

Decision title

Youth Engagement and Intervention Annual Report

Recommendation by
Assistant Commissioner, Fire Safety

Decision Number
LFC-0126-D

Protective marking: **NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**
Publication status: Published in full

Summary

This report provides an overview of all of the Brigade's children and youth engagement and intervention schemes in 2017/18 with all the key outcomes, outputs, successes, issues and lessons learnt.

Decision

That the London Fire Commissioner approves the annual report, Youth Engagement and Intervention 2017/18 and agrees for it to be published and communicated including a letter to all local authority chief executives to raise awareness of the positive work the Brigade undertakes with young people.



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Date 20/2/19

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LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Report title

Youth Engagement and Intervention Annual Report

Report to

London Fire Commissioner

Date

30 January 2019

Report by

Head of Community Safety

Document Number

LFC-0126

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Summary

This report provides an overview of all of the Brigade's children and youth engagement and intervention schemes in 2017/18 with all the key outcomes, outputs, successes, issues and lessons learnt.

Recommended Decision

That the London Fire Commissioner approves the Annual Report, Youth Engagement and Intervention 2017/18 and agrees for it to be published and communicated including a letter to all local authority chief executives to raise awareness of the positive work the Brigade undertakes with young people.

Introduction

1. The Brigade has a long standing history of delivering a number of children and youth engagement, intervention and education schemes in order to reduce fire risk, raise awareness of fire danger, safety, and prevention, detection and escape from fire in the home. These schemes are aimed mainly at primary and secondary age children and young people but some also cover ages 0-5 including visits to nurseries and children's centres. All of the youth programmes delivered by the Brigade are attended by a wide range of participants and also provide the opportunity to increase awareness of the Brigade to diverse communities.
2. Youth engagement and intervention is an integral part of the delivery of London Safety Plan 2017 including a target to reach 100,000 children and young people annually to deliver fire prevention and safety messages. The Brigade's children and youth programmes includes a central core offer of the Education Team, Fire Cadets, Crossfire, Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) and Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Scheme (JFIS). From August 2017, this also included a new Outreach Team focusing on the recruitment of firefighters which has involved a significant amount of work with young people on career pathways. There are also a range of wider youth engagement schemes delivered at borough level including visits to low and medium risk primary

schools and nurseries, Junior Citizens, Prison-Me-No-Way and The Prince's Trust. Members were previously updated on the individual progress of all the Brigade's youth engagement/intervention programmes at Strategy Committee on 12th November 2013 (FEP2173).

3. All youth engagement and intervention initiatives that individual boroughs are involved in are outlined in Appendix A. It is estimated that including all the above initiatives and local borough and station based initiatives that the Brigade work with around 200,000 children and young people annually.

Youth intervention updates

Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE)

4. LIFE is an intensive five-day course facilitated by fire and rescue staff and firefighters at fire stations for young people between the ages of 14 and 17. The course is based on the role of the firefighter and participants take part in a range of activities which include using ladders, wearing breathing apparatus, carrying out casualty rescue techniques and first aid. The programme offers the opportunity to develop a range of skills which include leadership, social skills, communication and team work. In addition to this participants are given information on fire safety prevention, consequences, healthy living, and road safety. The aim is to develop skills and experience to deter young people from anti-social behaviour, as well as learn skills to enable them to succeed and live safe and healthy lives.
5. The LIFE scheme was established in the Brigade in June 2002 to address a specific problem in Tower Hamlets - fire crews at Shadwell Fire Station were suffering attacks and abuse at the hands of local young people when attending incidents (including deliberate fire setting) in local housing estates. Engaging with the young people to prevent future attacks proved to be an effective strategy and as a result this has become a mainstream youth intervention specifically focussed at preventing and reducing anti-social behaviour. In 2012, LIFE celebrated 10 years of delivery and it is now estimated that over 10,000 young people have completed the course since its inception. In 2016/17 LIFE met its annual LSP5 target of 60 courses per financial year with 630 young people completing 62 courses. In addition, LIFE delivered eight bespoke one day intervention programmes with partners who work with carers, Police and football clubs to engage with those most at risk.
6. Four day courses are now running successfully as core practice. This initially was to facilitate the programme running over periods of industrial action¹, however we have found having that fifth day free has enabled the staff to carry out visits to referral agents to promote the service and deliver the mentoring post LIFE service as well as support the Outreach team with taster days.
7. LIFE have also trialled one day, three day and weekend courses in conjunction with partners and other blue light services. This led to an increased awareness of the service and generated funding in areas of London where LIFE had previously not been delivered. Specific examples include working with young people who had been affected by the Grenfell Tower disaster in Chelsea and Kensington, Early Intervention courses in Bromley and courses for young people currently in Feltham Young Offenders prison released on temporary license to local fire stations.

¹ During periods of industrial action, action short of strike (ASOS), often prohibited those staff that were members of whichever union was taking action from taking part in activities outside of their core role.

