ESSEX POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service



Meeting	Service Leadership Team	Agenda Item	8j		
	Performance and Resources Board		14		
Meeting Date	8 September 2020				
	29 September 2020				
Report Author:	Colette Black, ACEO People, Values and Culture				
Presented By	Colette Black, ACEO People, Values and Culture				
Subject	Monitoring - Public Sector Equality Duty Objectives				
Type of Report:	Information				

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

 To note the monitoring of progress of the Service Objectives against the Public Sector Equality Duty Objectives (published in-line with The Public Sector Equality Duty [PSED] of the Equality Act 2010).

2. BACKGROUND

The Service initially adopted our PSED objectives on 1 March 2018. They were approved by the Inclusion and Diversity Steering Group and are in place until 28 February 2022. We last reviewed these as part of creating our People Strategy 2020-24, approved by the Strategic Board on 17 March 2020. The objectives are reflected in the section of our Strategy and associated plan called 'Fair, Kind and Inclusive' (**Appendix 1**).

The Service's Public Sector Equality Duty Objectives, published in-line with the PSED of the Equality Act 2010, are:

- To improve the recruitment, retention, progression, development, and experience of the
 people employed by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to enable the organisation to
 become an inclusive employer of choice.
- To promote and encourage employees to voluntarily declare their self-classification diversity data to ensure ECFRS actions as an employer are evidence led and improvement focused.
- To improve the mapping, quality and extent of equality information in order to better facilitate compliance with the public sector equality duty in relation to service delivery including IRMP additional activities.

- To review the equality impact of key organisational policies for differential impact in areas such as: recruitment and selection, learning and development, absence management, modified duties, talent management, appraisal, disciplinary and grievance.
- To ensure that all staff are treated with dignity and respect and have a workplace that is
 free from harassment and bullying by changing the culture of the organisation to one that is
 genuinely inclusive. All employees are high performing because we value their differences,
 which includes gender or gender identity, race, or religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation,
 disability, age, marital status, pregnancy, caring responsibilities, or membership of a trade
 union.
- To seek external review, challenge and accreditation of ECFRS' actions as an employer by actively participating with relevant equalities standards and benchmarks including the Fire and Rescue Service Equality Framework.

3. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

We monitor our progress against delivery of these objectives through several channels:

People Strategy Action Plan - provided to our People Strategy Board

- Our Annual Workforce Report the report for 2019 was submitted to the Strategic Board on 11 June 2020 (agenda item 8) (**Appendix 2**).
- Our Annual Workforce Plan the plan for 2020 (**Appendix 3**) was noted by SLT on 25 August 2020.
- Our Annual Plan 2020-21 Relevant extract provided (**Appendix 4**).

Together these documents provide a holistic view of progress against objectives.

4. BENEFITS AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

There is a risk that the Service does not continue to develop a safe, inclusive and diverse workforce.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None linked with this report.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None linked with this report.

7. WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT

None linked with this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Service has a duty to comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None linked with this report.

Appendix 1 – People Strategy and Plan – Fair, Kind and Inclusive

Work stream	Actions, enablers and nudges that support our change	Owner	Timeframe
Inclusive employer of choice	Exit quantitative and qualitative data will be analysed to determine key trends	NQ	By September 2020
	 Inclusion & Diversity Action Group to explore a range of positive action initiatives 	NH	By September 2020
	 Inclusion and Diversity Action Group will share information relating to progress against equality objectives 	NH	By September 2020
	Recruitment data for all vacancies will be analysed at individual stages of the recruitment process by equality data to determine any disproportionality	NH	By September 2021
	Talent Pool data will be analysed at all stages by equality data to determine disproportionality	NQ	By September 2021
	Positive action initiatives will be utilised to attract underrepresented groups in recruitment for all roles and for progression and development opportunities	NQ/NH	By September 2021
	Inclusion and Diversity Action Group will review findings of surveys completed by our people in relation to their experience within the workplace to determine action	NH	By September 2021
	Recruitment & Talent Pool assessments to include a combination of ECFRS employees and independent assessors from partner agencies or the community to reduce bias	NQ/NH	By September 2021
	Enable employee networks to thrive by agreeing objectives as part of an annual plan	NH	By September 2021

