

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



Meeting	SLT	Agenda Item	4h
	Performance & Resources Board		10
Meeting Date	13 April 2021		
	26 April 2021		
Report Author:	James Palmer, Area Manager Prevention and Protection		
Presented By	Moira Bruin, Assistant Chief Fire Officer		
Subject	Protection Improvement Plan Peer Review and Closure report		
Type of Report:	Decision		

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Performance & Resources Board are asked to note the progress made against the HMICFRS Protection Improvement Plan and to approve the recommendation to report on the peer review quarterly or by exception and to close the protection improvement plan.

BACKGROUND

Following the Services first HMICFRS Inspection in July 2019 the Service were required to submit an improvement plan detailing how the required improvement would be delivered in the protection department. As part of the agreed governance in relation to this plan the Service committed to provide the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner with regular updates on progress against the plan.

UPDATE

PROTECTION IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE – APRIL 2021

Good progress has been made against the protection improvement plan. Delivery against the plan began on 1 October 2019 and covered an 18-month period to deliver the necessary action and achieve the required improvement. This period ended on the 31st March 2021. All activities set out in the Protection improvement plan have been delivered except for one. The one outstanding is.

- Develop an interactive platform to publish enforcement. (this is currently being done as per national guidance on the NFCC pages).

It is proposed that this is rolled into business as usual and as such no reports will be produced to confirm this has been completed. For clarity enforcement activity is currently being published, the proposed activity was to enhance the visibility of this enforcement to the public. This will be tied into wider work that is being carried out under the digital transformation.

As part of the protection improvement plan the service commissioned a peer review by Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. The recommendations from that peer review are outlined below:

- Provide further evidence for the enhancement of the sharing of information and expectations to businesses. This may be by way of an external communications plan.
- Clarify & evidence provision of Out of Hours FP cover.
- Include some commentary within the Protection Strategy to explain sufficiency of resources or planning to enhance this. This would give better clarity as to how ECFRS are going to achieve parity with the NFCC Competency Framework which HMI will use a benchmark.
- Outline clear objectives & target figures for audit activity in order to evidence the ability to meet these.
- Create links to the HR policy/people strategy for Fire Protection.
- Supply and/or provide clear link to Quality Assurance Policy for all audit activity.
- Outline clear objectives & rationale for enforcement activity in order to evidence the ability to increase this activity.
- Provide further evidence for the enhancement of pro-active engagement with businesses to promote fire safety. This may be by way of an external communications plan.

A plan has been produced to deliver against the findings of the peer review. These activities will be part of the continuous improvement within the Protection function within ECFRS. It is proposed that the plan is reported on quarterly through SLT and P&R board to ensure effective oversight and scrutiny.

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

Is this decision anticipated to have an impact on any of the following protected groups as defined within the Equality Act 2010:

Race	No	Religion or belief	No
Sex	No	Gender reassignment	No
Age	No	Pregnancy & maternity	No
Disability	No	Marriage and Civil Partnership	No
Sexual orientation	No		

WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT

Protection staff and affected members of staff have been engaged throughout the delivery of this plan and the subsequent peer review plan.

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.