

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
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REPORT AUTHOR: DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUBJECT: BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION UPDATE

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Background Papers: None

Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL		FINANCIAL	
HUMAN RESOURCES		EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known	OTHER (please specify)	
	New		

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

PURPOSE:

To provide Members with an overview of key collaboration initiatives between Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS), Bedfordshire Police (BP) and East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST) as managed through the Blue Light Collaboration Strategic Board (BLCSB).

RECOMMENDATION:

The Authority acknowledges the content of the report and the continued efforts to pursue collaboration with our blue light partners.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 places a statutory duty on the emergency services to collaborate, where the collaboration is viewed to be in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness or where it will improve public safety. BFRS, BP and EEAST have a successful track record of collaborating operationally on several initiatives in recent years.
- 1.2. Collaboration between the three primary emergency services within Bedfordshire is co-ordinated through the BLCSB, jointly chaired by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer (DCFO) and the Deputy Chief Constable (DCC).

2. Programme Governance

- 2.1. The work of the BLCSB is now supported by the sub-ordinate Blue Light Collaboration Delivery Group (BLCDG) which meets quarterly. The key projects and workstreams are being tactically managed via the delivery group with the BLCSB providing strategic oversight and scrutiny.

3. Collaboration Overview

3.1. Following the disruption caused by the Covid19 pandemic during 2020, the Chair of the Blue Light Collaboration Delivery was commissioned to provide a matrix overview, for the benefit of all three services, all current collaboration initiatives highlighting what the collaboration involves, which partners BFRS are collaborating with and alignment with our CRMP strategic aims.

CRMP AIM	INITIATIVE	FIRE	POLICE	EEAST	OTHER	OPPORTUNITY
PREVENTING	Working with young people					Effective delivery of prevention activities by PCSO in educational facilities to reduce unwanted fires and reduce arson. Cadet schemes operating across both BP and BFRS.
PREVENTING	Arson Reduction Partnership					Effective planning and data sharing on all aspects of arson. Police record threats of arson to enable BFRS to proactively target areas that may be at risk of an incident and offer support to protect occupants
PREVENTING	Street events					Joint deployment to all events to maximise audience and operate more effectively. Opportunity to share data from local police units.

PREVENTING	Falls Team					<p>Improved response time to vulnerable patients within the community releasing Ambulances for higher categories of call.</p> <p>Build a collaborative working relationship between BFRS and EEAST</p> <p>Provides BFRS access to vulnerable people and ability to provide fire safety advice in line with FRS act 2004 and CRMP objectives</p> <p>Provides a high level of medical training to BFRS home safety advisors who work in the community with vulnerable people.</p>
PREVENTING	Dementia referral partnership				CCG	<p>Income generation cost recovery for delivery of service. There is the risk reduction within the community in respect of a high-risk groups. There is potential wider health gains through making people safer e.g. Reduced hospital admissions</p>
UTILISING	Ambulance vehicle servicing					<p>Income generation to Fire, supports collaborative working opportunities. Increases the available assets for EEAST.</p>
UTILISING	Theory Test support					<p>Increases the available resource to EEAST to respond to incidents</p>
UTILISING	Lincolnshire Police Quality Assurance of driving course					<p>Supporting Police and Fire with quality assurance of driver training by qualified auditors in the driver training field.</p>
UTILISING	Data protection Officer					<p>Data protection support to ensure compliance</p>

UTILISING	Driver training for PTS vehicles					Increasing the number of drivers for EEAST to transfer patients from hospital to additional care premises. This frees up beds for more in need patients.
RESPONDING	Ambulance driver support					Increases the number of assets available to EEAST through the pandemic.
RESPONDING	Public Access Defibrillators				Community heartbeat trust	County wide defibrillators located for use in the community supporting critical care delivery to the community pending arrival of EEAST.
PREVENTING EMPOWERING	Chaplaincy					Joint countywide Chaplaincy support service for all staff within Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Bedfordshire Police. There will be benefits to the wellbeing and support for staff through this service which supplements other Staff support services
UTILISING	Shared Estates - Bedford				Road Victims trust and Midshires search and rescue	Facilitates inter team working between agencies. Reduces estate cost and effectively utilises space at Fire premises.
UTILISING	Shared Estate – Ampthill					Provides an effective community service to the community by data sharing and further reach to the community. Provides a basis to implement a Tri-service blue light estate strategy.
UTILISING	Shared Estate – Dunstable					
UTILISING	Shared Estate – Toddington					
UTILISING	Shared Estate – Leighton Buzzard					

UTILISING	Shared Estate - Sandy					Cost recovery to lower financial strain on all organisations
UTILISING	Shared Estate - Shefford					
UTILISING	Shared Estate - Stopsley					
UTILISING	Joint Workshop and operational Hub					In planning stage
RESPONDING	What 3 Words					Incident location data is now shared across both control rooms reducing attendance times
RESPONDING	GoodSam					Live data streaming of incidents across Police and Fire control rooms for greater situational awareness.
RESPONDING	Throwlines				Multiple Bedford businesses along the embankment	Increased safety for Police as they now carry throwlines in their vehicles and secure public access throwline and reach pole along Bedford embankment
RESPONDING	Complex Patient Rescue (Bariatric)					Reduce the asset response required to deal with a complex patient rescue. Reduction in critical care time with a collaborative response.
RESPONDING	Incident sharing data					Storm data reports shared with BFRS to identify incidents of complex nature.

UTILISING RESPONDING	Water First Responder Course					<p>Joint water rescue training with police to increase awareness of the dangers when they are committed to water.</p> <p>Sharing assets to deal effectively with water incidents.</p> <p>Cost saving to the police on the overall cost of the training compared to external supplier.</p>
RESPONDING	Effecting Entry					<p>There are mutual benefits for all three organisations and for the people of Bedfordshire through improved quality of services, cost effective use of previous partnership resources and sustainable solutions for managing public safety and public service demand in Bedfordshire.</p>
RESPONDING	Emergency Medical Response					<p>Potton, Harrold and Leighton Buzzard support critical patients with cardiac arrest.</p>
RESPONDING	Missing Vulnerable persons				Midshires Search and rescue	<p>Improved quality of service to the public in searching for missing persons. A more cost-effective use of combined resources and equipment to provide sustainable solutions.</p>
RESPONDING	Tri-Force Drone Response				Cambridge Search and Rescue.	<p>A tri force and tri service drone team that facilitates a drone asset across Beds, Herts and Cambs when required to support police and fire operations</p>

4. Shared Estates update

- 4.1. Bedfordshire Police (BP), East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST) and Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) continue to work towards co-locating at a number BFRS sites. The BLCSB continue to look at opportunities to harvest on the success of shared estates. Eight different BFRS locations now have a joint presence of either or all of the blue light partners.
- 4.2. Covid has impacted further opportunities to share estates as requirements were altered to deal with operational demand. These work streams will be resumed as the lifting of lockdown measure allow a return to a new normal.
- 4.3. Work continues to scope a Workshops functions of both BP and BFRS with the addition of an EEAST operational Hub. A strategic business case has been undertaken with a site specification now in progress. BLDSB continue to manage the progress of the workstream with the final space and specification requirement being presented in April 2021.
- 4.4. A Tri-service joint estate strategy has been presented to BLCSB to formalise a set of principles that will be adopted to provide strategic direction for estate collaboration.

5. Response Collaboration update

- 5.1. **Emergency & Non-urgent Medical Response:** BFRS has implemented emergency medical response at Potton, Harrold and Leighton Buzzard, this currently supports the pressures experienced by EEAST through the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 5.2. **Video Live Streaming from the Incident Ground (GoodSam):** BP and BFRS are able to share live video streaming service across control rooms and officers. This service improves situational awareness and allows instant evaluation of the incident in real time. This system has also been rolled out to the drone to complement all agencies at missing vulnerable persons.
- 5.3. **Drone Response:** The first strategic tri-force, tri service drone response meeting was held by ACC Sebire in February. The team has pilots and drones to support incidents across Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire (BCH) supported by police and fire colleagues. The utilisation of joint Permission for Commercial Operators (PfCO) operates across all agencies with joint training and exercising. Work is currently in progress to enable training and assessment of drone pilots. This will enable a more effective and efficient training capability across BCH.

- 5.4. **Complex patient rescue (bariatric) response:** The introduction of the Technical Support Unit (TSU) assists EEAST with a collaborative response to complex patients. BFRS mobilise equipment and resources to ensure critical care can be delivered in the quickest possible way supporting colleagues in EEAST.
- 5.5. **Water First Responder Training:** Joint Protection Services (JPS) are undertaking water first responder training to increase the safety and awareness of officers who regularly work in or around water. The training delivered to JPS is a more cost-effective solution than external suppliers.
6. Support Services update:
 - 6.1. **EEAST vehicle servicing:** BFRS has been servicing EEAST vehicles since January 2020, starting with 4 a month as a pilot. This led to an increase of vehicles from October 2020 to 4 a week. The collaborative work has released income generation cost recovery for BFRS and supported EEAST with available assets to support operational demand.
 - 6.2. **EEAST Theory test:** The covid-19 pandemic has impacted the number of theory test that can be completed by EEAST. BFRS has the capacity to support EEAST with theory test to reduce their demand and allow further driver support to be progressed to deal with operational demand.
7. Recommendations
 - 7.1. The Authority comments on the content of the report and the continued efforts to pursue collaboration with our blue light partners.

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