8. Work with other emergency blue light partners as been trialled through a programme titled One Life. These are one day programmes in areas where the Police and Fire service have identified as hotspots for anti-social behaviour, deliberate fire setting or attacks against the emergency services. The Police specifically recruit those identified as involved in this behaviour to attend this interactive day where they receive education about the dangers and consequences of knife crime, fire setting and the LAS deliver first aid training. These have been so effective it reduced levels of anti-social behaviour to zero during the holiday when delivered. Both the boroughs of Hounslow and Hammersmith have seen positive results in this trial and it is being rolled out to other boroughs.
9. LIFE have also delivered inputs with residents from Housing Associations such as Clarion Housing, Family Mosaic and Swan Housing. These have taken place at local fire stations as well as in the actual housing estates, giving us access to young people who would not normally access a LIFE course and for the residents to see the Brigade positively active in their area. LIFE have recently received funding to bring LIFE back into Newham borough and into Chelsea & Kensington following the success of the previous interventions and continuing the work with young people affected by Grenfell. MOPAC funding has allowed LIFE to run in new boroughs such as Greenwich and Bromley.
10. Classroom sessions have been evaluated and redesigned to include up to date and relevant messages to align with organisational objectives, current youth issues, Mayoral priorities and that of our blue light partners. This included trialling new external delivery partners to ensure they are cost effective and that the young people respond well to the education they provide. Topics covered on LIFE courses include:
 - road safety to reduce Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), pedestrian safety, water safety, cycle safety and first aid,
 - fire safety (preventing accidental fires and the consequences of deliberate fires),
 - learning how poor decision making and anti-social behaviour can impact your own life, that of your family, friends and wider community,
 - the impact of knife crime and carrying a knife as 'protection',
 - preventing violence against young women through educating the young men and women on LIFE to feel respect for themselves and others and the importance of healthy and safe relationships,
 - encouraging tolerance and community cohesion through courses with young people from diverse communities across London to prevent hate crime and risk to radicalisation.
11. Trials for promoting bespoke courses have proved very successful in attaining funding from partners by tailoring the course content to address current issues such as abuse to young women, grooming, healthy and safe living. Partners such as the Police and local authorities have funds to address current issues that are high on the political and social agenda. This approach is essential to ensuring the longevity of LIFE and delivering a value for money service that meets local needs and priorities. LIFE Skills course were also trialled which were more classroom based with sessions on CV writing, healthy and safe living and focused on building the same skills using different activities.
12. In 2017/18, 10 bids were submitted and 10 were successful totalling over £36,000 from a range of statutory, charity, community, housing associations and grant funding organisations. An example of this is Swan Housing funded two, one day interventions to be delivered in Barking & Dagenham and Tower Hamlets. The funding was to target young people within the estates who were suspected to be involved in anti social behaviour and potentially small incidents of arson on the estate. The residents from Barking & Dagenham attended a one day intervention at

Dagenham Fire Station and took part in a range of firefighting activities as well as inputs around fire safety and the consequences of their behaviour. Feedback from the Housing Association was positive and they felt the young people's attitude towards anti-social behaviour had changed and that they were more aware of Fire Safety.

13. The young people themselves said they really enjoyed the course and gained a new insight to the Fire Service which was really positive for the LFB. The second day was held in a basketball court within an estate in Tower Hamlets. The group we worked with said they were unlikely to have attended a course so potentially a group we would not have engaged with otherwise. The young people took part in firefighting activities and had an input from an external speaker, Paul Hannaford, who spoke to the young people about his experiences in a gang and with knife crime and serious youth violence. In addition to the impact this intervention had on the participants, local residents came to see what was happening, spoke to the firefighters, took photographs and thanked the firefighters for their work and for coming into their community .
14. LIFE received funding from schools to work with young people who they feel are at risk of becoming unemployed or not in any training or further education. This has been very successful and proved to be a good motivator for encouraging them to re-think their future aspirations.
15. LIFE is now regularly promoted through social media such as Twitter. This allows for the programme to be made visible to young people and partners to generate referrals and funding.
16. During 2018/19, there were a number of initiatives that LIFE wanted to deliver to continue pushing forward, addressing new issues and helping even more young people across London. The following have been achieved:
 - expanding to new boroughs and venues across London beyond the standard eight (including Kensington and Chelsea). The programme is now flexibly driven by risk and funding going forward,
 - referral of suitable young people on to our longer term Fire Cadet programme,
 - extending early intervention courses for 11-13 year olds to target those young people most at risk of anti-social behaviour. Early education can influence them from making decisions which can impact their futures negatively,
 - increase funding by offering a flexible, bespoke range of courses tailored to local needs- both through the content and length of courses,
 - working closely with Youth Offending Services and Feltham Young Offenders Institute to deliver bespoke courses which reduce reoffending,

Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Scheme (JFIS)

17. The Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Scheme (JFIS) was launched in 2001 and has since received over 3,900 referrals to the service. JFIS works in all 33 London boroughs with children up to the age of 18 years (25 years where there are learning disabilities) who have demonstrated any type of fireplay or firesetting behaviour; from curiosity fireplay in younger children to deliberate firesetting and arson in older children.
18. The education-based programme works with the child and their family to address the firesetting behaviour through identifying its cause, looking at the consequences of such actions and providing one to one, tailored fire safety education and advice. Research has evidenced that, without intervention, as many as one in two firesetters will go on to repeat the behaviour.

