

ESSEX POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
Essex County Fire & Rescue Service



Meeting	SLT	Agenda Item	7g
	Performance & Resources Board		13
Meeting Date	8 December 2020		
	16 December 2020		
Report Author:	Tracy King, Assistant Director		
Presented By	Rick Hylton		
Subject	HMICFRS Cycle 2 Inspection timeline		
Type of Report:	Information		

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Board are asked to note the timeline for cycle 2 of HMICFRS Inspection for ECFRS.

BACKGROUND

The Service was inspected by HMICFRS for the first time in July 2019. Whilst the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic has disrupted HMICFRS initial plans for cycle 2 of inspections, the Service have now received an update on the timeline relating to cycle 2. This paper sets out the timeline and key activities.

TIMELINE

By the 18 December 2020, the Service is required to submit updated improvement plans relating to areas that received causes of concern in the cycle 1 inspection report. These areas are Protection and Culture. The service has monitored progress and delivery against the plans, and this has been regularly reported to performance and resource board.

In January 2021, the Service will need to complete and compile the HMICFRS document return. This is a request for the Service to provide 53 key documents including strategies, plans and key policies.

The fieldwork week will be scheduled to occur in Spring 2021 (April, May, or June). The Strategic Briefing will now be held on the first day of the field work week, in cycle 1 this was held 1 week before field work week. The Service will be asked by HMICFRS to provide dates to avoid during this period for consideration by them when drawing up the finalised schedule.

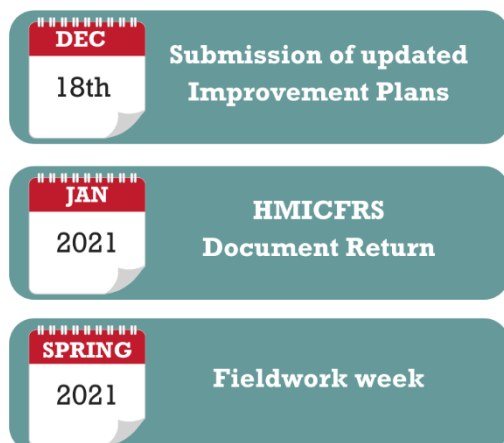
Other key elements of the inspection process include discovery week, self-assessment, HMICFRS staff survey and hot debrief. Whilst we do not have exact dates for these elements the infographic provided gives an indication of timings of these elements in relation to fieldwork week.



HMICFRS Timeline - 2020/21



Key dates



How it will work



REINSPECTION ON CAUSES OF CONCERN

Following on from the cause of concern identified in relation to the Service Protection function the Service was reinspected in this area in November 2019. A letter received from HMICFRS following reinspection detailed that the Inspectors had found that good progress was being made against the improvement plan and they planned to revisit to check progress again in the Summer 2020. Again, the plans for reinspection were interrupted by the COVID 19 pandemic. The Service has now received confirmation that HMICFRS will combine the protection reinspection with the full inspection in Spring 2021. HMICFRS had always planned to review progress against the cause of concern relating to culture during cycle 2 of inspections.

BENEFITS AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

HMICFRS Inspections and reports assist the Service in formulating its continuous improvement approach.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional Financial implications created by this report.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional Equality and Diversity implications created by this report.

WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT

A dedicated HMICFRS communications plan and employee engagement plan is live and is aligned to the HMICFRS dates for inspection.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The inspection of ECFRS by the HMICFRS forms part of a mandatory Home Office programme inspecting all 45 Fire and Rescue Services in England.