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**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

Pewsey Area Board Report

Coronation Hall, East Grafton

11th September 2017

Dorset and Wiltshire Combination: Chief Fire Officer - 18 months on!!

It is now nearly 18 months on from combination, and I have been absolutely committed to reviewing the new Service's structure, to ensure that all departments are fit for purpose and able to deliver against our agreed priorities.

Heads of Department completed this review earlier in the year as part of the annual planning process, proposing to the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) the structure and resources needed. The majority of these proposals have been approved by SLT and these changes will start taking place shortly.

As part of this process, it was important that I also reviewed the effectiveness of my team, SLT, and I did this alongside an external consultant. I need to make sure that, as strategic leaders, we are able to meet the challenges we face as a bigger Service with many more external stakeholders as well as looking ahead to future challenges.

Recommendations were taken to the Fire Authority in June, seeking approval of a revised structure which would uplift an existing member of SLT to take on the additional duties as my deputy. Along with deputising for me in my role as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, the role will involve specific focus on strengthening key business decisions, Service strategy and organisational performance.

After a period of consultation, the opportunity is now being advertised internally and I would expect to be in a position to advise you of the outcome of this process by late September.

Clearly we cannot forget that our budget position over the longer term will continue to provide us with challenges, but I feel assured that the changes proposed by Heads of Departments, and the strengthening of my senior team, will ensure that we continue to deliver an effective Service within these constraints.

Ben Ansell, Chief Fire Officer

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New roles within the Service

Starting in September, Wiltshire Area will run a pilot of seven new District Support Officers until 31 December.

The new District Support Officer (DSO) role, carried out by a combination of wholetime and retained Crew and Watch Managers, is being introduced to provide support to on-call station management teams.

Those in post for the trial are:

- T/WM (Amesbury) - SM Tom Brolan
- T/WM (Marlborough) - SM Jason Underwood
- T/WM (Devizes) - SM Jack Nicholson
- T/WM (Warminster) - SM Darren Nixon
- T/CM (Chippenham) - SM Ade Hurren
- T/CM (Salisbury) - SM Jason Moncrieff
- T/CM (Trowbridge) - SM Andy Green

They will liaise closely with their District Commanders, and dependent on the Service's priorities and objectives; assist with planning and supporting recruitment events and the selection process, succession planning, arranging on-call crewing shortfalls, facilitating training for maintenance of skills and development pathway sessions, working alongside stations on profiling their risk, and helping with the planning and delivery of community safety activities.

If successful, following the conclusion of the trial on 31 December, the scheme will be advertised and introduced across the organisation and will replace the existing On-Call Support Officer and Rural Safety Officer roles.

It is essential that personnel support the trial to ensure its effectiveness and enable the support to be targeted where it is most needed. All stations and personnel involved are encouraged to provide feedback.

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Community Engagement

Staff at Pewsey are collecting and carrying out Safe & Well visits in Pewsey and the surrounding areas, along with our safe & well advisors and the new District Support Officers.

The station and its' staff are supporting several educational events at local primary schools, run by DWFRS Education Advisors.

The importance of fire safety is a message that can't be delivered too soon, which is why we have a team of education advisors who work with young people across Wiltshire, Bournemouth, Dorset, Poole, Swindon.

At primary school level, education advisors visit classes with structured lesson plans that focus on issues such as the work of the Fire & Rescue Service, the dangers of playing with matches, the importance of smoke alarms, having a fire plan, and dialling 999 in an emergency. Older children are also taught why you should never make hoax calls.

We can also arrange visits to our fire stations or one of our safety centres. For more information or to make a booking for your school or pre-school, please visit our webpage; <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/school-visits/> or email enquiries@dwfire.org.uk

We are also available to attend flu clinics at local Practices to give out home safety advice and collect referrals for Safe & Well visits.

If you need a smoke alarm, some advice or are worried about what you would do in an emergency, contact us for a free Safe and Well visit; <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>

Fire Service Supporting UK Business Safety Week

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) is offering businesses fire safety advice as part of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) UK Business Safety Week 2017.

The week runs from 11 to 17 September and aims to make sure businesses and their staff have the information they need to prevent, protect and respond to fire incidents in the workplace.

The week has been scheduled to run at a time when many businesses will be recruiting additional members of seasonal staff in the run up to the Christmas period.

New recruits may not have the same level of fire safety awareness as permanent members of staff, and may not be aware of the steps needed to protect themselves, their customers and colleagues.

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UK Business Safety Week also presents a good opportunity to remind employers of the need to review fire risk assessments and training and make sure existing staff know the importance of fire safety.

DWFRS is asking businesses to:

- ensure they have taken action to prevent fires in the workplace
- take action to protect themselves from arson
- make sure all staff know how to respond appropriately in the event of an incident
- work with their local fire service to reduce false alarms and enforcement notices

DWFRS continue to work with local Chamber of Commerce groups and during UK Business Safety Week, teams will be in the following areas from 10am to 3pm, meeting business owners delivering fire safety advice.

- Grove Trading Estate, Dorchester, 11 September
- Blandford and Sherborne, 11 and 12 September
- Westbury and Wilton, 11 and 12 September
- Westminster and Carey Road industrial estates, Wareham, 12 September
- Elliott Road, Bournemouth, 13 September
- Gorsehill, Swindon, 14 September

DWFRS Head of Fire Safety, Seth Why, said “Once again I am delighted that our local fire safety officers will be working with small and medium size businesses to help them ensure that they are able to operate in a way that is safe from the terrible effects of fire.

These businesses make a massive contribution to the UK economy and local communities, and we want to help them to do this in a sustainable and safe way.”

If members of the public have a general fire safety enquiry regarding commercial property, please email fire.safety@dwfire.org.uk or call 01722 69 1717 during office hours (9am-5pm).

Response

Total number of calls for Pewsey Fire Station: July – September - 2017

Category	Callsign	Total Incidents
False Alarm	37P1	8
Fire	37P1	7
Other	37P1	4
Special Service	37P1	7
Total	37P1	26

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On-Call Recruitment

Following successful recruitment evenings that was held at various stations around the County last year, Pewsey Fire Station have hosted their own recruitment evening and now have seven recruits in development. If you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming an on call Firefighter, please ask them to come along on a Monday evening and speak to the crew.

Alternatively, if you know of anyone who is interested in becoming an On Call Firefighter, visit the webpage; <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/> or pop in the station for a chat on any Mon evening between 7pm and 9pm.

Recent Notable Incidents

Light aircraft crash – Brimslade Farm Cottages

Tom Brolan

District Commander. Amesbury, Pewsey & Ludgershall

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

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