19. Referrals are accepted from families and professionals including Brigade staff, social care departments, the police, youth offending teams, child and adolescent mental health teams and schools.
20. The majority of JFIS referrals involve liaison with at least one other agency and in many cases multiple agencies. Since the inception of the scheme in 2001 the complexity of referrals made to the scheme has increased, meaning mental ill health and social care services involvement are frequent factors in JFIS case work. The changing nature of the referrals reflects the wider agenda of a children's workforce where all agencies have an increased duty to safeguard and act in cases of child protection. JFIS helps support the child in a specialised area where their own (and their family's) safety can be at risk. Its key priorities are to prevent and reduce firesetting, reduce anti social behaviour and offending.
21. Alongside the central caseworkers the scheme recruits volunteers from all parts of the Brigade allowing for the current pool of advisors to reflect the diversity of the Brigade and London and contribute their life experiences to the programme. Volunteers are also afforded the opportunity to widen their skills and knowledge in new areas of work that brings uniformed and FRS staff together across the various grades and ranks. The direct work with families is offered at a variety of venues to best meet the child's individual needs e.g. at home, school or Brigade HQ.
22. In January 2018 a pilot project was launched which sees JFIS delivering one to one fire safety sessions in Feltham Young Offenders Institute. The aim is to work with young people and impart fire safety education to reduce conviction of arson and deliberate firesetting. Tailored sessions are delivered focusing on key areas of fire safety, the dangers of fire and consequences of actions. Intervention is currently being delivered with feedback being gathered from the partner agencies and young people to evaluate the scheme and measure impact. Outcomes from the pilot will hopefully show:
 - Contribution to preventing and reducing fire related crime amongst young offenders
 - Educating young people about responsible decision making and learn how the consequences of their behaviour impacts their families, the wider community and their futures
 - A personal achievement of participating for the young person
 - Better partnership work between LFB and Feltham YOI
 - A widening of skill set and experience for the caseworkers
23. JFIS has been working with Borough Commanders offering advisory support to tackle arson and deliberate fires at borough level. The team have created a number of resources to assist with developing a local arson strategy and have met with the BCs of the top five boroughs in London for deliberate fires to look at data and how best to address the issues and promote partnership working with relevant agencies in their area. In 2017/18, JFIS completed a total of 702 visits this is on par with the previous year's 708 visits. This includes attending professional's meetings helping to support some of the most vulnerable children in London e.g. children subject to Child Protection Plans, under the care of the local authority and in secure units. On average each child is seen for a minimum of three sessions with a maximum set at 10 sessions per child. Effective case management has reduced the number of open cases where we are still working with the young person to 180 as at the end of March 2018. Timely intervention helps significantly reduce the risk of a child already identified as being in need of JFIS intervention setting a further, potentially fatal fire whilst on the waiting list.

24. The number of referrals to the scheme was 167 in 2017/18. This figure is up on the previous year by 27% (131 referrals in 2016/17). Internal referrals accounted for 42% of the total (8% increase on previous year) with 12% received from the police, 13% from schools and 33% from other partner agencies or a concerned parent/carer. During 2017/18 there was a continuation of the communication strategy which was put in place to raise the profile of the scheme. The strategy included posters and presentations on JFIS at BC meetings, Station Manager Forums and at station level. Quarterly figures are sent out to the BCs showing number of referrals and open cases in each borough.
25. The number of referrals per borough varied widely in 2017/18. JFIS received 18 referrals from the borough of Bromley a marked increase on the 3 referrals of the previous year. Croydon remains consistently high with 16 referrals followed by Greenwich with 9 referrals and Tower Hamlets and Barking and Dagenham both with 8 referrals JFIS received no referrals within the boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and the City of London during 2017/18. It may be assumed that in boroughs such as Bromley and Croydon, with established links to partner agencies through existing Brigade youth schemes such as Crossfire and LIFE, that this also brings a greater awareness of JFIS.
26. Evaluation methods have been reviewed to provide a more systematic approach to assess the effectiveness of the service. Parents and carers who had engaged with JFIS during 2017/18 were asked to rate the service from 1-5 (1 being low and 5 being high). Out of 15 responses 93% rated the overall impression of the service as a 5 with the remaining 1 rating it as a 4. Further evaluation calls were conducted at six month and two year periods following intervention and 93% said JFIS had had a positive impact on the young person and 97% reported no further firesetting.
27. In 2018/19, there have been a number of initiatives that JFIS have delivered to raise awareness of the scheme and subsequently increase referrals across London including:
- Research into delivering fire safety education to adult firesetters through the University of Kent Adult Firesetters Programme in partnership with probation and social care services across London.
 - JFIS has taken part in a NFCC working group to develop and train others in a Basic Skills Firesetter Course which launched in November 2018.
 - Collaboration with the University of Kent and other Fire and Rescue Services to develop a standardised package for delivering fire safety work with individuals who have set deliberate fires/engaged in fire risk behaviours.
 - External funding secured in December 2018 to train all Borough Commanders in firesetting awareness and best practice approaches.
28. An arson Forum for all borough Commanders will be held in March 2019 to share best practice on arson reduction strategies and promote the services available from JFIS and the Education Team Distribution to Fire and Rescue Services of the printed resource 'Nia's Story' which addresses firesetting and anti social behaviour. The resource has received very positive feedback and represents a positive piece of restorative justice work between the LFB and a young person who was convicted of Arson and Manslaughter

