



HEREFORD & WORCESTER

**HWFR**

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

# Collaboration with the Police

*Working together is working better*



September 2016

# Collaboration with the Police

## *Working together is working better*

The Fire Authority has a full appreciation of the crucial role that working with other agencies plays in ensuring the public receive the effective and efficient service they expect. From partnership agreements with local authorities to memoranda of understanding with other emergency services, we recognise that working together is about working better.

The role of the modern fire and rescue service is changing. We said in the Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020 that the Service you see now won't be the same as the one you'll see in 2020. We envisaged working more closely with other emergency services to help us become more effective and efficient, and that aim is also being driven from the top with the government's fire reform agenda, our move to the Home Office alongside the Police and the push for greater collaboration between the two services.

Locally, our work with Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police is long-established and firmly embedded on all levels; from day-to-day joint working through to major high level collaboration projects. Our working together isn't just about getting involved in the must-do statutory roles such as community safety partnerships and local resilience forums, but it's also about finding better ways of delivering our services more effectively, more efficiently and with better value for money for our communities. Put simply, we share the same aim: to keep our communities safe. Working together, we believe we can do more to deliver this.

This leaflet provides a flavour of what our current collaboration looks like and sets out some of the plans underway that will truly transform how the two services work together now and in the future.

## Current collaboration

You'll often see our Fire and Police officers working together at the scene of an incident, and knowing how to work together is crucial to how quickly and safely the incident can be resolved. We train and practice together on getting this right through major joint training exercises such as last year's Exercise Odin, which was based on a Police pursuit of gunmen resulting in two large building fires and numerous casualties, and many other events including joint trauma training, water awareness and search techniques for Police search advisers, and working at height training for Police negotiators. We even have a fire search and rescue dog trained by the Police. As you would expect, we also have incident command procedures in place with the Police so we all know who's doing what when we attend an incident.

Behind the scenes we also work together on planning for major emergencies, such as wide-scale flooding or a terrorist incident, so we are all prepared should anything happen. We also conduct joint investigations of all fatal and serious injury fires and at crimes involving major fires, and carry out joint inspections, and enforcement action where necessary, at a range of sites and buildings such as entertainment venues and landlord premises.



These are examples which show what you might expect to see happening anyway, but there are many other examples, which are less known about but are just as important. For instance, we have an agreement with the Police to train Police Community Support Officers to be on-call firefighters when they aren't required for their normal duties; we have a team of operational policy officers already working at Police HQ; Fire and Police officers work together on road safety initiatives, such as the powerful Dying2Drive and Green Light schemes aimed at young drivers and passengers; we work together on arson prevention initiatives; and we are both represented on the Safer Roads Partnership, which aims to reduce casualties and make roads safer through targeted communication, education and training together with enforcement.

More examples of current joint working are listed at the end of this leaflet.

## Plans underway

We know funding is tight for both services and recognise we can get more value if we bring some of our resources together. We're also aware that central government is committed to driving greater collaboration between the emergency services. So since the onset of the period of austerity following the government's Comprehensive Spending Review in 2010, we have been planning a number of major projects that will bring the work of Fire and Police even closer. Two of our major schemes (HQ relocation and the Wyre Forest Hub) have already won £4.2 million from the government's Fire Transformation Fund, which recognises our determination to ensure our Service remains on a sound footing for the future.

One of the most visible projects already completed is the Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station, which opened its doors in 2014. We are working on similar projects for new joint stations in Hereford and Redditch, and are consulting on creating a brand new Emergency Services Hub in the Wyre Forest to bring Fire, Police

and voluntary emergency services under the same roof. We have also begun to share our premises with the Police at Tenbury, Bromyard and Peterchurch.

In the pipeline is our work which will see the move of our Service Headquarters to the Police Headquarters at Hindlip so that we are alongside our emergency service colleagues. Our plans include moving the Fire Control service into a new Operations and Communication Centre at Police HQ as well as other departments which will support collaborative emergency planning and response arrangements. We expect that sitting together with Police colleagues will lead to better information sharing, joint decisions and may ultimately lead to new and innovative ways of working.

At the same time, we are working closely with the Police in developing the roll out of two major national government schemes: firstly, to implement a new national mobile communications system called the Emergency Services Network, which will enable us to share the same secure and resilient communications network; and secondly, we are putting information and communication technology procedures in place through a Public Services Network to securely protect and share our data with other appropriate agencies such as the Police.

More examples of plans underway are listed at the end of this leaflet.





## Key Drivers

# Key Drivers

### Government

- Government Fire Reform agenda: efficiency, effectiveness, value for money, more collaboration between emergency services
- Fire and rescue policy move from DCLG to Home Office: driving greater collaboration between Fire and Police, potential for PCC oversight, governance, inspection and audit
- Facing The Future review of efficiencies and operations: driving efficiency through greater collaboration with other blue-light services

### Emergency services sector

- CFOA/LGA report A Service For The Future: supporting service transformation, collaboration, cooperation and shared services
- CFOA strategic direction Making The Difference Needed: driving service reform and integration
- Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group: set up to help co-ordinate emergency services collaboration
- Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP): set up to help improve how emergency services work together at major incidents

### Hereford & Worcester

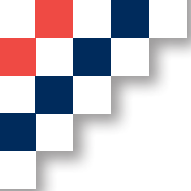
- HWFA CRMP 2014-2020: 'making changes to the way in which we provide our services, so we are able to balance our resources against risks and other demands'
- HWFRS 2020 Vision Programme: major transformation programme to drive a sustainable, high quality firefighting, rescue and preventative service for the future
- Financial pressures following CSR 2010 and 2015 Spending Review: FRA still needs to find further savings of £2.4 million by 2019-20.



## Current Collaboration

# Current Collaboration

<p>Prevention, Protection and Response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Community Support Officers have been recruited as on-call firefighters in Herefordshire. There are plans to extend this to Worcestershire</li> <li>• Fire and Police officers carry out joint Home Fire Safety Checks for high risk individuals</li> <li>• Joint inspection and enforcement action involving certain public venues and landlord premises</li> <li>• Assistance at Police incidents: fire and rescue equipment and officers increasingly provide assistance in missing person searches, body recovery, access and egress to buildings.</li> <li>• Both services are part of the Ignite, Crucial Crew and Young Citizens Challenge initiatives, which are targeted at improving young people's awareness of fire, road and water safety as well as the issues of arson and hoax calls</li> <li>• A long-standing working relationship with both services sharing information to tackle deliberate fires and prevent arson; including the Service's senior Community Risk Technicians working with Police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams and fire officers providing a 'fire-setter' intervention service for under 16s.</li> <li>• We work together with the Police and other agencies on numerous partnership groups which include the likes of the Local Resilience Forum, Dying2Drive road safety, Community Safety Partnerships, the Safer Roads Partnership, Signposting, Connected Families and Safeguarding groups</li> <li>• Fire Service's Search and Rescue dog: trained by Police and available to support Fire and Police incident response</li> </ul>
<p>Support Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational Policy team, including Health &amp; Safety and Emergency Planning officers, co-located at Police HQ</li> <li>• Fire and Police carry out joint fire investigations of serious fire incidents; joint standard setting; joint training events and work with Crown Prosecution Service</li> <li>• Agreement on press releases: working relationship to agree content following joint incidents and updates on collaborative projects</li> </ul>
<p>Buildings and Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Fire and Police form part of Place Partnership which brings together the property expertise of six public sector authorities into one transformative company that acts as a joint property vehicle to achieve change.</li> <li>• Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station: opened in 2014</li> <li>• Tenbury, Bromyard and Peterchurch fire stations are been shared with the Police.</li> <li>• Both services have interoperable communications, common radio channels and tactical advisers as part of the Airwave radio scheme to support multi-agency incidents</li> </ul>



## Current Collaboration

# Current Collaboration

### Fleet and Equipment

- Fire takes joint responsibility with the Police and Ambulance Services to audit regional NGO (non-governmental organisation) assets, such as volunteer responder organisations

### People

- Fire and Police developing stronger, mutually supportive, working relationships in relation to road transport incidents involving hazardous materials
- Incident command training: Police invited to quarterly training sessions using the Fire Service's incident simulation software
- Police increasingly involved in major Fire Service training exercises, e.g., Exercise Odin in 2015 and Exercise Sodor in 2014
- Many examples of joint training: methods of entry, health and safety, family liaison, trauma training for specialist teams and project/ programme management
- Many examples of training support: Fire Service provision of water awareness, water search techniques and water first responder training for Police search advisors; working at height and rope rescue training for Police negotiators; fire incident command assessment training for Police commanders; Police use of the Fire Service's Strategic Training Facilities
- Fire and Police form part of a nationally agreed multi-agency advisory role. Each service has a number of 'National Inter-Agency Liaison Officers (NILO)' to enhance communications and the response to major or critical incidents,