	Workplace Coaches are suitably skilled and equipped to coach neurodivergent people	NH	By September 2021
	Create a Positive Action engagement plan using a range of people from across the Service to talk about their role and journey to underrepresented groups and students	CB/NH	By September 2021
	Equality Representatives from all Representative Bodies will attend the Inclusion & Diversity Action Group quarterly	NH	By September 2021
	 Introduce a range of inclusive feedback mechanisms e.g reverse mentoring Evaluate the impact of positive action initiatives and community engagement 	NH	By September 2022
	Review current employee networks and propose a proactive way forward	NH	By September 2020
	Involve, consult and inform staff via Your Voice Engagement and Action Groups and via Workplace	NH	By September 2020
	Implement a best-practice Apprenticeship and Internship programme, with focus on increasing diversity	NH	By September 2020
	Create Microsoft Teams & Workplace pages for all Inclusion & Diversity Forums to maximise participation from across the Service	NH/VH	By September 2020
Diversity Data	 Encourage self-declaration of diversity data on our people systems to ensure a deeper understanding 	NH	By September 2020
	 Agree approach for managers to drive completion of equality data through 1:1's and appraisal meetings by explaining the role the data plays in driving workplace fairness 	NH	By September 2020
	Introduce a Workplace Passport for reasonable adjustments to be agreed and captured	NH	By September 2020
	Report monthly on self-declaration completion rates of equality data on people systems	NH	By September 2020

	Utilise workforce data to inform people impact assessments to support decision making, and report quarterly on how the data is translating into evidence led, improvement focused actions	NH/NQ	By September 2020
	Undertake Gender Pay Gap analysis to determine an action plan to address the gap identified	NH	By September 2020
	Analyse surveys and other qualitative data to determine action to support continuous improvement	NH	By September 2021
	Encourage the sharing of personal stories that demonstrate Inclusion & Diversity in action	NH	By September 2021
	Create a skills and experience database to support inclusive service delivery – language, cultural, disability, caring responsibilities	NH	By September 2021
	 Utilise the varied skills and lived experience from within the Service to influence decision making for community focussed policy and practice Evaluate use of individual skills and experience across the Service to support service delivery to diverse communities Undertake an Ethnicity Pay Gap 	NH	By September 2022
Service Delivery	Identify how employee forums could contribute to the development of People Impact Assessments to support changes to policy and practice for Service delivery	NH	By September 2020
	Explore how we can provide a programme of holistic community engagement in order to maximise the benefits to the Community and the Service (e.g consistently sharing Prevention, protection and recruitment messages when engaging with minority communities)	NH	By September 2020
	Consult employee networks and Inclusion & Diversity Action Group on community engagement opportunities	NH	By September 2020
	Implement a programme of holistic community engagement that includes protection, prevention and recruitment messages	NH	By September 2021
	Utilise community data to inform community engagement initiatives, content, and materials	NH	By September 2021

	Work alongside station management to ensure station Open Days are able to attract a diverse range of people from the surrounding community	NH	By September 2021
	Evaluate the effectiveness of community engagement initiatives using equality information to better facilitate effective service delivery	NH	By September 2022
People Impact Assessment	Commission training on People Impact Assessments	NH	By September 2020
	Equality review of our recruitment and progression approaches and policies	NQ/NH	By September 2020
	Review of grievances for trends to inform CPD for Dignity at Work Supporters	NQ / NH	By September 2020
	Delivery of PIA's across all change	NH	By September 2021
	Continuously monitor review and improve our recruitment approaches to ensure they support increased diversity and inclusion	NQ/NH	By September 2021
	Review the people impact of our learning and development, absence management, modified duties, talent management, appraisal, disciplinary and grievance policies and consider the potential for differential impact	NQ/NH	By September 2021 *
	Evaluate our People Impact Assessment approach to understand impact of key organisational policies, and determine improvement opportunities	NQ/NH	By September 2022
Dignity	Inform and educate our people:	CB/NH	By September 2020
	 Manager awareness sessions on getting the best from people including concepts of fairness and equality 	CB/NH	By September 2020
	 Awareness raising sessions on a range of inclusion and diversity themes e.g. neurodiversity 	CB/NH	By September 2020 *