Outreach recruitment

29. The role of the Outreach Team is to raise awareness of the Fire Fighter role amongst under-represented communities and sections of society which have never considered joining the fire service to increase both diversity and talent into to workforce.
30. The Outreach Strategy includes working with young people to encourage them to think about the fire service as a career from an early age and challenge stereotypes about the role. In order to change these perceptions, a secondary schools workshop package has been developed and is being delivered in educational facilities to encourage young people to consider the brigade and educate amount the role. The session is 60 minutes and is presented to classes of usually 20-30 young people at a variety of educational institutions . The interactive employability session encourages young people to think about they sell themselves and includes exercises which challenge pre existing ideas particularly around gender stereotypes. Cadet and LIFE information is also widely distributed in the workshops and at the events we attend. The first pilot for the Fire Fighter taster day ran successfully from Tottenham on the 13/7/2018. These will be rolled out through the next academic year pan London. The Team have also attended careers fairs in Schools. In 2017/18, the Outreach Team delivered 56 events including attraction days, careers fairs and community events.
31. There is a lack of understanding about the Fire Fighter role and the Outreach Team aim to educate young people and communities about the modern firefighter role and change perceptions of who can be a fire fighter. Years of entrenched stereotypes around the fire fighter role limit some groups belief that they can join. The Team aim to showcase the role as inclusive, with progression opportunities and variety.
32. The team have found that attendance at community events such as Notting Hill, Windrush, African Street Festival and Vasikhi Sikh festival, provide an excellent opportunity for communities to see positive, diverse brigade role models and discuss any misconceptions about working for the fire service. Interested parties are then invited to open days to learn more about the role. Outreach have also engaged with the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) community at Pride, Black Pride and appearing in LGBT publications to promote the firefighter role. Station staff are being encouraged to participate in engagement events with the outreach team or run their own recruitment open days at their station.

Youth engagement update

Education Team

33. The Brigade has run an educational programme in schools since 2001 with over 1.7 million school aged children and young people learning about fire safety in the home to date. The programme focuses on visiting very high and high risk priority schools by the central Education Team, and annually offers visits to three year groups: year 2 (children aged 6-7), year 5 (children aged 9-10) and year 8 (age 12-13). In a 60 to 75 minute classroom based session, Brigade education officers use a range of media to educate pupils about the dangers of fire in the home. They focus on the principle messages of prevention, detection and escape from fire. In 2017/18, 3,244 fire safety workshops were delivered to 97,320 primary school aged children in 811 schools. This was an increase compared to 2016/17 when 799 schools were visited.

34. In terms of how schools are chosen for visits, data from the Incident Risk Analysis Toolkit (iRAT) identifies those areas in London where accidental fires in the home are most likely to occur on a ward by ward basis. This information is overlaid with the location of every primary school within Greater London. Schools are then risk ranked to reflect the likelihood of children attending them experiencing a fire at home and each school is placed into one of four risk categories (VH, H, M and L). schools are then prioritised accordingly, and visits are targeted to those primary schools risk ranked as VH and H.
35. During the financial year 2017/2018 the Education Team have also seen the following:
- 64 secondary schools with 6,080 pupils seen. Five Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools were visited, with 115 pupils seen. SEN schools are seen on a request basis, and these have less students within each class so the groups that are visited are smaller,
 - Presentation deliveries to non-core remit groups, such as nurseries and other year groups outside of years 2, 5 and 8 are also provided. The Education Team attended 80 schools, which resulted in a further 3,600 children receiving fire safety input.
36. In addition to the central Education Team, fire station personnel have now been provided with comprehensive education resource packs to assist with visiting the low and medium risk priority schools across London. The introduction of these resources to fire stations ensures that firefighters are able to provide consistent fire safety messages to those delivered by the Education Team. In 2017/18, visits to low and medium schools by firefighters and visits to fire stations by children and young people to receive fire safety input also accounted for a further estimated 50,000 of children and young engaged with.

Fire Cadets (FC)

37. A FC programme has been running since 2009, following the Young Firefighters scheme which was originally piloted in Bexley and Hackney in 2008. Fire Cadets is now a nationally recognised and delivered long term youth engagement programme. In its original form it was a 12 month intervention that took place in term time for 14-18 year olds. In LFB, Fire Cadets has progressed considerably over the last five years since it was agreed to move over to a volunteer trainer model in January 2013.
38. Currently young people who attend Fire Cadets follow a modular national programme where they can achieve an Edexcel Level 2 BTEC Award in Fire and Rescue Services in the Community. Fire Cadets now has an established progression route for young people which means they can stay on after their initial year and apply for promotion to work up the ranks of Officer Cadets and develop their skills and responsibilities at each stage to achieve greater responsibility as well as another BTEC Level 2 qualification in Teamwork and Personal Development. All the young people who join Fire Cadets can stay on until they are 18 years old if they are successful in each promotion process, when they can then become adult Volunteer Cadet Instructors.
39. Cadets attend a fire station one evening a week for three hours to take part in Brigade led activities with a personal developmental and educational outcome and they experience working alongside operational firefighters, FRS staff and community volunteers. All adults involved in the programme as instructors are volunteers and attend the cadet units in their own time to support young people. Fire Cadets includes a wide range of practical, physical, community and classroom based elements where young people get the opportunity to experience new challenges, learn new life skills and widen their knowledge about the Fire Brigade, other emergency services and the community they serve.
40. Fire Cadets benefits young people who are looking for a new activity/interest or friends, are interested in a career in the Fire Brigade, have been excluded socially or educationally, are lacking

in confidence or self esteem, are at risk of anti-social behaviour and/or those with little or no direction in life. Becoming a fire cadet gives young people the opportunity to:

- enhance key citizenship skills and build confidence,
- develop transferable, practical skills for future training or employment,
- gain a nationally recognised BTEC qualification,
- progress through an established graduate cadet programme until adulthood,
- get involved in positive social action activities,
- represent Fire Cadets across London and nationally,
- play supportive roles in their local community and develop positive peer relationships,
- work in partnership with other uniformed cadet groups,
- represent London Fire Brigade at prestigious events,
- raise knowledge of community fire safety and empower them to educate family and friends in community fire safety.

41. Fire Cadets also offers adults from the local community the opportunity to become involved in volunteering for the London Fire Brigade as Volunteer Cadet Instructors (VCIs) Many young people that start as fire cadets also progress on to become VCIs once they turn 18 years old. Other successes have been that fire cadets and VCIs have gone on to secure employment within the London Fire Brigade such as Apprentices, Firefighters, Control staff, Education Officers and Fire Safety inspecting officers.

42. In August 2017, 12 Fire Cadet units were successfully completed in Newham, Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Haringey, Havering, Bexley, Brent, Croydon, Barking and Dagenham, Merton, Lewisham and Greenwich with 195 participants completing BTEC level 2 qualification. All units are currently supported by 85 community and operational VCIs.

43. Over the academic year 2017-18, 16 Fire Cadet units were run in the London Boroughs of:

1. Newham
2. Hackney
3. Tower Hamlets
4. Haringey
5. Westminster
6. Bexley
7. Brent
8. Bromley
9. Croydon
10. Lewisham
11. Havering
12. Merton
13. Barking and Dagenham
14. Greenwich
15. Marine Fire Cadets – Lambeth
16. Southwark

Over the academic year, 2018/19, 23 Cadet units will be running, Currently, the following units are running in:

1. Barking & Dagenham juniors at Dagenham Fire Station (FS)
2. Bexley at Erith FS
3. Brent at Wembley FS
4. Bromley at Orpington FS

5. Croydon at Croydon FS
6. Hackney at Shoreditch FS
7. Haringey at Tottenham FS
8. Havering at Harold Hill FS
9. Islington at Holloway FS
10. Lewisham at New Cross FS
11. Merton at Mitcham FS
12. Southwark at Old Kent Road FS
13. Tower Hamlets at Shadwell FS
14. Westminster at Paddington FS
15. Marine at Lambeth River Station

The following units are opening in February 2019:

16. Barking and Dagenham standard unit at Dagenham FS
 17. Bromley Juniors at Orpington FS
 18. Enfield or Greenwich – FS TBC
 19. Kensington and Chelsea – FS TBC
 20. Lambeth at West Norwood FS
 21. Newham at East Ham FS
 22. Waltham Forest –Walthamstow FS
 23. Special Educational Needs (SEN) unit at Croydon FS –
44. Currently for the 2018/19 academic year, the Fire Cadets has 151 cadets as recruitment is still underway. A further 55 Officer Cadets working on development books and towards their BTEC in Teamwork and Personal Development, and 85 VCLs supporting and delivering at the cadet units.
45. In addition to being part of a Fire Cadet unit, young people can build on their confidence and leadership further by becoming part of the Fire Cadet Ceremonial Team, or applying to be a 'Fire Cadet Ambassador'. The Ceremonial Team contains 20 cadets and adult volunteers and acts as the showcase for the programme attending formal events such as remembrance day services or the annual carol service. There are currently 13 Fire Cadet Ambassadors from the Officer Cadet rank structure. Both the Ceremonial Team and Fire Cadet Ambassadors roles open up more opportunities to represent the Brigade at prestigious corporate and public events with Senior Officers and VIPs.

The types of events (many charity fundraising) that many of our Fire Cadet have attended are varied and multiple including:

- Two weeks in Nepal with Classrooms in the Clouds Charity
- Two weeks in South Africa with CVQO Westminster Award
- Four days in Budapest as part of an international youth symposium
- Buckingham Palace Garden Party
- Firefighters Memorial Trust event
- LFB Carol Service
- London Marathon Water Station
- Moreton-On-The-Marsh Firefighter training school
- Remembrance Services across many London boroughs
- Worshipful Company of Firefighter Charity Dinner
- Royal Chelsea Hospital Commemorative Event

- National Arboretum event in Staffordshire
- Abseiling at the Olympic Park Orbital

Crossfire

46. Crossfire uses education and intervention as a dual approach to reduce anti social behaviour, deliberate fires and hoax calling. All of its projects are run in conjunction with numerous other agencies which are recruited and co-ordinated by the Crossfire team. Crossfire deliver a range of educational programmes in primary schools, secondary schools, pupil referral units, colleges, youth clubs and other community groups. This multiagency approach enables Crossfire to tailor the content of its programmes to meet the specific needs of the schools or local communities.-. Crossfire provides three main educational programmes which are coordinated and delivered at a local level. Junior Impact Factor days are delivered to Years 1, 4, and 6, with a variety of partner agencies such as the Metropolitan Police, NSPCC, Dogs Trust and London Ambulance Service. Within primary schools a variety of fire safety messages are delivered to three year groups. As the children progress through the school these workshops build on the messages from previous years to provide continuity in the child's learning.
47. Impact Factor is a programme for young people aged between 12 and 14 (Year 8 and 9) to support citizenship and personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) programmes within secondary schools. This one day programme explores decision making, choices, and consequences through real life re-enactments of critical incidents. Partners include the Met Police, Rape Crisis, Generation F, Safer London Foundation, LAS and charities like The Blue Cross.
48. The All Ages Family Safety Challenge (AAFSC) is a project designed to improve the safety of Croydon's households. It covers a variety of topics including fire, water, road and internet safety as well as first aid. These inputs are delivered to community members of all ages. The aim of the AAFSC is to illustrate that the awareness of safety in households is not always just the responsibility of the adults and that the whole family can work together to improve their awareness of safety issues.
49. Across the breadth of its educational engagement schemes, Crossfire delivers workshops to over 20,000 children and 1,000 adults each year. The majority of these sessions are accompanied by other agencies co-ordinated by the Crossfire Team. This unique selling point enables Crossfire to secure funding streams every year from a multitude of sources. This project is now running in Croydon, Bromley, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, , Kensington and Chelsea, Newham and Haringey.
50. In June and July 2017, Crossfire piloted a Blue Light partnership Impact factor in the London Borough of Haringey. The *Policing and Crime Act 2017* introduced a 'high level duty to collaborate' between blue light services. The Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade and London Ambulance Service have always worked in partnership at different levels particularly operationally. Recently the three organisations have been analysing how to maximise partnership working in non operational areas.
51. An integral component in the strategies of all three services is prevention. Working to increase safety and reduce risk, each service currently runs a number of individual schemes. Notably, all three organisations deliver a significant amount of youth engagement and intervention work with children and young people across London. Historically this work has not been co-ordinated between the three organisations. It was collectively agreed by the three organisations to focus attention on the educational provision of each service and to integrate the services in secondary schools.
52. A pilot project was run in five secondary schools in Haringey in June and July 2017 where the three organisations delivered a full day of workshops around decision making and consequences alongside other local partner organisations. The sessions, which covered issues such as arson, knife crime awareness and basic life support were delivered to over 1,000 year 8 pupils.

53. Feedback from the pupils, teachers, schools and partner agencies was fantastic and it is now planned to extend this pilot dependant on securing the necessary external funding to other boroughs across London.

Local Borough Initiatives

54. Every Borough Commander (BC) works with partners in their borough to develop, implement, and increase the Brigade's children and youth engagement schemes at a local level. BCs also work to support partner children and youth engagement interventions and schemes and these cover a wide variety of themes including health, anti-social behaviour, crime and gang prevention, employment and training. For the more established Brigade children and youth engagement schemes, BCs continue to work hard with partners to promote their merits and benefits. Staff from Area Community Safety Teams have supported a range of initiatives with partners such as at Transport for London's Museum as part of Be Safe week, an event open to the public attended by multiple agencies.
55. Safe Drive, Stay Alive (SDSA) is seen as an excellent youth intervention in the sixteen boroughs it is delivered in. SDSA is a road safety theatre production education initiative. The main method for safety message delivery is through five speakers who share stories of personal experiences with road traffic collisions. It is aimed at young (aged 17 to 25 inclusive) pre-learner, learner, newly qualified drivers and their passengers. SDSA seeks to influence young people's attitudes and behaviours toward five risk-relevant driving practices (distractions such as mobile phones, seat belt use, drink and drug driving, speeding, and peer-pressure to engage in risky driving). In the borough of Barnet, the BC has used the initiative to try and raise awareness of driving safely as the borough has had a higher number of young people involved in car accidents due to the affluence of the area and the access to major road networks. SDSA is delivered to in excess of 20,000 young adults per year.
56. In Bromley, the BC has worked in partnership with the local authority's Road Safety Team to help deliver their week long 'Driven by Consequences' (DBC) road safety initiative. This initiative targets young people who have recently passed their driving test or who are learning to promote safe driving practices. Students from all over the borough are invited to attend during the week.
57. The Road Safety Team is often invited to attend schools and specific groups to deliver targeted road safety advice. This can be in the form of classroom delivery or practical demonstrations. Where possible we carry out this work and see many different groups, with thousands of children seeing and listening to the advice we give.
58. With recent improvements in virtual reality (VR) equipment, the Road Safety team have been able to deliver classroom VR experiences to young adults across the capital further explaining the consequences of bad driving habits. This presentation has recently been delivered to the Harlequins rugby academy players – the sporting stars of tomorrow – and have interest from the other top London rugby clubs. The equivalent football youth clubs are next to see these presentations and wear the VR headsets. In addition to this, we have managed to get access to the London military establishments to work alongside the military master drivers in improving the road safety messaging to young military personnel.
59. In Lambeth, the BC has worked in partnership to help implement the borough's Health and Well-being Strategy by supporting a number of fitness initiatives. This includes working with the Met Police's Gang Unit in Brixton to support the set up of boxing classes for 14-16 year olds and wider fitness sessions on Clapham Common with young people who have been engaged with Anti-Social Behaviour. The boxing project is based in a Miguel's boxing gym and the course is a unique blend of boxing lessons, fitness and firefighter skills plus young people even have the chance to qualify and earn money as a personal trainer.

