



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Meeting and date: Overview and Audit Committee, 20 July 2022

Report title: Prevention Improvement Plan – Update One

Lead Member: Councillor Simon Rouse (Chairman)

Report sponsor: Area Commander Simon Tuffley

Author and contact: Group Commander Paul Scanes pscanes@bucksfire.gov.uk
07765041960

Action: Noting

Recommendations:

That the Committee note the Prevention Improvement Plan highlight report May 2022, attached as Appendix 1.

Executive summary:

The Prevention Improvement Plan was presented to the Overview and Audit Committee in November 2021, along with the finalised Phase One Prevention Evaluation Report, which had commenced in July 2020 but was paused due to revised priorities during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Prevention Improvement Plan contains 60 recommendations which were drawn from the Prevention Evaluation, the findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the recently published Prevention Fire Standard and associated National Operational Guidance.

Work to address the HMICFRS Prevention cause of concern is prioritised over other areas within the Prevention Improvement Plan, although the highlight report and dashboard demonstrate that work is also progressing in most other areas.

The highlight report demonstrates that seven recommendations have been completed within the six-month period, although significant recruitment initiatives to fill vacancies within the team and data access issues have affected progress against some of the delivery periods originally identified.

Financial implications:

Any requirement for growth will be submitted through the established internal governance arrangements for consideration.

Amending communication methods and referral mechanisms in response to some of the Prevention Improvement Plan recommendations may introduce additional financial implications, however where appropriate, work completed by the NFCC on developing online resources will be utilised.

Risk management:

This Prevention Improvement Plan is an effective way of ensuring continued improvement to ensure the best possible service is provided to the communities we serve.

The provision of regular highlight reports ensures that we are working more effectively to reduce risk in our communities and towards aligning to national best-practice.

There remain reputational risks to the Authority should we be judged as inadequate by HMICFRS. The Service had already taken steps to mitigate this through having extensive internal and external audits of a number of areas of the Service, notably, elements of our operational activity have been subject to external independent assurance. The prevention evaluation is another example of applying constructive internal scrutiny to drive improvement and reduce risk.

Key risks are identified in the highlight report, of which the staffing issue has already been seen to impact upon delivery.

Legal implications:

The key legislation, regulation, and duties linked to a Fire and Rescue Service's prevention function can include (but is not limited to) the following:

- The Road Traffic Act, Section 39
- Home Safety Act
- Housing Act
- Children's Act
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act and the Protection of Freedoms Act
- United Nations Human Rights Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Mental Capacity Act and Mental Health Act
- Police & Crime Act
- Modern Slavery Act
- Crime and Disorder Act
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act
- The Care Act
- Homelessness Reduction Act
- Anti-social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act

Privacy and security implications:

No privacy or security implications have been identified that are directly associated with this report or its appendices. The respective strands of the improvement plan will ensure Data Protection Impact Screening and full impact assessments are completed and reviewed where appropriate.

The report and its appendices are not protectively marked.

Duty to collaborate:

Collaboration with partners to ensure a collective and shared approach to identify and mitigate community risk is critical to ensure Prevention activity is effective. The evaluation identifies a number of areas where collaboration and partnerships can be developed for the benefit of community safety.

Health and safety implications:

There are no Health, Safety or Wellbeing implications arising directly from this report.

Environmental implications:

There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications:

There are no equality, diversity and inclusion implications arising directly from this report or its appendices.

The respective strands of the improvement plan will ensure impact screening and full impact assessments are completed and reviewed where appropriate.

Consultation and communication:

The Prevention evaluation involved extensive engagement with stakeholders to ensure an effective and thorough evaluation of all our activity.

Background papers:

23 January 2020 - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) – Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) Inspection Findings Report:

https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2020/03/230120_item_7_hmicfrs_cover_report_23012020_appendix-min.pdf/

10 November 2021 – Prevention Evaluation – Phase One Report

<https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2021/10/oa-item-17-17-10-21.pdf/>

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	Prevention Improvement Plan highlight report – May 2022	Not protectively marked