



AGENDA ITEM: 8

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

9 May 2016

CO-RESPONDING PILOT

Report by Richard Fairhead, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

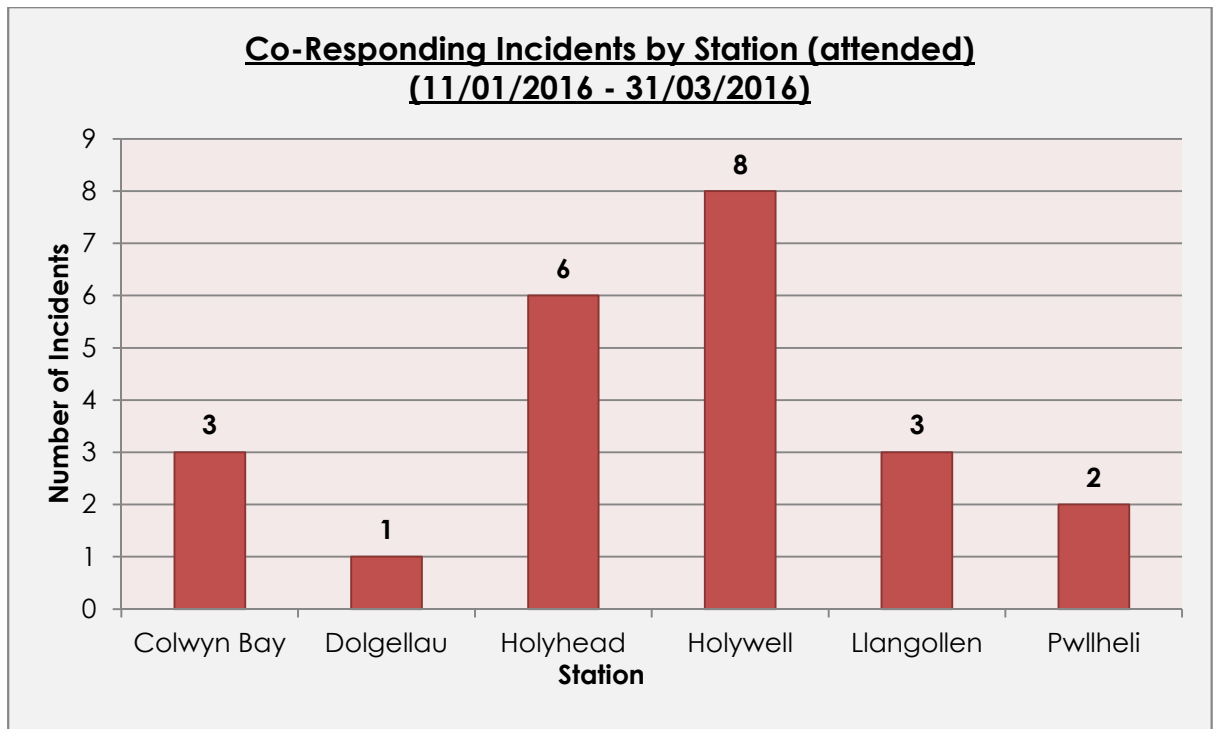
1. To update members on the progress and initial findings of the co-responding pilot being carried out by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS).

Background

2. In this context co-responding is a term used to describe a medical emergency being responded to by both NWFRS and the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST).
3. In June 2015 NWFRS volunteered to take part in the national trials of co-responding and its offer was accepted by the NJC in early August 2015.
4. It was identified that the pilot would run until 30 June 2016, following which a full evaluation would be undertaken.