Junior Citizens

60. Junior Citizens (JC) events are multi agency events coordinated by the Police, Local Authority or a Charity. The Brigade has been participating at borough level in JC events for many years. At the events there are likely to be a wide variety of agencies such as Network Rail, St John's Ambulance/Red Cross, Local Authority, London Transport, Transco, Port of London Authority and others. The events are based around the themes of crime, citizenship and personal safety. The events target school children between 9–11 years and take them through interactive scenarios from which they learn important safety information.
61. Participating agencies set up interactive 'activity stations' through which children can learn important information. Children take part in each activity station working in groups, spending on average ten minutes in each. Depending on which agencies are present, the following activity stations may be included in the event: fire safety, railway dangers, electrical safety, first aid, drug awareness, stranger danger, road safety, gas safety, public transport safety, street awareness, cycle safety, water safety, suspect packages, construction site safety. The Brigade activity station teaches children about smoke detection and escape from fire. In some JC events the Brigade has two activity stations, the second teaches children about fire hazards and reducing risks of fires in the home. The events usually run for one - two week periods. Typically JC events take place at one location in a borough although some boroughs run the events as road shows.
62. Between 1st April 2017 – 31 March 2018, Junior Citizens was delivered in 28 London boroughs (Bexley, Bromley, Croydon, Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark, Hounslow, Ealing, Camden, Barnet, , Hillingdon, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Westminster, Wandsworth, Barking and Dagenham, Hackney, Islington, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Newham, Havering and Redbridge) with the Brigade's involvement lasting between two days to four weeks with over 30,000 young people taking part. The Brigade will continue to support Junior Citizens at an individual borough level but the future is very much dependant on funding from external partners in the different boroughs and also the Brigade's ability to facilitate delivery.

Prison Me No Way

63. The No Way Trust is a national educational charity set up in 1993 by prison officers who wanted to make an impact on the lives of young people and turn them away from crime and its consequences. In 1995 Prison! Me! No Way! became a registered charity called The No Way Trust after the huge success of the Prison! Me! No Way! (PMNW) from 1993. The aim of Prison Me No Way is to raise awareness amongst young people, aged 8 to 18, about the causes, consequences, penalties and impact of crime.
64. Nationwide, the Trust currently works proactively with over 2,000 secondary schools and more than 1,800 other youth organisations including voluntary youth groups, charities, groups of excluded and disaffected young people, pupil referral units, youth offending teams, magistrates, secure units and attendance centres, police, the Brigade and other Fire and Rescue Services. Schools or other partners commission a PMNW session in a borough and the Brigade supports the delivery of the session.
65. The main delivery tool that the Brigade are directly involved with is multi-agency "Crime & Safety Awareness Days". Pupils in Years 8-10 are removed from their normal daily school cycle for the day and encouraged to respect the value of their freedom by experiencing the restrictive aspects of prison life first hand through interactive workshops to learn about the possible consequences of becoming involved in antisocial or criminal behaviour.
66. These innovative workshops include meeting a life-term prisoner and hearing a 'no holds barred' account of their experiences, and spending time in a reconstructed, scale mobile prison cell. All PMNW events are facilitated by two members of staff for a full day and the composition of staff

attending vary from each area and borough. The Brigade attended six events in 2017/18 with 1,440 pupils taking part.

Wider youth engagement

Youth Conference

67. The London Fire Brigade held its fourth annual Young People's Conference on Saturday March 2018 as part of its on-going commitment to young people's engagement and participation; 50 young people aged 14-18 attended, from across the capital. The young people in attendance were a mixture of graduate Fire Cadets, Jack Petchey winners from LIFE courses, representatives of Crossfire, and the Mayor's Peer Outreach Team.
68. The focus of the fourth annual Young People's Conference was to consult young people about what LFB can do to support the reduction of knife, gun and serious youth crime.
69. Ambassadors from the Young People's Board were assigned roles to help sign in, meet and greet attendees and help facilitate the event by acting as team leaders for their peers.

