



Meeting	Service Leadership Team	Agenda no.	5c
	Performance and Resources Board		13
Meeting Date	14 September 2021		
	30 September 2021		
Report Authors:	AM Chris Parker		
Presented By	Moira Bruin, Director of Operations		
Subject	Grenfell Phase 1 High Level Action Plan – Quarterly Update		
Type of Report:	Decision		
Action Point No.		For publication	Yes/No

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the proposal to move oversight of this plan into the organisational change programme is supported, allowing for additional governance and monitoring of future progress.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a progress report against the Grenfell Action Plan. Progress during the last period has mainly been concentrated in the Protection elements of the plan, with limited progress in other areas. Within the Options section of this paper a proposal has been put forward highlighting how additional governance and monitoring can be applied to the plan, to ensure consistent progress is made in all areas moving forwards.

BACKGROUND

Following the Grenfell fire on 14 June 2017, ECFRS took immediate action including (*Paper 18-295, SLT agenda item 6a: 16/10/2018*):

- Critical Incident Team (CIT) stood up to prioritise and oversee an immediate response
- NFCC sit-reps and guidance were received and actioned which resulted in an immediate assessment of risk in Essex high rise buildings
- Immediate implementation of a targeted inspection programme for high rise residential buildings, including identification of cladding and substandard fire doors. Where issues were identified – arrangements for the building were reviewed, control measures were agreed with the duty-holder and information shared with operational crews
- Review and risk assessment of ‘stay-put’ policy in line with NFCC guidance

- An immediate and extensive campaign; including face to face engagement aimed at reassuring high rise residents in Essex

Grenfell Inquiry Phase 1

The Grenfell Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations were released on 31 October 2019. The proposed Service approach to the recommendations was approved by SLT on 12 November 2019 (*Paper 19-266, SLT agenda item 5c*).

NFCC – Grenfell Tower Inquiry

On 16 December 2019, a briefing pack was received from the NFCC Chair, Roy Wilsher detailing the NFCC response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry recommendations. The NFCC Central Programme Office co-ordinated the fire national response to the recommendations made by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, and sought response to their survey. The ECFRS responded by the deadline of 10 January.

Gap Analysis – Phase 1 Grenfell Tower Inquiry Report Recommendations

ECFRS Developed a Grenfell Tower Action plan detailing the ECFRS interpretation to the recommendations as well as aligning the actions to the national guidelines to ensure that the recommendations of the Inquiry report are being met, this report has previously been shared. The responsible officers are linking the actions from the Grenfell Phase 1 report and the HMICFRS Protection improvement plan. The actions within the plan have responsible persons across the whole service.

To support the delivery of the Grenfell Plan the service has implemented a new Risk Based Inspection Programme. The highest risk property type within that plan are high rise >10 floors. This demonstrates the importance of allocating additional resources to this specific high-risk area.

The service has committed resource to the Building Risk Review to ensure we can continue on the trajectory outlined in the return sent to NFCC and previously agreed with SLT.

Latest progress (as of 27 July) from the last report on the action plan has been:

- Continuation of the Building Risk Review (BRR) Activity. Further update on progress is supplied in the specific paper for the BRR.
- Protection activity aligned to RBIP.
- Continued enforcement activity on high rise buildings following the BRR audit.
- Surge funding submissions being sent to NFCC and monies are being allocated and spent. More detail on this will be provided in an update paper for September's SLT meeting
- A new Area Manager for Prevention & Protection and Head of Protection has been appointed during the last reporting period.
- Review undertaken of the ownership and monitoring of the plan moving forwards.

