

ESSEX POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY



Meeting	Performance and Resource Board	Agenda Item	
Meeting Date	23 October 2017	Report Number	
Report Author:	Tracy King – Assistant Director		
Presented By	Mark Stagg – Director of Transformation		
Subject	Family Group		
Type of Report:	Information		

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Performance and Resource Board members note the contents of the associated report.

BACKGROUND

2. Created in 2000, Family Group 4 is formed of fire and rescue services (FRS) from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Originally membership was decided by grouping 'similar' fire services based upon factors such as population, deprivation, risk profiles and incident volumes.

The overall aim of the group is to encourage and share performance improvement through effective benchmarking of performance and other information. The CIPFA publication 'Better Benchmarking for High Performance' suggests that 'benchmarking is an invaluable tool for achieving the best performance possible with the resources available' as it 'creates pressure for improvement'.

Essex Fire and Rescue Service is a member of Family Group 4 along with 17 other Fire and Rescue Services. Family Group 4 has remained an active family group and meet twice a year, each family group member taking a turn to host the meetings. The membership of family group 4 is as follows:-

Avon	Hertfordshire	Lincolnshire
Cheshire	Humburside	Northern Ireland
Cleveland	Hereford & Worcester	Nottinghamshire
Derbyshire	Kent	Staffordshire
Essex	Lancashire	Surrey
Hampshire	Leicestershire	South Wales

Appendix 1 attached is the latest family group quarterly report for the period April 2017 to June 2017.

BENEFITS AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

3. Benefits of being an active family group member include:-

- Effective benchmarking of performance and other information;
- Production of quarterly benchmarking reports;
- Sharing information and best practice;
- Supporting member(s) of the group through methods such as visits and learning through to informal peer reviews;
- Comparing and sharing policies, procedures and strategies;
- Acting as a single voice and/or representing all members to relevant internal and external organisations where agreement is reached. This includes responding to consultation, making suggestions for improvement etc;
- Encouraging communication and networking between member Services
- Inviting external organisations to attend and present at meetings
- Where appropriate form 'task and finish' groups to complete specific tasks or areas of work
- Offer and share benchmarking information, where appropriate, to other Family Groups, and/or Fire and Rescue Services or external organisations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. Family group membership has only minor financial implication. These are cost of travel and subsistence for representative attending family group meetings and occasional cost of hosting family group meetings.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5. No identified equality and diversity implications.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

6. This paper is for information only, therefore no stakeholder engagement has been undertaken.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. No identified legal implications.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985	
List of appendices attached to this paper: Family Group Performance Report April 2017 – June 2017	
List of background documents (not attached):	
Proper Officer:	Mark Stagg, Director of Transformation
Contact Officer:	Tracy King, Assistant Director