



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

11 November 2022

Tri-Service Community Safety Responders

Report of the Director Community Risk Management

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to inform members of an expansion of the Tri-Service Community Safety Responder (CSR) scheme to the Teesdale and East Durham Coastal area.

Background

2. Currently there are two CSRs based at Stanhope. These posts are funded between Durham Constabulary and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) with a respective 60/40 funding split.
3. They are also trained to carry out medical first response as a co-responder. For this role they were trained by the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS). This training was seen as NEAS's contribution to the scheme.
4. The role of the Stanhope CSR is to perform the joint roles of Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), On-Call Firefighter and medical co-responder.
5. Their role is to also help drive further reductions in risk to the most vulnerable communities through a wider approach to prevention activities and conduct community safety work jointly on behalf of the three agencies.

New Scheme

6. The new scheme is a three-way agreement between Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council (DCC) and CDDFRS, covering the following key points:

- An additional four staff will be employed, two covering Teesdale and two covering the East Durham Coastal area;
- Durham Constabulary will be the employer;
- The medical co-responder element will not be conducted in these new schemes;
- The expansion will initially operate for two years;
- All four staff would carry out the role of PCSO, support DCC work related to community safety, housing and environmental issues and deliver CDDFRS community safety, and arson reduction workload;
- The two CSRs covering Teesdale would additionally carry out the role of on-call firefighters.

7. The key measures to benefit CDDFRS performance are:

- Number of Home Fire Safety Visits conducted;
- Number of onward referrals made to partner agencies;
- Number of school talks to discuss arson and deliberate fire setting delivered;
- Number of fixed penalty notices issued in respect of accumulations of waste and other combustible materials;
- Number of empty properties secured to prevent unauthorised access or dangers to public health;
- Number of Environmental Visual Audits completed;
- Number of reports for rubbish removals;
- For Teesdale only, an increase in fire appliance availability.

8. A Joint Management Group consisting of managers from each organisation has been set up to manage the performance of the CSRs. The performance against the key performance measures of Fire and Police will be scrutinised at the Fire/ Police Collaboration Delivery Board.

Funding

9. The cost of the two Teesdale CSRs will be equally shared between all three partners, whilst for the two East Durham Coast responders, DCC will fund 50%, with Durham Constabulary and CDDFRS each funding 25% each.
10. The year 1 cost for CDDFRS is expected to be £44,560.00, rising slightly to £49,786.67 for the second year.

Recommendations

11. Members are requested to **note** the report.

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