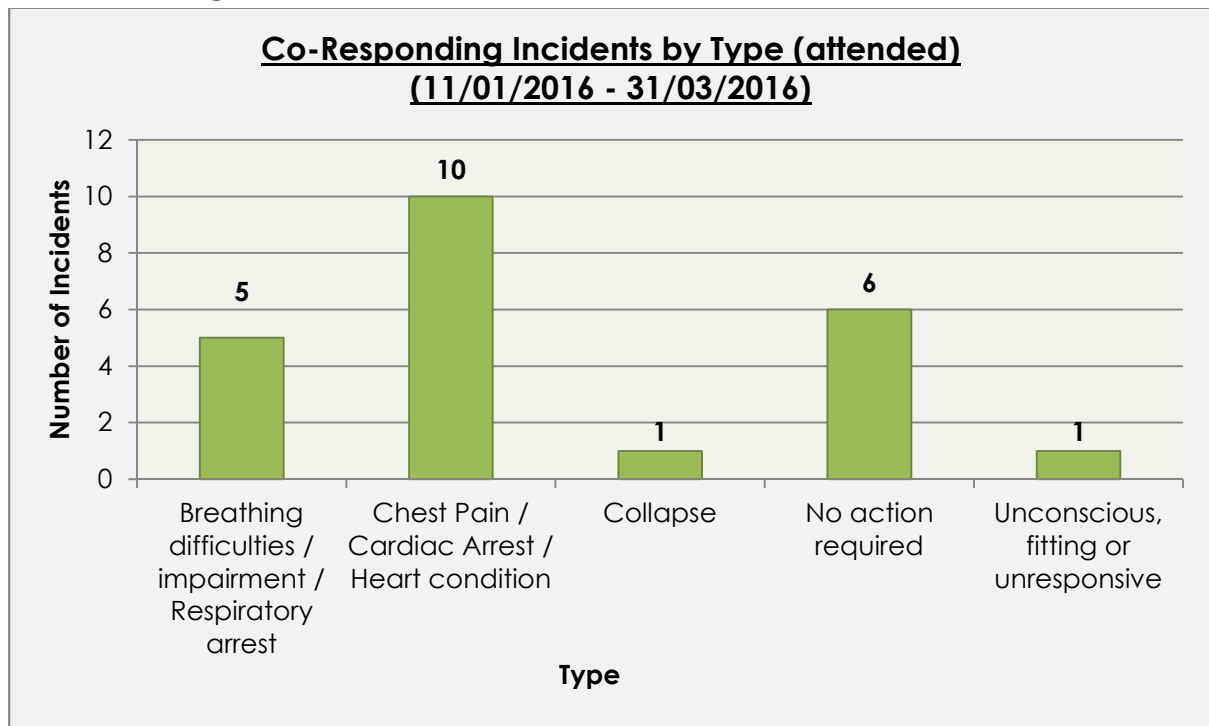
Information

5. NWFRS and WAST worked together to develop the principles around how the pilot would operate in North Wales and agreed the following:
 - a. all NWFRS personnel involved in the pilot must
 - i. be trained to the correct level,
 - ii. satisfy a debarring scheme (DBS) check,
 - iii. undergo a course of inoculations protecting against hepatitis;
 - b. the co-responding pilot would run from seven stations across the region allowing the three different duty systems operated by NWFRS to be part of the pilot.
 - c. NWFRS would only respond to calls identified by WAST as RED 1 calls – these are life threatening medical emergencies and only include:
 - i. heart attack,
 - ii. cardiac arrest,
 - iii. severe bleeding,
 - iv. respiratory arrest,
 - v. unconscious / non responsive persons;
 - d. NWFRS would only respond in a predetermined area around each of the trial stations and would only respond if attending did not affect fire cover.
6. One station (Deeside – 24 hour shift station) withdrew from the pilot due to lack of volunteers; the other six – Holyhead and Colwyn Bay (day crewed stations) and Holywell, Llangollen, Dolgellau and Pwllheli (retained duty system stations) - were all co-responding by 4 February 2016.
7. Up until the end of March 2016, NWFRS has received 68 requests from WAST for a co-response to attend medical emergencies. NWFRS attended a total of 23 of these incidents.



8. The reasons for non-attendance have been
- a. no crew available 25
 - b. incident outside pre-agreed area 7
 - c. crews stood down by WAST 13

The table below show the types of co-responding calls attended by NWFRS.



9. The patient outcome of the 23 incidents attended has a 52% positive result, with 12 casualties being treated and either discharged at the scene or transported to hospital. This percentage is viewed by WAST as being extremely good.

Recommendation

10. That Members note the information and progress made by NWFRS in developing the co-responding trial and the positive outcomes achieved through NWFRS intervention for 52% of the casualties.