West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Authority

Tri-Service Collaboration Update

Executive Committee

Date: 20 July 2023

Agenda Item: **06**

Submitted By: Director of Service Support

Purpose	To update the Executive Committee on the progress of current tri-service collaboration workstreams.
Recommendations	The Executive Committee note the contents of this report.
Summary	The current tri-service collaboration workstreams includes Demand and Risk Reduction, Benchmarking and Multi Agency Incident Transfer system. In recent years, little progress has been made due to several challenges across all three emergency services. This paper considers three options to address some of these challenges moving forward.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category:	None
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Background papers open to inspection:	None
Annexes:	None

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1   Introduction

1.1   The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Executive Committee on the progress of current tri-service collaboration workstreams.

1.2   The last update presented to the Executive Committee was on 25 February 2021. Since then, regular updates have been presented to the Tri-Service Collaboration Executive Board (TSCEB) who have been monitoring progress periodically.

2   Information

2.1   Collaboration across West Yorkshire provides opportunities to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and service delivery across the three emergency services.

2.2   The aim and purpose of the TSCEB is to act as an enabling forum to bring about closer working arrangements across all three emergency services in West Yorkshire. Supporting the board is a Tri-Service Steering Group (TSSG) which is currently led and administrated by the WYFRS.

2.3   Each collaboration workstream is delivered by the TSSG in a phased approach beginning with a high-level comparison to try and identify potential areas for collaboration. Specific areas are then explored in greater detail in the aim of developing options which can be progressed through collaboration.

2.4   Past workstreams have included supporting functions, gaining entry cause for concern, shared estates, prevention and training in various operational areas.

2.5   There are other existing substantive tri-service collaboration forums within the service that sit outside of the TSCEB such the Local Resilience Forum and the Yorkshire and Humber Operational Resilience Group.

3   Current Workstreams

3.1   The **Demand and Risk Reduction** workstream involves sharing and overlaying emergency services incident data into geographical areas to gain a richer picture of the demand placed on each service. Analysing the data to identify common areas of risk and those impacted within our community**.**

3.2   The intelligence would set the baseline and focus future tri-service collaboration workstreams to reduce the risk and subsequently demand for one or more emergency service.

3.3   Currently the group are setting up data sharing agreements to be able to share incident data and running a pilot to develop processes and to understand the resources required. The pilot is initially going to focus on an area within Huddersfield.

3.4   **Benchmarking** workstream compares the processes and performance of existing activities with other national tri-service collaboration to identify best practice and new opportunities to explore**.**

3.5   The workstream will also set performance monitoring in terms of quality, quantity and efficiency to appraise existing key collaboration activities for continuous learning and improvement as well as lay the foundation for evaluation.

3.6   **Multi Agency Incident Transfer (MAIT)** system allows emergency services to share electronic incident records to one or more emergency services. The benefits include reduce time taken to log and respond to emergency calls and the shared information is secure and reliable.

3.7   The Home Office and NFCC have secured a grant towards the initial costs of providing MAIT into every Fire and Rescue Service's control room.

3.8   The tri-service collaboration workstream is undertaking a feasibility study to incorporate MAIT into the Police and Ambulance control rooms. Currently the group is linking in with the NFCC Project Manager to understand the implementation timeline, ICT infrastructure requirements and areas of best practise.

4   Challenges

4.1   The TSSG continue to scope out opportunities for collaboration. However, in recent years little progress has been made due to several challenges across all three emergency services.

4.2   Industrial action, or the threat of, have resulted in services enacting their business continuity plans and diverting resources to other service delivery areas of work and priorities. Within collaboration across three Organisations, there is also a continuing challenge around all services being in the same financial position or business need to gain the best value for any collaborative work-stream.

4.3   The turnover of staff and the transfer of knowledge has resulted in a period where efficiency of the projects have been compromised by the new post holder not having the contacts or understanding to deliver while settling into the post. The member of staff holds other roles and responsibilities within their service, this impacts on the time committed to the tri-service workstreams.

4.4   There is a lack of pace around advancement of workstreams within the Tri-Service group with no explicit link to the service's strategic priorities.

5   Options for Consideration

5.1   To address some of the challenges in delivering workstreams a number of options are being considered:

5.2   **Option One** – Continue as we are with the risk of placing valuable Fire and Rescue Service resources into the tri-service collaboration without seeing the real returns due to current challenges and appetite across tri-service.

5.3   **Option Two** – Focus on collating collaboration examples that exist through day to day operations between tri services. Continue with mid-range collaboration in terms of achievable and low risk workstreams. The larger workstreams will be progressed only if there is tri-service appetite matched with allocation of designated resources and business need. Examples could include combining functional departments.

5.4   **Option Three** – Focus on bold tri-service initiatives supported and resourced by a dedicated tri service team and budget to progress proposed collaborative opportunities.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 Currently, there are no direct financial implications attributed to this report. All collaboration options or reviews will be subject to financial impact assessments.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution

8 Human Resource and Diversity Implications

8.1 Currently, there are no direct human resource and diversity implications. All collaboration options or reviews will be subject to equality, diversity, and inclusion impact assessments.

9 Equality Impact Assessment

Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? (EIA guidance and form 2020 form.docx (westyorksfire.gov.uk)	No
Date EIA Completed	N/A
Date EIA Approved	N/A

The EIA is available on request from the report author or from diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk

10 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

10.1 Currently, there are no direct Health and Safety implications. All collaboration options or reviews will be subject to assessments regarding the health, safety, and wellbeing.

11 Environmental Implications

11.1 Currently, there are no direct environmental impact implications. All collaboration options or reviews will be subject to environmental impact assessments.

12 Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

12.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-25 strategic priorities below;

- Improve the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters.
- Promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of all our people.
- Encourage a learning environment in which we support, develop, and enable all our people to be at their best.
- Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
- Provide ethical governance and value for money.
- Collaborate with partners to improve all of our services.
- Work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.
- Achieve a more inclusive workforce, which reflects the diverse communities we serve.

- Continuously improve using digital and data platforms to innovate and work smarter.
- Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.

13   Conclusions

13.1   It is recognised by all three services that collaboration in various forms exists within our West Yorkshire collaboration forums which could be collated more robustly. Appetite to collaborate on bigger ticket items are subject to various challenges such as industrial action, financial constraints within each Organisation and a required joint business need to gain the best value for any collaborative work-stream.

13.2   Therefore, it is recommended that option two is approved and progressed as focus for TSCEB moving forward.

13.3   This will see the Tri-Service Steering Group collate and progress collaborative workstreams that aim to demonstrate WYFRS duty to collaborate across tri-services supporting the reduction of demand and making the community of West Yorkshire safer.