### Resourcing for the Future

- Senior Fire Officers form part of the Police Business Services Programme Board so that all transformational change opportunities take into account the potential for collaboration between the two services



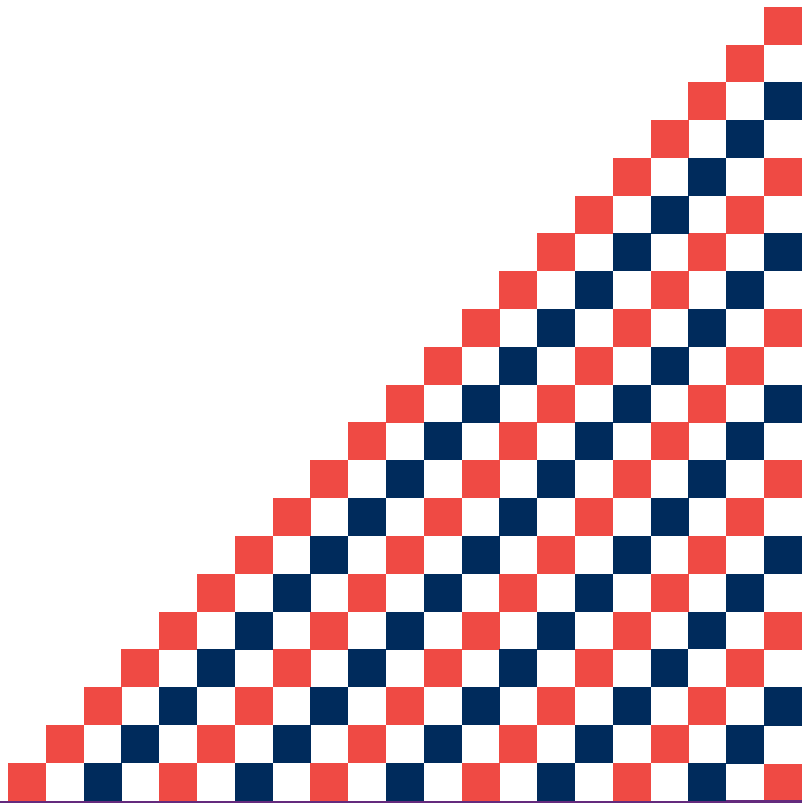


## Plans Underway

# Plans Underway

Prevention, Protection and Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wyre Forest Harm Hub: an initiative in which the Service's Community Risk staff will share desks with the Police at Kidderminster police station to help improve information sharing and intelligence to support preventative activities</li> </ul>
Support Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire and Police are developing a shared occupational health service to support staff in both organisations</li> <li>Fire and Police programme and project management teams are becoming increasingly engaged in joint work, e.g. a senior fire officer is the lead for the Police Operations and Communications Centre project</li> </ul>
Buildings and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relocation of Fire Control to a new Operations and Communication Centre at Police HQ which may lead to new and innovative ways of working</li> <li>Wyre Forest Emergency Services Services Hub: currently consulting on the development of a multi-agency emergency services centre supported by an award of £2.38m from the Fire Transformation Fund</li> <li>Co-location of Fire Service HQ with Police HQ – supported by an award of £1.89m from the Fire Transformation Fund</li> <li>Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme: national scheme to create a secure and resilient communications network for emergency services</li> <li>Public Services Network: national scheme to develop a secure ICT network to help public services such as Fire and Police share data safely and efficiently</li> <li>Potential for new joint Fire and Police Station for Hereford and Redditch</li> <li>Potential for Fire and Police to share a station at Kington in Herefordshire</li> </ul>
Fleet and Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire and Police exploring the potential for joint servicing of non operational vehicles</li> <li>Fire using 'black box' style technology on fire engines provided by the Police to improve safety and accountability</li> <li>Operational Logistics: potential move of Police stores facilities to Fire Service premises in Malvern</li> </ul>





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Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service  
Headquarters  
2 Kings Court,  
Charles Hastings Way,  
Worcester.  
WR5 1JR

**Tel:** 0345 122 4454

**Web:** [www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/hwfire](http://www.facebook.com/hwfire)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/hwfire](http://www.twitter.com/hwfire)