

BOARD PAPER

Item Number	7
Title of Paper	Paper 4 – Communications & Engagement
Decision or Information	Information
Date of Meeting	24 June 2019
Presented by	CPO – Joy Flanagan

Summary

This paper provides the Board with an update on communications and engagement activity in relation to the Board and Standards.

It also proposes draft lines-to-take for use by Board members and the CPO in external communications activity.

Recommendations & Decisions

The Board is requested to:

1. Note the contents of this paper
2. Provide feedback on Appendix A – draft lines-to-take

Background Information

Website

EBY Design Limited have been commissioned to develop the website. Initial scoping and design work are underway.

The intention is to launch the website as soon as possible and before the next Board meeting in September. Development work will take place over the coming weeks. Board members will be provided with email updates on progress and will be asked to provide feedback virtually.

Lines to take

At the last meeting the CPO proposed generating some lines-to-take for both the CPO to utilise in communications and also for Board members to use. This will ensure a consistency of message about the Board and its activities.

The draft lines-to-take on which comments from the Board are invited are attached in [Appendix A](#).

This includes two proposals for a **strategic objective or strapline** (see Option 1 or 2 in [Appendix A](#)) that can be used to describe the purpose of the Board in a format appropriate to wider communications and less formally than expressed in the Terms of Reference.

Workshops

With the support of the NFCC, the CPO is co-ordinating a series of engagement workshops for senior managers within the fire and rescue services.

The series of events are aimed at both providing an update on the Board's progress and gaining feedback from services about the proposed standards components, activity framework and priorities.

The CPO is also seeking to understand the perceived impact of the introduction of standards on the various types of fire and rescue services to inform the standards development process.

The workshops are being held in each region, with services volunteering to host:

Date	Region
14/06/2019	East of England
18/06/2019	North West
03/07/2019	South East
11/07/2019	East Midlands
12/07/2019	South West
16/07/2019	North East
24/07/2019	West Midlands
26/07/2019	Yorkshire & Humber

Mailing List

In order to make the cascade of information about the Board and its work easier, the CPO is collating a distribution list of those from within services and other stakeholders who wish to be kept informed of progress.

Once the website is established a "Contact Us" facility will be available along with the ability for persons to be added to a distribution list for news and updates.

Draft Lines-to-Take

The Fire Standards Board is about....

Option 1 - Developing professional standards for fire and rescue services.

or

Option 2 - Continually improving fire and rescue service performance for communities through the development of professional standards.

Its responsibility as outlined in the Terms of Reference is:

The role of the Fire Standards Board (FSB or Board) is to oversee the identification, organisation, development and maintenance of professional standards for fire and rescue services in England.

In brief

The current Board Membership is:

Suzanne McCarthy – Independent Chair
Alison Sansome – Independent Vice-Chair
Jonny Bugg – Home Office
Nick Chard – Local Government Association (LGA)
Susan Ellison-Bunce – NFCC Central Programme Office (CPO)
Julia Mulligan – Association of Police & Crime Commissioners) APCC
Roy Wilsher – National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC)

- The Board started meeting in February 2019 and meets at least quarterly.
- It engages with a wide range of stakeholders including through the NFCC Strategic Engagement Forum and its sub-forums.
- A website is being developed which will provide easy access to information about the Board, its activities and fire standards.
- Queries or contact about the Board should be made to firecpo@ukfrs.com

Work so far....

- A standards development process has been identified and is being tested through a pilot process.
- Core components of a standard have been proposed based on learning from what works well in other sectors.
- Work is underway to develop the full scope of Standards that will be developed and how work in developing these Standards will be prioritised.
- The Board is committed to ensuring the Standards produced and supporting guidance are easily understood by different audiences.