

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
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SUBJECT: RETURN ON INVESTMENT ANALYSIS OF BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE'S SUPPORT TO EAST OF ENGLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE (EEAST) IN 2020-21

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Background Papers: Please see full report included with this report bundle

Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL			FINANCIAL	✓
HUMAN RESOURCES		✓	EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL			POLICY	✓
CORPORATE RISK	Known	✓	OTHER (national noteworthy practice)	✓
	New			

PURPOSE:

To highlight more innovative evaluation activity that demonstrates Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is delivering its continued commitment to making Bedfordshire a safer place.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Members acknowledge the report and consider how this type of activity can positively raise the profile of Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service nationally.

1. Background

1.1. Evaluation of our activity is important for a number of reasons including:

- demonstrating we are making a positive difference in our communities and keeping them safer;
- showing our staff and stakeholders we are working in line with our service value We Are Accountable;
- motivating our staff by showing them the impact of the good work they do;
- proving we are meeting our strategic aims; and
- giving the public reassurance we are doing the right thing and delivering value for money.

1.2. No fire and rescue services in the UK have calculated their return on investment from collaboration using social value metrics. This work is nationally noteworthy and places the Service in a strong position to evaluate other activity. For example, the unit costs and social value proxy measures contained in Appendix 2 can be used in a variety of future evaluation work.

1.3. Please see the attached PDF report for full details of the analysis.

2.1 Research Objectives

- Calculate the return on investment from collaboration with EEAST including monetary, social, and organisational benefits;
- Develop a practical set of metrics and criteria to help consider future resourcing decisions in line with the FRS Community Risk Management Plan;
- Consider the best ways to evaluate the impact of community safety initiatives based on Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service experiences; and
- Promote and share good practice.

3. Report Summary

3.1 People in Bedfordshire receive significant social value including health and economic benefits from the collaboration between Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (the Service) and the East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST). A significant part of any social value calculation is based on savings to other public services.

- 3.2 With reference to pages 5 to 8 of the report entitled BFRS and East Collaboration Evaluation 2021, Bedfordshire received the following benefits in 2020-21:
- the return on investment and social value of the Service's support during the pandemic from firefighter secondments into EEAST is £0.448m;
 - the social value of the Service's Falls team in 2020-21 was £1.053 million;
 - bariatric complex patient rescue service has added social value to Bedfordshire of £0.384m;
 - co-responding has added social value to Bedfordshire of £2.244m; and
 - effecting entry has added social value to Bedfordshire of £0.960m.
- 3.3 This adds up to a return on investment of **£5.09 million** in social value, or **£7 for every £1 invested**.
- 3.4 Gross cost to the Service in supporting EEAST is £724,766.55. This was funded through the 2020-21 UK Government C-19 Covid grant.
- 3.5 Appendix 1 of the report contains our methodology. See page 16-17 of the attached report.
- 3.6 Appendix 2 contains unit costs and social value proxy measures used to make our calculations contained in this report and answers our second objective. See page 18-23 of the enclosed PDF report.
- 3.7 Appendix 3 answers our third study objective and contains suggestions for a future policy on evaluation. This is important because Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) recently highlighted evaluation of our community safety work as a weaker area. See page 24-27 of the enclosed PDF report.

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