Fig. 1 Shows overall progress against all activities in the plan

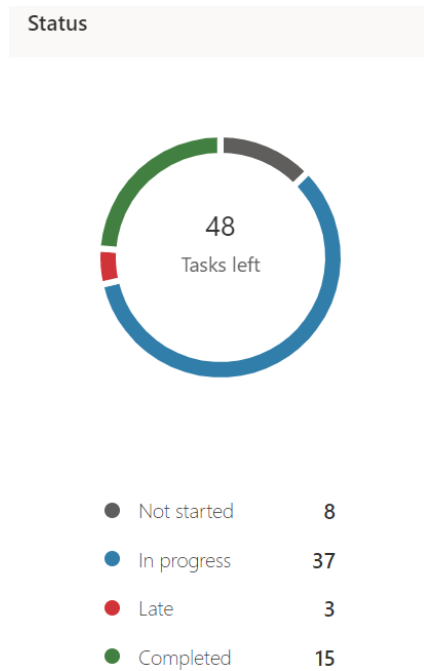
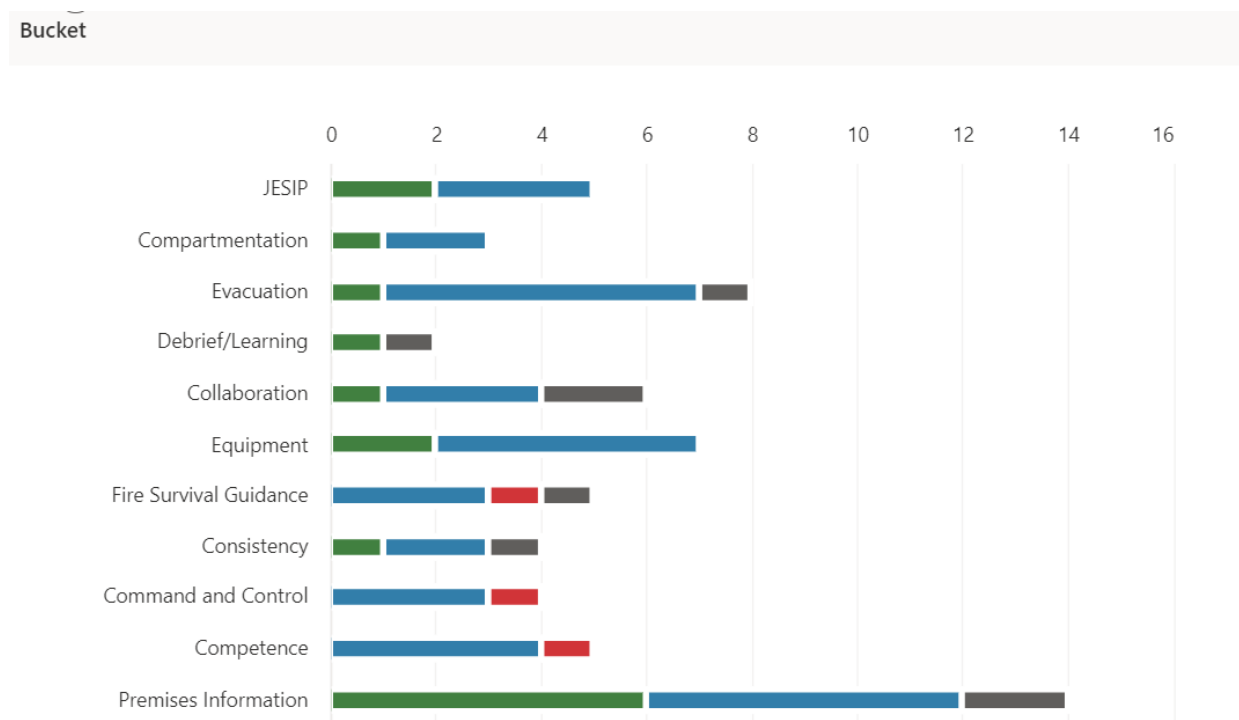


Fig. 2 Shows progress against the areas grouped by NFCC thematic areas



OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

The content of the Grenfell Action Plan impacts across many areas of the service and the current approach of one individual monitoring and holding responsibility for managing the plan has slowed delivery. Although there is continued progress, this is not consistent across all areas.

Our proposal for improvement is to add additional governance and support to the recommendation action owners. This will be achieved by allocating resource from the central change team to take on responsibility and oversight of the plan. The SLT lead for the plan will be the Director of Operations. The Assistant Director for Change and Operations Policy will assume the role of SRO and work with the change team. Assistant Directors will continue to have responsibility for individual work streams within the plan.

The alternative will be to remain within the current reporting mechanism which does not provide as robust a monitoring and control process.

RISKS AND MITIGATIONS

SRR150010: 'There is a risk that the Service fails to, or is unable to, implement appropriately the learning from local/national incidents, audit reports, case studies, changes/interpretation to law/regulations in an effective and timely way.'

Other strategic risks which are relevant are:

- SRR150014- There is a risk that through action or non-actions by the Service, there is a fatality of a member of staff or the public
- SRR150020 - The Service does not provide training to ensure that all employees have the skills to carry out their roles.
- SRR150017- The Service fails to prepare or plan effectively, in line with Civil Contingencies Act 2004, leading to an inadequate response to an emergency.

LINKS TO FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

- Make best use of our resources
- Annual Plan AP202122- 08

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Anticipated financial impact post Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2, due to increased resourcing, training, and Protection activity. It is yet unclear, however, the Local Government Association (LGA) and National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) anticipate new burdens around this area of Fire and Rescue Service delivery, although it is as yet unclear if this will affect FRS funding, post Grenfell Inquiry.

Some Financial Mitigation has been provided by the release of £317k of Central Government funding to ECFRS. This funding has been allocated and will result in additional members of staff and increased training for existing staff.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Changes to Fire Safety legislation are anticipated following Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2 which is likely to drive changes inspection regimes and statutory responsibilities in high rise residential buildings. This has driven changes to ECFRS Protection Strategy which has been reviewed to take this into account. The strategy and the accompanying Risk Based Inspection Programme have been approved.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Ongoing workforce communications and engagement are taking place with our workforce around the Grenfell Inquiry.

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		

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc 1974 we have a duty to protect the Health, Safety and Welfare at work of all employees as well as others who may be affected by our work including the general public.

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 also identifies our obligation to continually assess risks. The proposed piece of work seeks to identify any gaps in the approach to the management of operational risk in relation to high rise residential fire procedures and ultimately to contribute to the Health and Safety of responders and residents of high-rise residential buildings.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The representative bodies have been consulted with, in relation to the content of the plan and impact on members.