	 Run Dignity in our Workplace sessions covering bullying, harassment and discrimination between groups of people 	CB/NH	By September 2020
	Re-promote and continuously develop our Dignity at Work Champions	NH	By September 2020
	Review the approaches and time taken to address informal grievances	NQ	By September 2020
	Measure Dignity at Work cases to determine trends	NH	By September 2020
	Continue to seek improvements to the way we tackle bullying and harassment	NH	By September 2021
	Provide Mediation training for Dignity at Work Supporters	NH	By September 2021
	We will have a full suite of Inclusion & Diversity policies	NH	By September 2021
	Ensure there are fair whistle blowing and grievance policies that are accessible to all	NQ	By September 2021
	Provide Multi Faith Chaplaincy	NH	By September 2021
	 Evaluate Dignity at Work provision Continuously monitor and review for improvement opportunities 	NH NH	By September 2022
Review and challenge	Utilise the ECFRS HMICFRS inspection report and findings to determine and support improvement	NH	By September 2020
	Identify a range of award opportunities that recognise good practice in Inclusion & Diversity	NH	By September 2020
	Review progress against Disability Confident criteria	NH / NQ	By September 2020
	Undertake a self-assessment against the Fire and Rescue Service Equality Framework provided by the LGA	NH	By September 2021

 Explore the use of external benchmarks that are aligned to the workforce demographic 	NH	By September 2021
Submit award nominations	CB/NH	By September 2021
 Commission a peer review of the Fire and Rescue Service Equality Framework 	NH	By September 2022
Undertake an external inclusion benchmarking assessment	NH	By September 2022

Appendix 2 – Extract from Annual Workforce Report 2019

This section covers information on five diversity characteristics – age, sex, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation.

Table 2: Age Profile					
Employee Group	Mean	Median	Min	Max	
Wholetime	43.8	44.7	19.9	61.6	
On-Call	39.3	37.2	18.5	70.2	
Control	41.9	40.8	25.6	62.3	
Support	47.2	49.1	18.4	75.7	
OVERALL	43.0	43.5	18.4	75.7	

Table 3: Majority Age Group					
	31 Ma	r 2019	31 Mar 2020		
Employee Group	Majority Group % of Employees in Group		Majority Group	% of Employees in Group	
Wholetime	46-55	44.3%	46-55	41.4%	
On-Call	25-35	39.0%	25-35	37.6%	
Control	25-35	37.1%	25-35	35.1%	
Support	46-55	31.5%	56-65	27.8%	
OVERALL	46-55	33.1%	46-55	31.1%	

Table 4: Sex Distribution					
Employee Crown	31 Ma	r 2019	31 Ma	r 2020	
Employee Group	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Wholetime	94.1%	5.90%	93.6%	6.4%	
On-Call	99.0%	1.0%	98.6%	1.4%	
Control	14.3%	85.7%	16.2%	83.8%	
Support	47.8%	52.2%	47.2%	52.8%	
OVERALL	84.7%	15.3%	83.5%	16.5%	

Table 5: Ethnicity						
Employee Group	White British	Other	Not Recorded			
Wholetime	46.2%	2.3%	51.5%			
On-Call	52.6%	2.3%	45.0%			
Control	70.3%	2.7%	27.0%			
Support	64.5%	3.7%	31.8%			
OVERALL	52.9%	2.6%	44.5%			

