

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 26th APRIL 2017
REPORT OF: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
AUTHOR: MATTHEW MAGUIRE

SUBJECT: CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON PUBLIC
SERVICE REFORM STRATEGY 2017-2020

Purpose of Report

1. This report presents the Sub-regional Public Service Reform Strategy 2017-2020 (the Strategy) for the Fire Authority to consider. The full Strategy is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The Strategy has been developed to clearly set out the programme of work being delivered at a Cheshire-wide level by the Fire Authority and its local partners.

Recommended:

- [1] That the report be considered.

Background

2. The Cheshire and Warrington Sub-Region is the partnership that brings together local councils, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), the police, fire and rescue service, NHS and health bodies, probation services, local enterprise partnership and relevant Government agencies from across Cheshire, to collaborate around key issues and shared agendas.
3. The Strategy has been developed by the Public Service Transformation Programme Board, where the Authority is represented by the Head of Policy and Inclusion, Matt Maguire. The Authority is represented on the Leaders' Board by the Chair of the Fire Authority and at the Management Board by the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive.
4. Public service reform (PSR) is one of two overarching strategic priorities of the Sub-Regional Leaders' Board. The other is economic growth, which links to the growth deal and mayoral model being discussed and negotiated with the Government.
5. While Halton sits within the Liverpool City Region for economic growth and other issues covered by the city's growth deal, on issues of public

service reform and other areas not under the new metro mayor's remit it sits with the Cheshire and Warrington partnership.

Information

6. The Strategy was developed collectively by the sub-regional partners. The Strategy sets out how the partners aim to take action in relation to those individuals with the most complex needs and how they intend to improve the wellbeing and prosperity of all Cheshire's communities.
7. The Strategy draws together a range of activities and work-streams that are being pursued in order to address the issues faced by those most in need across Cheshire.
8. This includes work focused on key demographic groups, such as those furthest away from the jobs market and in low-income employment, people who may be affected by domestic abuse and those at risk of entering the criminal justice system.
9. The Strategy aims to focus resources on prevention, to support those in greatest need and to reduce reliance on public services – following a model similar to that achieved by fire and rescue services over the last decade.
10. The Strategy is organised into three overarching themes: health and wellbeing; complex dependency; and enablers. Each of the themes contains a number of activities and projects beneath a series of sub-headings, as set out below.

Health and wellbeing

- Mental health
- Learning disabilities
- Health and social care

Complex dependency

- Complex worklessness and in-work progression
- Tackling domestic abuse
- Reducing reoffending

Enablers

- Leadership in public services
- Digital public services
- One public estate

Other

- Emergency services collaboration
- Investing in public service reform
- Outcomes

- Benefit realisation
11. A final section highlights other related projects and collaborations that will impact on this work, such as the Fire Authority's Blue Light Collaboration with the PCC and Cheshire Constabulary.
 12. The Strategy will provide a direction of travel for the sub-regional partnership over the next three years and will be reviewed and refreshed at periodic intervals. Where the issues align with the work of the Fire Authority, such as is the case with the Complex Dependency Programme, these have already been included in the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2017-18 and relevant Departmental Plans.

Financial Implications

13. The Fire Authority makes an annual financial contribution to the Sub-Region, which funds a number of supporting posts and work-streams. Other major programmes are funded through additional sources, such as Government transformation funding, as is the case with the Complex Dependency Programme. Other projects, such as the Blue Light Collaboration, are funded independently of the Sub-Region, by the agencies involved.

Legal Implications

14. The Sub-Region is not a legal partnership. However, many of the work-streams being delivered support the agencies and partners involved helping them to discharge their various legal obligations.

Equality and Diversity Implications

15. The development of the Strategy was supported by an overarching needs assessment which considered the impact on those from marginalised and minority communities and those with enhanced needs. All the programmes and activities are supported by Equality Impact Assessments.

Environmental Implications

16. There are no environmental impacts arising from this Strategy.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE