Inspection theme	Area for improvement	Outcome/s required/evidence of success	Update November 2020	Update March 2021	Update September 2021	RAG
Formal Areas for improve	ement					
1 Protecting the Public through fire regulation	The Service should ensure it allocates enough resources to a prioritised and risk- based inspection programme	Numbers of competent protection officers increase (CRM records). Priority inspections are carried out in line with the strategy (Protection records, LPIs).	Our 2019/21 IRMP Supplement included a commitment to enhance our Protection capability. To date, internal development of staff has resulted in a total of 14 Fire Safety Inspectors and six Fire Safety Auditors within current budgetary limitations. We have also been able to secure an additional three Watch Managers as part of the investment proposed in the 2019 – 2021 IRMP Supplement. This has enabled us to resource our Risk Based Inspection Programme more fully. However, the loss of four fully qualified Fire Safety Inspectors, mainly to the Private Sector continues to be an adverse factor on resourcing the Department. Recruitment and selection of a Fire Engineer has been completed. The new post holder is a Level 5 qualified fire Inspector and recently enrolled on the Level 6 Fire Engineering Degree at UCLAN. Recruitment of a further six permanent fire safety inspectors is being delivered during the autumn period. Recruitment of a further two fixed term contract fire safety inspectors is being delivered during the same period. Three fire safety auditors have recently successfully moved into fire safety inspector positions.	 Resources: All Fire Safety Auditors have now progressed to Fire Safety Inspector Posts. 6 new Fire Safety Auditors recruited HMICFRS Return for 31 March 2021 recorded 32 Competent Staff dedicated to Protection with 5 in development. Building Risk Review team now established to deliver inspections of High Rise Residential Buildings in line with government trajectory, team consists of 3 Fire Safety Inspectors, 1 Station Manager and Administration Officer, funded from Protection Grant. CFRMIS go live date for 17 May 2021 to replace existing Sophtlogic Management Information System Dedicated Additional temporary Group Manager post as project lead for CFRMIS Dedicated additional temporary Group Manager for Grenfell Tower Inquiry Project Prioritised Risk Based Inspection Programme. Premises Risk Model Review 4.3 Completed. Very High and High Risk premises identified with annual target of 1521 Inspections Premises Risk Model strategic evaluation completed 	 Resources: All Fire Safety Auditors have now progressed to Fire Safety Inspector Posts. 6 new Fire Safety Auditors recruited HMICFRS Return for 31 March 2021 recorded 32 Competent Staff dedicated to Protection with 5 in development. Building Risk Review team now established to deliver inspections of High Rise Residential Buildings in line with government trajectory, team consists of 3 Fire Safety Inspectors, 1 Station Manager and Administration Officer, funded from Protection Grant. CFRMIS went live in May 2021 to replace existing Sophtlogic Management Information System Dedicated additional temporary Group Manager for Grenfell Tower Inquiry Project 	GREEN

						 Prioritised Risk Based Inspection Programme. Premises Risk Model Review 4.3 Completed. Very High and High Risk premises identified with annual target of 1521 Inspections Premises Risk Model strategic evaluation completed 	
2	Responding to fires and other emergencies	The service should ensure staff know how to command fire service assets assertively, effectively and safely at incidents. This should include regular assessment of command competence	Assessments meet the targets set (Preparedness records, LPIs) Assessment processes are robust and comprehensive (Preparedness and Response records)	Arrangements have been put in place to ensure the maintenance of Command Competence (ensuring Officers remain "in ticket") is managed via the Operational Performance System (OPS) maintained by the Command Department and Training & Development Academy MFRS completed all Level 1 assessments with all relevant staff being in ticket following HMICFRS visit. There is a two- year frequency for assessment. This has been impacted due to COVID-19 but is being monitored and schedule adjusted Processes are evidenced, Policy and SI being finalised.			GREEN
				A revised Command Strategy has been presented at the Operations Board on 30 th November 2020.	The revised Command Strategy was presented and endorsed at the Ops Board on 29 March 2021 with launch date set for the 1st April, 2021. All operational managers are within the two year assessment frequency set by NOG and competency is managed by the Command Department and TDA admin Team. Service Instruction has been published which outlines the revised command competency framework for all management levels.	The revised Command Strategy was launched in April, 2021. All operational managers are within the two year assessment frequency set by NOG and competency is managed by the Command Department and TDA admin Team. Service Instruction has been published which outlines the revised command competency framework for all management levels.	GREEN