Table 6: Disability					
Employee Crown	31 Ma	r 2019	31 Ma	r 2020	
Employee Group	Disability	Not Stated	Disability	Not Stated	
Wholetime	94.1%	5.90%	1.4%	98.6%	
On-Call	99.0%	1.0%	1.4%	98.6%	
Control	14.3%	85.7%	0.0%	100.0%	
Support	47.8%	52.2%	4.0%	96.0%	
OVERALL	84.7%	15.3%	1.9%	98.1%	

	Table 7: Sexua	l Orientation	
Employee Group	Heterosexual	LGBQ+	Not Recorded
Wholetime	34.1%	1.7%	64.2%
On-Call	31.7%	0.2%	67.9%
Control	51.4%	5.4%	43.2%
Support	43.2%	2.8%	53.7%
OVERALL	35.7%	1.6%	62.7%

Workforce joiner diversity

	Table 8: Workforce Joiner (Gender
Employee Group	Male	Female
Wholetime	93.7%	6.3%
On-Call	96.6%	3.4%
Control	50.0%	50.0%
Support	38.8%	61.2%
OVERALL	77.7%	22.3%

	Table 9: Workford	e Joiner Ethnicity	
Employee Group	White British	Other	Not Recorded
Wholetime	73.0%	4.8%	22.2%
On-Call	58.0%	2.2%	39.8%
Control	100.0%	8.0%	0.0%
Support	61.2%	6.0%	32.8%
OVERALL	63.6%	4.1%	32.3%

	Table 10: Workforce Joiner Age Distribution					
Employee Group	17-24	25-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66+
Wholetime	11.1%	47.6%	20.6%	17.5%	1.6%	1.6%
On-Call	27.3%	35.2%	22.7%	6.8%	8.0%	0.0%
Control	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Support	10.4%	19.4%	31.3%	23.9%	14.9%	0.0%
OVERALL	17.7%	33.6%	25.0%	15.0%	8.2%	0.5%

Recruitment and Diversity

Current Profile

The following graph provides an overview of our gender profile and provides a national comparison, as at January 2020.

	(GENDER	PROFILE		
EE Group	Female	Male	Other	Essex %	National %
Operationa	al 40	547	9	6.7%	6.8%
On Call	7	440	1	1.6%	5.6%
Control	30	6	0	83.3%	77.0%
Support	153	141	2	51.7%	53.2%

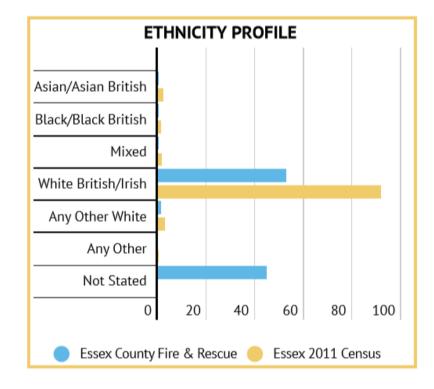
Notes:

The "Other" grouping includes employees that identify as Non-Binary, Other or Prefer Not to Say.

Essex % and National % compare the ECFRS % female employees with national fire service % female staff levels.

Whilst we are broadly comparable to the national picture, there is still more we need to do.

In respect of ethnicity profile, nearly half of our employees have not stated and just over half are white British/Irish; this is reflected in the following graph:



We continue to reach out to our people to encourage them to update their records to improve this picture, so we have a more accurate view of our workforce diversity. We will ensure that this data is collected via our Civica applicant tracking system as part of the application process in the future. Whole Time Recruitment Campaign 2019

The 2019 whole-time recruitment campaign was successful in that all the positions were appointed to with a high-quality cadre of candidates, however of the 109 females who initially registered and applied, only two were successful and offered positions. There were more 'successful candidates*' than positions available and these have been held on a reserve list/talent pool. This includes two females. We have been using this pool to ensure that the planned squads are optimised.

