

For Publication

**Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue  
Authority  
Human Resources Policy and  
Challenge Group  
20 September 2017  
Item No. 9**

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**REPORT AUTHOR: HEAD OF ORGANISATIONAL ASSURANCE**

**SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

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Background Papers:

N/A

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Implications (tick✓):

LEGAL		✓	FINANCIAL	
HUMAN RESOURCES			EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL			POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known	✓	OTHER (please specify)	
	New		HEALTH AND SAFETY	✓
			CORE BRIEF	

*Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.*

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**PURPOSE:**

For Members to consider the Service's Health and Safety Annual report for the year 2016/17.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Members acknowledge the Health and Safety Annual Report for information and comment.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Health and Safety Annual Report (covering the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017) provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Health and Safety Support Team (HSST) and the Management of Health and Safety within Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS). The publication of the Health and Safety Annual Report is a requirement as laid down in the Service's Health and Safety at Work policy.
- 1.2 The role of the HSST is to provide competent assistance to the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) in meeting its statutory health and safety obligations and provide professional and independent advisory support to management at all levels and to employees in meeting their obligations.
- 1.3 As detailed in the body of the report, considerable work has been undertaken in the management of health and safety throughout the Service and particularly in the following areas:
- Health and safety and operational policies;
  - National Operational Guidance and specific activity and specialist risk assessments;
  - Provision of safety critical information;
  - Provision of health and safety related training;
  - Equipment;
  - Health and safety consultation;
  - Health and safety performance indicators;
  - Active monitoring and safety management systems audit;
  - Reactive monitoring and accident, near miss and vehicle collision investigation;
  - Management of vehicle mounted CCTV Systems; and,
  - Occupational health provision.
- 1.4 It is pleasing to report that in 2016 - 2017 the Service has seen a reduction in the number of workplace injuries and a reduction in the amount of time lost as a result of workplace injuries.
- 1.5 There is still improvement to be made and the emphasis is and will continue to remain a sensible, risk-based balanced approach. It is important that the safety culture within BFRS remains a positive one, ensuring that health and safety is built into our normal way of working, and recognising that people are our key resource and that good health and safety management is vital to prevent injuries, ill health and unnecessary losses.
- 1.6 The Annual Health and Safety Report 2016/17 is attached for Members information and comment.

**AREA COMMANDER DARREN COOK  
HEAD OF ORGANISATIONAL ASSURANCE**