3	Promoting the right values and culture	The service should ensure its values and behaviours are	Feedback shows that staff understand the values and behaviours (staff survey 2020)	Work has taken place to review the Service's Values which are due to be introduced in the new year. Values are embedded as part of our recruitment and appraisal processes.	A new mandatory Equality, Diversity and Inclusion LearnPro module has been developed for launch in May. It will complement the face to face training.	A mandatory Equality, Diversity and Inclusion LearnPro module was launched in May. It complements the face to face training. Over 70% of staff have completed it to date.	GREEN

	Inderstood and demonstrated by staff.	Feedback shows that staff and managers believe that they and others are displaying the desired behaviours and demonstrating the values (staff survey 2020).	Work has taken place on establishing the MFRS Leadership Process and Message with outcomes also due early in the new year. Our Ground Rules were refreshed (following engagement with staff) and reissued in January 2020. ED& I Training is being delivered to all staff (50% complete), but delivery is currently limited due to the pandemic. Online training is being considered as an interim arrangement, but face to face is preferred because it encourages more interaction. Inclusive leadership coaching has also commenced and work is ongoing to ensure it is embedded in any future organisational approach to coaching. Unconscious Bias training took place virtually during the pandemic and work is ongoing to determine whether we can introduce a collaborative approach to Unconscious Bias training with the Police. Reward and Recognition programmes are being considered that also include improved insight through "pulse" surveys. We have launched three staff networks (Gender, BAME and LGBT) with all of Strategic Leadership Team taking a Strategic Sponsor roll. Network chairs attend the ED&I Strategic Board and are included in engagement relating to key change and decision making including the response to the pandemic. Our bi-annual staff survey was due to take place in June/July 2020, but was postponed due to the pandemic. It is now taking place in November/December.	An Audit of ED&I provision in MFRS has been completed with the report delivered in April. SLT and Network Chairs will meet to discuss the outcomes in May. A review of the Equality Impact Assessment process is underway. The Networks continue to flourish and Network Chairs are embedded in the Strategy and Performance ED&I Board Face to face training has been curtailed during the pandemic but due to start again in May. Several opportunities for online ED&I learning and awareness have been created during the past year that have attracted a much wider variety of staff than would have been possible if these had been held in person. The staff survey was completed in November and December with significant improvements in staff engagement taking us from the lowest quartile in 2014 to the highest in 2020.	An Audit of ED&I provision in MFRS has been completed with the report delivered in April. Action plans have been written. A review of the Equality Impact Assessment process is underway. The Networks continue to flourish and Network Chairs are embedded in the Strategy and Performance ED&I Board. Face to face training was curtailed during the pandemic but started again in July. Over 60% of staff have now received this training. Several opportunities for online ED&I learning and awareness have been created during the past year that have attracted a much wider variety of staff than would have been possible if these had been held in person. The staff survey was completed in November and December with significant improvements in staff engagement taking us from the lowest quartile in 2014 to the highest in 2020. Staff-led work to revise our Values and leadership message has been approved by the Authority and further engagement with staff to embed it is being planned.	GREEN
with the right skills a st ti n	assure itself that all staff are appropriately rained for their role. It needs to ensure all staff seep their skills up to	assessed for all staff and training provided accordingly (POD and Preparedness records).	has been completed and is reviewed annually for uniformed personnel. This is also presented annually at the Operations Board.	update the training systems used and the reporting processes. The functionality of OPS (Operational Performance System) is being reviewed but	update the training systems used and the reporting processes. The functionality of OPS (Operational	

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		date and have a			over the last 12 months the process of	over the last 12 months the process of	
		consistent method of	Similar/aquivalant	A similar Organizational (non uniformed)	managing operational competency across	managing operational competency across	
		recording when they	Similar/equivalent	A similar Organisational (non-uniformed)	all roles has been reviewed and more	all roles has been reviewed and more	
		have received training.	methods of recording	Training Needs Assessment has been	efficient and robust system put in place.	efficient and robust system put in place.	
			skills acquisition and	completed and both are in the process of	Management of the process has moved to	Management of the process has moved to	
			training are used for all	being implemented.	the TDA to reduce communication links	the TDA to reduce communication links	
			staff.	Training will be allocated based on a role	and ensure training days are maximised	and ensure training days are maximised	
				and also as a result of appraisals where	and targeted to the individuals who require	and targeted to the individuals who require	
					it.	it.	
				appropriate.			
				Resource link records all training including	Learn pro is being developed and there is a	Further opportunities for procuring a new	
				that initially recorded in the Operational	standard ELearning template with monthly	comprehensive training management	
				Performance System (OPS), ensuring a	programme of modules and an induction	systems are being explored.	
				complete set of records for all employees.	section. This standard will be available for		
					non-ops, MRU and Fire Control.	Learn pro is being developed and there is a	
				OPS records internal training including core		standard ELearning template with monthly	
				and non-core training, and is now used to	Senior officers now have own training	programme of modules and an induction	
				record internal training for both uniformed	planner which is bespoke to the role.	section. This standard will be available for	
				and non-uniformed personnel. An upgrade	Further development areas will take place	non-ops staff, MRU and Fire Control.	
				of the OPS system is required over the next	over the coming year to provide		
				year.	consistency to the look and use of the	Senior officers now have their own training	
					software.	planner which is bespoke to the role.	
				A team was put together in November		Further development areas will take place	
				2019 to review of the LearnPro online		over the coming year to provide	
				training system, this has taken place and		consistency to the look and use of the	
				improvements to e-learning packages have		software.	
				been made in consultation with staff. The			
				next stage is to ensure all staff use			
				LearnPro for corporate training. This phase			
				is ongoing with the aim of standardising			
				the Learn pro across the organisation.			
5	Ensuring fairness and	To identify and tackle	Staff from protected and	The responses to 3 above are also relevant	The responses to 3 above are also relevant	The responses to 3 above are also relevant	GREEN
	promoting diversity	barriers to equality of	underrepresented	to this action.	to this action.	to this action.	
		opportunity, and make	groups feel more	In addition, the Comice continues to use	Desitive estimates and the Neversherr	Positive action comments in the November	
		its workforce more	positive about working	In addition, the Service continues to use	Positive action comments in the November		
		representative, the	for MFRS (Staff survey	Positive Action to encourage people from	update still apply.	update still apply.	
		service should ensure	2020).	underrepresented groups to apply for	Since the beginning of 2018 we have	A Positive Action workshop took place in	
		diversity and inclusion		firefighter and Control positions. A team	recruited 157 firefighters of whom:	September, which any members of staff	
		are well understood and		continues to work on this, including Staff		could attend. The outcomes will form the	
		become important	Staff from	Network representatives.	17.83% are women	basis of a new strategy.	
		values of the service.	underrepresented	As an example, to encourage more BAME		subs of a new strategy.	
			groups are more likely to	people to apply for firefighter roles we	7.64% are BAME (local BAME population is	A temporary post of Positive Action and	
			seek promotion (POD	have the following:	5.5%)	Recruitment Coordinator has been created	
			records, PSED report)			to progress the strategy.	
L		1	1	1	1	1	

			Positive action recruitment continues to result in a more diverse workforce (POD records, PSED report) Staff have received ED&I training which they have understood and feel able to apply in their work (Training records, Staff survey 2020).	 Have-a-Go days (specifically for FF roles (which are now part of an apprenticeship)). Candidates are given the opportunity to 'have a go' at the selection assessments and learn more about the FF selection process so that they can prepare prior to an advert going live. Use social media to demonstrate information on selection processes and to capture the stories of BAME role models within the Service. Promote our apprenticeships and vacancies to our community groups who represent BAME interests within Merseyside. Distribute promotional materials which showcase the diverse range of careers at MFRS to our community groups. Attend school / colleges / university careers events to promote our apprenticeship and vacancy opportunities. Work with our BAME staff network to promote our vacancies / apprenticeship opportunities. 		Figures from the last three firefighter recruitment campaigns shows 9% of successful candidates were BAME (well in excess of the local population of 5.5%) and 14.5% were women.	CREEN
6	Managing performance and developing leaders	The service should put in place an open and fair process to identify, develop and support high-potential staff and aspiring leaders.	Process is produced (SI, strategy or Policy published)	As mentioned in 3 above work has taken place on establishing the MFRS Leadership Process and Message with outcomes due soon. Our Gateway (progression) process has been reviewed and was relaunched in April and now encompasses all staff groups. It explains to staff the support they can receive to assist them in future progression.	Staff-led work to revise our Values and leadership message has been completed and further engagement and launch is being planned in 2021/22. An accelerated Leadership Programme is being developed and has been presented to People Board. Both programmes are now planned for January 2022	Staff-led work to revise our Values and leadership message has been completed and approved by the Authority. Further staff engagement to embed this being planned in 2021/22. An accelerated Leadership Programme is being developed and has been presented to People Board. Both programmes are now planned for implementation in January 2022	GREEN

	Inspection theme	Area for improvement	Outcome/s required/ evidence of success	Update November 2020	Update March 2021	Update September 2021	RAG
	Other areas identified in t	he report	I				
7	Responding to fires and other emergencies	The service's operational policy reflects national guidance. But staff have an inconsistent understanding of what recording process they would follow if required to step outside policy. They were also not always sure how to log significant decisions	Staff understanding is improved and demonstrated	Incident logging has been established and Operational Discretion is now included in the relevant policy documents. Instructions have been issued on how to do this and work will take place to reinforce this including sampling to ensure staff understand.	As previous update. Decision Logging ELearning package also in place. Completed	As previous update. Decision Logging ELearning package also in place. Completed	GREEN
8	Responding to fires and other emergencies	Although we found the debrief process led by the operational assurance team to be robust, we found that operational crews took an inconsistent approach to debriefing smaller incidents.	Operational crews demonstrate a more consistent approach to debriefing smaller incidents (Response records).	 The following work has been undertaken: Hot debriefs taking place at stations. Smaller incident debriefs are easier to undertake at the incident ground. Work is ongoing to develop the process around larger incidents. Automating these processes is a priority. 	A new 'Hot Debrief' process has been introduced to address the capture of learning from smaller incidents. This uses the Microsoft Forms platform and is easily accessible from the Portal. This has seen great success and is becoming widely used by crews. The introduction of the process led to an overhaul of the whole debrief process and this led to the revised SI 0069 'incident debriefs'.	A new 'Hot Debrief' process has been introduced to address the capture of learning from smaller incidents. This uses the Microsoft Forms platform and is easily accessible from the Portal. This has seen great success and is becoming widely used by crews. The introduction of the process led to an overhaul of the whole debrief process and this led to the revised SI 0069 'incident debriefs'.	GREEN
9	Responding to national risks	We saw that the information the service holds on the risks in surrounding services isn't as accessible as its own risk information. But we noted that while we were inspecting, the service was upgrading the computers it has on fire engines, where	Cross border risk information is more accessible to crews (Preparedness records).	Cross border risk information has now been delivered and was initially only available through Resilience Direct. To improve accessibility all available risk information is now available to operational staff via appliance Mobile Data Terminals and intranet Portal pages. Longer term solutions are still being considered.	Longer term solutions are still being considered as part CFSMIS Solution.	Longer term solutions are still being considered as part CFSMIS Solution.	GREEN

	this information will be made available.					
1 Making the fire and 0 rescue service affordable now and in the future	We found that the service has various inefficient paper- based systems. However, it has invested in a team to develop a range of online applications with the intention of modernising these systems.	More paper based processes are replaced by applications (S&P records).	Applications development has continued through this period and processes also continued to be streamlined through the use of InfoPath forms and processes on the SharePoint Portal. The new SSRI application, SIRAH, is being rolled out, but the Service is now aware that a commercial off the shelf package is available, that was not available when internal application development commenced. The suitability of this for Prevention, Protection and SSRI purposes is under review as this may provide a suitable alternative.	Processes continue to be streamlined and automated using Microsoft Forms and InfoPath forms. 36 processes have been improved in this way since the last inspection. Finance have also automated previously paper-based processes such as virements. The CFRMIS system will provide a management information system for Protection, Prevention and Site Specific Risk Information. This has replaced in- house development. The Protection element went live in May. This has replaced the SIRAH application previously referred to. In-house development continues however for the application developed to manage National Resilience assets.	 Processes continue to be streamlined and automated using Microsoft Forms and InfoPath forms. 36 processes have been improved in this way since the December 2018 HMICFRS inspection. Finance have also automated previously paper-based processes such as virements and launched a payment gateway on the website. The CFRMIS system will provide a management information system for Protection, Prevention and Site Specific Risk Information. This has replaced in- house development. The Protection element went live in May and the Prevention element was piloted on two stations in September. This has replaced the SIRAH application previously referred to. In-house development continues for the application developed to manage National Resilience assets. 	GREEN
 How well does the service look after its people? 	Staff don't always view the promotion process as open and fair. We didn't find this to be the case, but the service still has work to do to allay these workforce concerns.	Staff are more accepting that the promotion process is open and fair (Staff survey 2020).	The launch of the new Gateway process is hoped to reassure staff that the promotion process is open and fair and no complaints have been received. The response to the staff survey (taking place Nov/December 2020) will provide more supporting evidence.	An accelerated Leadership Programme is being developed and has been presented to People Board	An accelerated Leadership Programme is being developed and has been presented to People Board	GREEN