A lessons learned exercise was undertaken shortly after the campaign with those involved and other key stakeholders including our specialist diversity lead. Further work has been done to explore what other Services have done and are successfully doing to attract, assess, select and on-board a more diverse workforce.

These rich sources of information will be used to build our approach over the coming weeks, and we will continue to involve specialist colleagues and with these developments and engage with internal diversity groups.

More detail around our review of the attraction, assessment and selection methodology can be found later in this report, in the 'Resourcing Interventions' section.

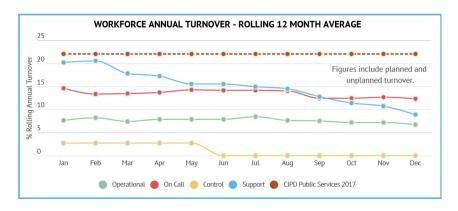
Current workforce profile

The following provides an overview of the Service's workforce profile as at January 2020 (this is the date that the workforce profiles contained throughout this document were run):



These graphs reflect the shortfall in operational roles compared to Control Room and Support staff. This capacity gap will continue to grow if we do not take immediate and ongoing action to continue to recruit and train.

The following graphic shows the annual turnover of our work groups with operation at around at least 5% including planned and unplanned attrition. Whilst this is below the national average in Public Services, the lead time and investment in our operational staff is likely to be more challenging that general recruitment across the public sector where workers are more likely to be suitably qualified and experienced for the roles they apply for.



Resourcing Activity

Prior to 2018, the last wholetime squad was recruited in 2009. This has resulted in a lack of movement and progression across our operational teams, resulting in some significant shortfalls in our pipelines, particularly in our middle management and senior roles.

The most recent whole-time campaign in 2019 was successful in that of the 1200 applications received 54 appointments were made and a reserve list of appointable candidates – an external talent pool - has been created that will make up a future squad.

Whilst the campaign attracted a good number of quality candidates, the diversity of applications was extremely limited. Of the 109 applications received from females, only three appointments were made. No disabilities were declared by the successful applicants, and ethnicity declared was low throughout the process. The reserve list contains one female candidate and a candidate who has declared a disability. Our plans, contained within the People Strategy, are to review our assessment and selection methodologies before we invest in the next recruitment campaign for whole-time employees.

There has been limited interest and attraction for some of our external applications for qualified and experienced positions, particularly for Operational Policy roles. These have been advertised on several occasions. We plan to take a closer look at our talent attraction strategies and build our employer proposition through the introduction of external

talent pools, development of promotional materials and better use of job boards, networks and social media.

Since 2004, the internal promotion process has been subject to many changes. The National ADC process was followed for a short time and then ECFRS moved to a range of internal processes devised by senior managers across the Service. In 2013, an interim process was put in place, resulting in several temporary appointments until the introduction of a full assessment centre / Talent Pool process in 2017 which has been very successful to date.

Previous Workforce Plan

Until now a Workforce Planning Report has been provided to SLT every 6 months, with the most recent versions submitted in Jan 2019 and July 2019.

The previous workforce plans have enabled us to focus on the recruitment campaigns required to address our shortfalls and help to build potential talent pools for the future.

This interim workforce plan builds upon this experience and is intended to begin to set the strategic direction of travel for all our medium to long term resourcing requirements. The full workforce plan, which will be published later this year, will consider a wider range of strategic resourcing issues and recommended interventions. An outline of the resourcing issues to be considered are set out in the resourcing interventions section of this plan.

Development of this workforce plan

Several strategic workforce planning sessions have been held with senior leaders across the Service, to share the current workforce profile, along with the predictions for the next 5 years. These sessions have built an understanding of the need for long-term resourcing plans and a people strategy.

This has developed a collective ownership of the strategic importance for workforce change, through incremental build to gain momentum.

