



## **AGENDA ITEM: 8**

### **NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL**

**9<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

#### **Fire and Rescue Authorities – Performance Indicators**

**Report by Shân Morris, Corporate Planning Manager**

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To advise members of the performance indicators (PIs) against which fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) in Wales will be measured from 2011-12 onwards.

#### **Background**

- 2 Section 2 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (“the Measure”) places duties on Welsh improvement authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way in which their functions are exercised, having regard to seven aspects of improvement.
- 3 Section 8 of the Measure confers a power on the Welsh Ministers to specify by Order PIs by which the performance of Welsh improvement authorities can be measured.
- 4 Sections 13 and 14 of the Measure place duties on FRAs to collect information relating to their performance and to use that information to compare against their own performance in previous years and – where practicable - with the performance of similar organisations. They are also required to use this information to assess the performance of their services and the impact they are having on the outcomes for citizens and communities.

## **Introduction**

- 5 The FRAs (Performance Indicators) (Wales) Order 2011 came into force on April 1st 2011. It specifies Strategic Indicators by which FRAs' performance will be measured from 2011-12 onwards.
- 6 The Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG's) Circular W-FRSC (2011) 04 issued 31 March 2011 introduces the new Performance Indicator Framework and lists the statutory and supporting ("core") indicators and the recommended areas for developing local performance indicators for 2011-12 onwards. These are:

### **6.1 Statutory Performance Indicators**

FRAs are under a legal duty to collect and report on these indicators which relate to:

- a) Fires attended – in total, primary fires, deliberate fires and accidental dwelling fires;
- b) Fire casualties – deaths and injuries disaggregated by motive (accidental and deliberate);
- c) Fires attended in non-domestic premises.

### **6.2 Standard (Core) Indicators**

The statutory indicators are supported by non-statutory standard (or "core") indicators that relate to:

- a) Fire casualties – deaths and injuries in dwellings and non-domestic premises, disaggregated by motive;
- b) Malicious false alarms – received and attended;
- c) False alarms from automatic fire detection and alarm systems in non-domestic properties;
- d) Deliberate primary, secondary and dwelling fires;
- e) The presence of smoke alarms in dwelling fires;
- f) Fires in dwellings where Home Fire Safety Checks had previously been undertaken;
- g) Staff sickness absence, disaggregated by staff groups;
- h) Staff ill-health retirements, disaggregated by staff groups.

- 7 National indicators cannot measure delivery of local policies, priorities and projects, so FRAs are expected to use local indicators, management information and qualitative methods such as peer review to gauge the scale of their improvement
- 8 The WAG recognises that in some policy areas there should be monitoring and measuring of performance, but that different local approaches mean that a national indicator would not be appropriate. The WAG has therefore specified areas where it expects each FRA to adopt local PIs. These are:
  - 8.1 Local Indicators or other performance information
    - a) Injuries to firefighters
    - b) Operational competence of firefighters
    - c) Performance against the Service's Welsh Language Scheme
    - d) Collaborative activity, and the extent to which this is evaluated
    - e) Accounting for sustainability performance
    - f) Sustainability.

## **Deletions**

- 9 In reviewing the PIs in place prior to 1st April 2011, the WAG has sought to focus on measuring outcomes wherever possible, with activity measures being included only where they have a direct or significant impact on desired outcomes.
- 10 Three statutory PIs that related to the Service Standard have been deleted, as have four non-statutory indicators that related to staff disability, ethnicity and gender and to the payment of invoices within 30 days.

## **Recommendations**

- 11 That Members note the arrangements for measuring the performance of Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales.