HIWFRS working with partners be noted by the HIWFRA Full Authority.

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