

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 23RD NOVEMBER 2022
REPORT OF: HEAD OF SERVICE IMPROVEMENT
AUTHOR: GM AARON COLLIS

SUBJECT: HMICFRS INSPECTION 2021 (ROUND 2) ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update on progress against the Round 2 Action Plan and information about the expected arrangements for the Round 3 inspection.

Recommended: That

- [1] members note the progress and remaining actions detailed in the plan and any remaining areas to resolve are discussed.

Background

2. The Service was last inspected in April 2021 and, in the December 2021 report, achieved a 'Good' grading against each of the three pillars of Effectiveness, Efficiency and People. The Service achieved 'Good' in ten of the eleven diagnostics. One area was deemed to 'Require Improvement'; to how well the Service develops leadership and capability in its people.
3. Within an inspection report, HMICFRS will formally identify 'Areas for Improvement' (AFIs) where it believes a service needs to take action to improve performance and deliver a better service to the public. It may also make suggestions in the narrative of the report which are of lesser significance but are still notable reflections of the evidence gathered during the inspection.
4. HMICFRS identified nine AFIs in our last inspection. There is an expectation that the Service takes appropriate steps to resolve these and improve performance in advance of the next inspection. Several other suggestions of a lesser significance were also included within the report. These are all included within the HMICFRS Action Plan which is included as Appendix 1 to this report.

Information

5. In October, the Organisational Performance team completed a review using the HMICFRS judgement criteria and assessment methodology to assess progress against each AFI and the other suggestions. Heads of Departments and action

owners have since been provided with feedback and submitted further commentary and evidence relating to progress which is included within the appended version of the Action Plan. The Action Plan includes reference to completed actions, ongoing actions, and those that remain open.

6. HMICFRS is intending to resume its third round of inspections in early 2023 which will again involve a rounded assessment of services across the themes of effectiveness, efficiency and people. It will introduce a fifth grading of 'Adequate' which will sit between the previous 'Good' and 'Requires Improvement' grades. Pillar judgments will also be removed, and instead inspectors will provide 11 separate gradings for each diagnostic. Based on the timing of Round 2 inspections, the Service is likely to be one of the first to be inspected within Round 3.

Financial Implications

7. There are no direct financial implications associated with the Action Plan. However, departments may have specific financial requirements to deal with the areas of concern. These will be managed at a departmental level.

Legal Implications

8. None

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. None

Environmental Implications

10. None

Appendix 1 – HMICFRS Inspection 2001 Action Plan

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE