

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



MEETING	Overview and Audit Committee
DATE OF MEETING	14 November 2018
OFFICER	Julian Parsons, Head of Service Development
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor David Carroll
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Operational Assurance Improvement Plan
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide an update on current progress towards the delivery of the Service's approved Operational Assurance Improvement Plan (OAIP).</p> <p>Content of the OAIP was initially derived from the recommendations arising from the 'Review of Operational Assurance Arrangements' undertaken by Operational Assurance Limited (OAL) in October 2016.</p> <p>A further independent review designed to evaluate the progress made against the previously identified improvement recommendations, during the preceding 12 months, was again undertaken by OAL in November 2017. The outcomes of that review, detailed within the 'Checkpoint' report were subsequently incorporated into a revised OAIP.</p> <p>The continued development of both the Operational Assurance Group (OAG) and Operational Assurance Team (OAT) have from a business as usual perspective, enhanced our ability to capture, scrutinise and respond to operational learning originating from events such as our own operational debriefs, assurance visits and external reviews, like the Kerslake Report. A report published, following the independent review of the events and aftermath of the Manchester Area Terrorist Attack in May 2017.</p> <p>Consequently, the OAIP has essentially become a dynamic document that is continually edited and updated. This will help us provide the best service to the public and improve the safety of Firefighters by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving our performance at incidents; • Cope with future changes in the operational environment; • Drive development and innovation.
ACTION	Noting.

RECOMMENDATIONS	That the progress made against each improvement recommendation detailed within the updated OAIP be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>Delivery of the OAIP will contribute toward ensuring the Service's operational safe systems of work are continuously improved to conform to the latest safety standards and are efficient, effective and responsive to significant changes in the external or internal environments.</p> <p>Failure to deliver the OAIP could expose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Service, its personnel and the public to operational, health and safety risks; • Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA) to reputational and / or financial risks. <p>The OAIP will inform the ongoing development of our workforce plan particularly in relation to areas such as maintenance of operational skills, acquisition training and assessment.</p> <p>Equally, the OAIP does not appear to raise any immediate privacy issues.</p>
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	Whilst there are no negative, financial implications associated with this report. It is nevertheless important to highlight the £50,000 per annum growth bid recently approved to support a three year programme of assurance visits, intended to better prepare the Authority for the upcoming programme of inspections that will be undertaken by the HMICFRS.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no negative legal implications associated with this report.
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE	Although the Authority has committed to a default position of collaboration with Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs), the OAIP relates specifically to BFRS, however any opportunity to collaborate will be explored.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	There are no negative implications on health and safety associated with this report. The delivery of the OAIP will continue to promote and enhance the existing health and safety culture within the Service.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	No immediate issues identified in relation to the OAIP, however, IIAs will be completed for any changes that result from subsequent activities, where there is potential for equality and / or diversity issues to arise.
USE OF RESOURCES	<p>Communication with stakeholders</p> <p>Learning from operational activity or recommendations, following assurance visits are routinely published and communicated to all staff,</p>

	<p>utilising either the I:Drive or Operational Assurance newsletter. This approach is intended to ensure there is a clear understanding and appreciation of the collective responsibility there is toward continuous improvement.</p> <p>The system of internal control</p> <p>From a monitoring and reporting perspective, the Head of Service Development leads on the improvement plan and chair of the OAG.</p> <p>Head of Operational Training and Assurance has responsibility for delivering the Operational Improvement Plan in conjunction with the OAT.</p> <p>The medium term financial strategy</p> <p>It is intended that the achievement of the OAIP can be met within the existing budget.</p> <p>The balance between spending and resources</p> <p>No immediate funding requirements have been identified. The recommended monitoring system is the e-safety application that has already been procured and purchased for other purposes.</p> <p>The management of the asset base</p> <p>There are currently no identified impacts on the asset base.</p> <p>The arrangements to promote and ensure probity and propriety</p> <p>Delivery of the OAIP is expected to have a positive impact against these criteria by creating a more vigorous and transparent operational assurance environment within the Service.</p> <p>Environmental</p> <p>Delivery of the OAIP will enhance the Service's ability to identify and manage potential environmental hazards in both the internal and external environments.</p>
<p>PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>Review of Operational Assurance Arrangements, OAL, October 2016</p> <p>Review of Operational Assurance Arrangements Progress Checkpoint</p> <p>JESIP Assurance Visit Executive Summary Report</p>
<p>APPENDICES</p>	<p>Appendix A: Operational Assurance Improvement Plan</p>
<p>TIME REQUIRED</p>	<p>10 minutes</p>
<p>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</p>	<p>Steve Wells, Head of Operational Training and Assurance</p>

Operational Assurance Improvement Plan

	swells@bucksfire.gov.uk 01296 744426
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