

Status of Report: Public

Meeting: Corporate Governance Committee

Date: 13 March 2019

Subject: Blood Donor Scheme and On-Call Recruitment

Report by: Rick Taylor, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

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For: Information Only

Purpose

1. The purpose of the report is to update the Corporate Governance Committee (CGC) on the collaboration with the National Health Service (NHS) Blood Donor scheme and the On-call Recruitment activity undertaken since the last update to the Committee at its meeting on 21 November 2018.

Recommendation

2. The Corporate Governance Committee is requested to acknowledge the progress made in collaboration with the National Health Service on the Blood Donor scheme and the update on the On-call Recruitment campaign.

Executive Summary

3. This report updates the CGC on the collaborative work Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service is undertaking with the NHS in relation to the Blood Donor Scheme and provides an update on the On-Call recruitment campaigns undertaken since the last report to the Committee at its meeting on 21 November 2018.

Background

National Health Service Blood Donor Scheme

4. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue was approached in April 2018 by the NHS National Blood Service to explore the idea of collaboration in the provision of accommodation for donor sessions.
5. In June 2018, the first of two trials was run at Market Harborough Fire Station in which approximately 140 people attended to give blood.
6. The second trial, again at Market Harborough Station, was held in October 2018 and this saw attendance increase by 20%, with approximately 160 people attending.
7. There are a number of benefits that have been realised from the two trials including:

- a. The opportunity to inform and educate members of the public about our Community Safety initiatives such as Safe and Well visits and Home Fire Safety Checks;
 - b. The opportunity to identify vulnerable members of the community who would benefit from dedicated community safety advice; and
 - c. The opportunity to engage with the local community to promote the On-Call vacancies that exist in the local community.
8. Given the success of the first two events at Market Harborough, it is now proposed to expand the trial to the following locations over the next six months:
- a. Wigston;
 - b. Oakham;
 - c. Coalville;
 - d. Castle Donnington;
 - e. Loughborough.

On-Call Recruitment

9. The commencement of the 01/19 training course began on 25 January 2019, with 8 individuals from the following stations starting their initial training:
- a. Oakham;
 - b. Wigston;
 - c. Lutterworth;
 - d. Billesdon;
 - e. Kibworth;
 - f. Ashby;
 - g. Coalville;
 - h. Melton.
10. The annual 'National On-Call Week' was held in January, supported by the National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC). This dedicated week highlights the work that the members of the On-Call section undertake in support of their local communities.
11. As a result of the National campaign, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue received enquiries from 8 individuals interested in finding out more about the role. These individuals were directed to the Service's 'Have-a-Go' taster days to learn more about the role of an On-Call firefighter.
12. The 'Have-a-Go' days attracted a lot of media attention which resulted in the Rutland Pride producing an article promoting the On-Call section, this is due for publication in April 2019.
13. The 02/19 recruitment campaign has been launched with four 'Have-a-Go' days held across Leicestershire and Rutland. These days were well attended, with 23 individuals from various locations progressing to the point of entry selection tests.

14. There are a further two recruitment campaigns planned for 2019, all of which will be supported by 'Have a Go' days, which takes the number of campaigns run over the last two years to seven.
15. Work continues in collaboration with the Department of Work and Pensions to develop an 'On-Call' campaign in the North West Leicestershire district to help promote and encourage awareness within the area. It is envisaged this work will be completed and embedded by August 2019.

Report Implications/Impact

16. Legal (including crime and disorder)

None identified at this time.

17. Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)

- a. There are number of financial benefits identified through the collaboration with the NHS, including the savings on venue hire.
- b. The 'Have a Go' days incur financial costs associated in paying staff overtime, however, these costs are within the associated recruitment budget.

18. Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)

None arising from this report.

19. Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)

A full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the 'Have a Go' days in line with the Service's recruitment policy. This ensures all reasonable adjustments are made and applicants have access to the service.

20. Environmental

None identified at this time.

21. Impact upon Our Plan

This report sets out the following activities being undertaken to achieve the objectives within Our Plan:

- a. Respond effectively to incidents
- b. Demonstrate value for money

Officers to Contact

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