Youth Board

70. The London Fire Brigade held three meetings of the Young People's Board (YPB) during 2017/18. The YPB is made up of young people from all over the capital and is designed to provide them with the opportunity to express their views and suggest ideas, improvements and changes to the way the Brigade operates. The young people who attend these meetings are also consulted on a range of topics that impact on their lives and those of their peers.
71. The topics that were covered during these three meetings were:
- Urban Search And Rescue (USAR) and dangerous dogs
 - Knife Wounds (in conjunction with the LAS)
 - LFB Museum planning
72. Each meeting included a consultation session with the young people to gauge their opinions on the issues raised. Each of the sessions was attended by over 20 young people.

Quality Assurance

73. Officers quality assure all youth engagement schemes by focusing on four main areas:
- **Planning** – did the delivery staff plan the session appropriately?
 - **Introduction** – did the delivery staff set the scene appropriately?
 - **Session Management** – did the delivery staff manage both the session and the young people appropriately?
 - **Effectiveness** – did the delivery staff check for effectiveness of delivery?
74. Nine quality assurance visits were carried out in 2017/18 with a minimum of 20 planned for 2018/19. The findings were very positive with the main recommendations being on how to enhance delivery style of individuals when presenting to young people and also updating some of the fire safety content.

Training

75. 12 youth staff were trained and completed 'An Introduction to Youth Work (Level 1) and eight staff completed Level 2 Certificate in Youth Work Practice'. Due to the positive feedback about the delivery of the courses and skills obtained the intention is for all youth staff to be trained to become qualified youth workers at level 3 in 2018/19.

Conclusion

76. This report provides a snapshot of the extensive activity within all boroughs. This includes both established Brigade children and youth engagement schemes, new innovative pilot projects and support provided to partner intervention schemes. There is a clear and strong commitment and enthusiasm to children and youth engagement from all the Borough Commanders and some suggested improvements which could lead to even better outcomes and outputs.
77. Going forward, the Brigade is committed to continuing to deliver its core youth engagement offer but also to exploring new opportunities to create career paths into firefighter and other roles within the organisation to take advantage of the diversity within the youth schemes. The youth schemes will also look to take on raising awareness of new and emerging local borough, partners and organisational issues and concerns.

General Counsel's comments

78. The report sets out the work undertaken by the London Fire Brigade in 2017/2018 in relation to both youth engagement and fire safety work in Greater London.
79. The work undertaken is consistent with the London Fire Commissioner's ('LFC') statutory function under section 6 (fire safety) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 ('the Act') which requires the LFC to make provision for the purpose of promoting fire safety, and in doing so may make arrangements for the provision of information, provide publicity and encouragement in respect to the steps needed to be taken to prevent fires and death or injury by fire.
80. Section 12 of the Act also enables the LFC to provide the services of any persons employed by her or any equipment maintained to any person for any purpose that appears to the LFC as appropriate. Section 5A of the Act also provides a general power whereby the LFC may do anything she considers appropriate and/or incidental to carrying out any functional purpose.
81. On the basis of the above and the information contained within the report the General Counsel has no further comments and is content with the report to proceed.

Director of Corporate Services comments

82. This report provides an overview of all of the Brigade's children and youth engagement schemes in 2017/18. The report recommends London Fire Commissioner agrees to publicise to local authorities and other partner staff the positive youth engagement, education and intervention work the Brigade undertakes, particularly helping to identify any potential funding streams for the Brigade to apply for. The cost of this will be contained within the existing youth budget.

Sustainability Implications

83. The Brigades youth engagement schemes support the prevention and inclusion themes of the revised sustainable development framework.

Staff Side Consultations Undertaken

84. There are no staff side implications.

Equalities Implications

85. The report provides structured options for targeted interventions for groups of children and young people for whom there is an identified risk. Some of the schemes such as Fire cadets are particularly well represented in terms of both BME and female representation.

Appendix A – Breakdown of Borough youth engagement Initiatives (2017/18)

Borough	LIFE	Cadets	JFIS	Education	SDSA	Junior Citizens	Crossfire	Prison Me No Way
Barking and Dagenham	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Barnet			Y	Y	Y	Y		
Bexley	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Brent	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Bromley		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Camden	Y		Y	Y		Y		
City of London			Y	Y				
Croydon	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Ealing			Y	Y	Y	Y		
Enfield			Y	Y	Y			
Greenwich	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
Hackney		Y	Y	Y		Y		
Hammersmith and Fulham	Y		Y	Y		Y		Y
Haringey	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	
Harrow			Y	Y	Y	Y		
Havering		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Hillingdon			Y	Y	Y	Y		
Hounslow	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		
Islington			Y	Y	Y	Y		
Kensington and Chelsea			Y	Y		Y	Y	
Kingston upon Thames			Y	Y		Y		
Lambeth	Y		Y	Y				
Lewisham	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	
Merton		Y	Y	Y		Y		
Newham	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y -X3 sessions
Redbridge			Y	Y	Y	Y		
Richmond upon Thames			Y	Y		Y		
Southwark		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	
Sutton			Y	Y				
Tower Hamlets	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	
Waltham Forest			Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
Wandsworth			Y	Y		Y		
Westminster		Y	Y	Y		Y		