

## AVON FIRE AUTHORITY

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Avon Fire Authority</b>
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	<b>Wednesday, 22 June 2022</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Service Round-up</b>

### 1. **SUMMARY**

- This report is to highlight areas of good work across Avon Fire & Rescue Service (AF&RS), which has taken place between March and May 2022.

### 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Fire Authority is asked to note the report.

### 3. **BACKGROUND**

This report aims to give an overview of the work across Service Delivery, Service Delivery Support, Corporate Services and other proactive communications activity, project or team work.

### 4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This report has no financial implications.

### 5. **KEY CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Business Fire Safety (BFS)**

- 5.1 The department has successfully held a recruitment campaign to fill two vacant posts utilising baseline revenue funding and an additional two posts above establishment utilising a Home Office grant. This recruitment supports the succession planning of the department over the next two years.
- 5.2 Following ratification from the People and Culture Committee on 18 May 2022, two additional posts have also been agreed under 'Re-engagement' to

provide resilience on fixed term contracts to support the department and the development of new staff.

- 5.3 The Fire Safety Act 2021 and additional Regulations under Article 24 have commenced on the 16 and 18 May 2022 respectively. The Act adds external wall systems and front doors to the overall responsibilities of building owners/Responsible persons (RP) with more regulations as part of the Grenfell Tower recommendations to be in place by January 2023.
- 5.4 The Team have been promoting the benefits of sprinklers over various social media platforms during National Sprinkler Week.
- 5.5 BFS team members provided a stand with leaflets and advice on fire safety at the recent Landlords Expo, Bristol UK (May 2022).

### **Vulnerable Adults**

- 5.6 The Vulnerable Adults team recently worked in collaboration with South Gloucestershire Council and Southern Brooks to host a 'Welcome Event' for refugees from the Ukraine. The event invited sponsors and their Ukraine guests to Yate Fire Station on the 20 May 2022, to support them with information about the local area, access to council representations and the opportunity to meet other people in the same situation as them. The event was really successful, and the guests were very grateful for the opportunity.
- 5.7 The Vulnerable Adults team continue to promote home fire safety measures by conducting regular talks with local community groups and providing practitioner training to professionals.
- 5.8 The Team supported the UK Hong Kong Friendship Festival on College Green in Bristol on 21 May 2022. A crew from Bedminster Fire Station attended engaging with families and shared our prevention materials.

### **Children and Young People (CYP)**

- 5.9 The CYP manager attended the latest meeting of the Bristol Water Safety Partnership. The multi-agency group come together to support water safety initiatives in Bristol to prevent water related incidents and provide education and interventions to support water safety.
- 5.10 Operational crews have continued to deliver Key Stage education initiative to local schools. The Service DISCO (early years education/role play) packs continue to be delivered to schools with the packs being booked up until Christmas.

- 5.11 Firesetter intervention referrals continue to be received with CYP staff carrying out the educational programme. Our Firesetter lead also continues to lead on work at national level supporting the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC).

### **Transformation programme**

- 5.12 The introduction of a new Impact Assessment process into the Service will positively impact how the Service develops policies and procedures to be inclusive and support managers when developing or changing areas of work.
- 5.13 Work continues in delivering the Service's Digital Foundation Proposal. This includes determining the governance strategy for the implementation of Microsoft 365 applications, more specifically Teams and Sharepoint.
- 5.14 A communication strategy has been developed outlining the communication and engagement objectives for the work of the programme, supporting the three key areas: digitising our Service, reviewing our processes and reviewing our policies over the next year (2022-23).

### **UK2Ukraine fundraising event**

- 5.15 On the weekend of 8-10 April 2022, AF&RS came together to take on a 48-hour challenge to run and cycle 1823km, the distance between the UK and Ukraine, to raise much-needed funds for their communities.
- 5.16 The event was hosted in the centre of Cabot Circus in Bristol and after non-stop cycling and running for the period, staff completed a total of 2976km, smashing the target, and raised £7,100 for the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal.

### **Green Energy Awards 2022**

- 5.17 The Service, with Solarsense, was announced as winner of the Clean Energy Scheme at this year's Green Energy Awards, hosted by Regen, a leading centre of expertise in the transition to net zero energy.
- 5.18 The award recognised the installation and integration of a range of renewable technologies across five Service sites including: solar panels, battery storage, solar thermal and heat pumps and the AF&RS clean energy project will generate carbon savings of 80-90 tonnes per year and is a benchmark for the role of the Fire & Rescue sector in the Net-Zero journey.

### **International Women's Day 2022**

- 5.19 Tuesday 8 March 2022 marked International Women's Day and this year's theme was #BreakTheBias, which looks to celebrate women's achievements, raise awareness of bias against women and encourage action for equality.

- 5.20 Alongside a range of campaign activity to mark the day, Bristol Live once again revealed their list of inspiring and influential women from across the South West. We are delighted that AF&RS Director of Corporate Services, Angie Feeney and Watch Manager Anna James (recently promoted to Station Manager) were once again recognised for the second year running. In addition, this year, Environmental Manager Annabel Harford was included.

### **AF&RS support DIY SOS rebuild project**

- 5.21 In November 2021, filming for award winning TV show DIY SOS took place in Bristol, where a team of volunteers including AF&RS firefighters undertook a 10-day makeover project to help rebuild a much-loved adventure playground on Doncaster Road, Southmead.
- 5.22 Southmead's adventure playground was sadly vandalised in 2021 and was deemed unfit for purpose. Despite firefighters' best efforts to extinguish the fire following an arson attack, it was already too late, leading to the community facility being out of action ever since.
- 5.23 Throughout the rebuild, firefighters from Green Watch and Red Watch Southmead spent several days on site working alongside other volunteers, generously giving up their time and skills for the community project. The full DIY SOS episode aired on BBC on 24 May and can be viewed on iPlayer.

## **6. RISKS**

This report has no operational, financial or reputational risks.

## **7. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has no legal or policy implications.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

This report has no background papers.

## **9. APPENDICES**

Press releases and incident reports of note March 2022 - May 2022.

## **10. REPORT CONTACT**

Amber Foreman, Head of Corporate Communications.