Promote a positive	Formalise the internal	Communicate new proposed structure to finance team
culture in the workplace	compliance processes	Write JD/PS for compliance role
	and role, including the	Prepare Job Evaluation
	scheduling of Audits	Advertise & recruit to role
	and monitoring of	Successful candidate to establish internal compliance measures
	progress against	Successful candidate to establish internal compilation medicales
	actions	auditors
Promote a positive culture	People Strategy - deliver	We will ensure compliance with mandatory training
in the workplace	the People Strategy.	We will launch our Leadership Community
P	3,	We will adopt the NFCC Leadership Framework and Core Learning Pathway.
		We will offer development opportunities that link to each element of the
		framework and pathway
		We will develop our succession planning approach so that we are developing
		people with potential to fill key roles
		We will plan, commission and run departmental training plans.
		We will begin an interim programme that offers the potential for mindset shift –
		360 feedback, coaching and solution focussed thinking
		We will plan, commission and run the Core Learning Pathway.
		We will ensure appraisal offer is differentiated as part of enabling people to
		develop their career options
		We will relaunch our coaching offer with internal and external coaches
		We will commission a 4 year leadership development programme that
		introduces managers to a people centre philosophy that prioritises positive
		behaviours, staff motivation, engagement and personal accountability
Promote a positive culture	We will deliver the	We will review the training that we consider to be mandatory We will launch a Service wide event to celebrate "We are one team".
in the workplace	continued development of	We will complete work to embed our values in all policies and processes.
III tile workplace	our culture. The details	We will maintain active participation in Your Voice Action and Engagement
	of this is set out in our	Groups which will contribute to organisational development.
	Continued Cultural	We will develop a process to support improved completion of people impact
	Development Plan. In	assessments for all new policies, policy updates and projects.
	2020/21, we will deliver	We will relaunch our coaching offering and extend the offer throughout the
	year 1-2 of the plan	Service.
		We will drive high-performing teams by developing tools and methodologies to enable performance conversations.
		Grabie performance conversations.

		We will relaunch our values and, through Your Voice Engagement and Action Group, build behaviours that underpin these. These will be linked to the
		national leadership framework.
		We will consult our employee networks on community engagement
		opportunities and service delivery changes to ensure we make informed
		decisions and capture a range of views and ideas to maximise opportunities.
		We will review and process re-engineer employee lifecycle 'points of frustration' to embed smooth processes
		We will explore community-based recruitment routes to reconnect with our
		social purpose through wider inclusivity.
		We will run an engagement survey and follow up to Everyone Matters.
		We will develop and implement tools to identify and nurture high performing
		individuals for our talent pool.
		We will work alongside station management to ensure station Open Days are
		able to attract a diverse range of people from the surrounding community.
Promote a positive culture	Work with Staff to agree a	Commence work on TOIL policy adopting AL guiding principles
in the workplace	revised TOIL Policy	Submit draft Policy to SLT
		Commence consultation with representative bodies
		Implement Policy
		Complete review and update of Annual Leave Policy
Promote a positive culture	Work with staff to	Retention: monitor through monthly reporting
in the workplace	improve the recruitment	Recruitment: Make recommendations to SLT
	and retention of on call	Retention: Review exit survey results and report to SLT
	firefighters	Recruitment: Set out commitments in People Strategy 2020-24
		Recruitment: Research and benchmark good practice eg NFCC
Promote a positive	We will deliver	4 x Group Trainers continue to support Crew, Watch and Station
culture in the workplace	Operational Training	Managers, to deliver greater levels of station-based training, through
	that ensures we can	locally led development
	offer assurance of	Phase 2 of Core Skills Assurance Programme will be 100% complete
	competence for all	A full suite of on line training products will have been produced
	firefighters. The detail	100% of Station Managers will be verifiers
	of this is in our People	Our Competency Recording system will have been reviewed and
	Strategy Action Plan.	updated.
	In 2020/21 we will:	100% of Crew Managers will have completed 'Train the Trainer'
		Refurbishment of BA facilities will be underway

	Use of the Fire Service College has been fully evaluated and a decision made about how we best deliver whole time basic skills courses going	
	forward	