 Ensuring fairness and promoting diversity 	The service has made a commitment to the public to improve a range of equality and diversity issues in its IRMPbut we observed a difference between how management think these commitments have been accepted across its	Staff understand the equality, diversity and inclusion objectives (Staff survey 2020) Staff have received ED&I training which they have understood	Prior to the pandemic, ED&I Essentials training had been rolled out to half the staff and was very well received. Some face to face training resumed between the two lockdowns and online training has commenced. The aim is to reinstate face to face training as this is believed most effective.	The 2020 staff survey showed a marked improvement in the level of staff engagement in MFRS with 88% of the workforce engaged. This is an excellent result and demonstrates the positive impact of organisational changes made since 2018. This result includes 96% of staff saying they care about the future of MFRS, 81% saying they would	The 2020 staff survey showed a marked improvement in the level of staff engagement in MFRS with 88% of the workforce engaged. This is an excellent result and demonstrates the positive impact of organisational changes made since 2018. This result includes 96% of staff saying they care about the future of MFRS, 81% saying they would recommend MFRS	GREEN

	workforce and the frontline reality.	and feel able to apply in their work (Training records, Staff survey 2020).	Unconscious Bias training took place virtually during lockdown for approximately 70 staff who are in management positions or involved in recruitment, performance management etc. Work is ongoing to determine how future unconscious bias training will take place. Staff networks have continued during the pandemic and the network chairs have been directly engaged with about the pandemic and are also involved in the quarterly ED&I strategic boards enabling them to engage directly with strategic leaders and contribute to ED&I outcomes.	recommend MFRS as a good place to work (up from 47% in 2018) and 90% saying they are proud to work for MFRS. The need to curtail face training during the pandemic has impacted on the roll- out, but the creation and launch of a new LearnPro module, the embedding and increased involvement of Staff Networks and opportunities for online ED&I training that have been presented to all staff (e.g. Ramadan awareness) have been well received and had a positive impact.	as a good place to work (up from 47% in 2018) and 90% saying they are proud to work for MFRS. The need to curtail face training during the pandemic has impacted on the roll-out, but the creation and launch of a LearnPro module, the embedding and increased involvement of Staff Networks and opportunities for online ED&I training that have been presented to all staff (e.g. Ramadan awareness) have been well received and had a positive impact.	
 Ensuring fairness and promoting diversity 	The service doesn't fully reflect the communities it serves	Future recruitment shows continued improvements in diversity (POD records, PSED report)	See 5 above.	See 5 above	See 5 above.	GREEN
Ensuring fairness and promoting diversity	Staff from all groups felt that middle and senior managers could make more of an effort to respond to their concerns and challenge inappropriate and exclusionary language	managers make an	 Work has been undertaken in 2020 to review the organisation's leadership message and values with the outcomes due in early 2021. Numerous staff from throughout MFRS were interviewed to allow them share their experiences of leadership and what they would like leadership in MFRS to look like in the future. This work has incorporated a review of the organisational values which will be relaunched at the same time. Increasing work with the Staff Networks will support improvement in this area. Area Manager visits reinforce our values and behaviours. This extensive piece of work is expected to address these concerns from staff. 	The staff survey results included specific references to improvements in this area, particularly around the visibility of senior staff and improved communications. The CFO sent out a very clear message after the 2018 inspection that undermining behaviours would not be tolerated, soon after that, the Ground Rules were refreshed in consultation with staff and other activities outlined in the updates to previous sections (particularly 3 and 5) demonstrate that a considerable amount of work has taken place since.	The staff survey results included specific references to improvements in this area, particularly around the visibility of senior staff and improved communications. The CFO sent out a very clear message after the 2018 inspection that undermining behaviours would not be tolerated, soon after that, the Ground Rules were refreshed in consultation with staff and other activities outlined in the updates to previous sections (particularly 3 and 5) demonstrate that a considerable amount of work has taken place since. Since then the new Leadership Message has been developed (in consultation with many staff) and approved by the Authority. This includes a new Purpose, Vision, Values and behaviours.	GREEN
 Ensuring fairness and promoting diversity 	[in the HMICFRS staff survey – 92 respondents] 26 reported feeling bullied or	Fewer people report feeling bullied or harassed at work	2017 -18 - There was a total of 33 disciplinary cases. Three cases were recorded as bullying and harassment.	The 2020 staff survey shows that over 80% of staff believe bullying and harassment is not tolerated in MFRS and	The 2020 staff survey shows that over 80% of staff believe bullying and harassment is not tolerated in MFRS and have also not	GREEN

	harassed at work and 26 reported feeling discriminated against at work, in the last 12 months. In both cases, respondents indicated this was most likely to be by someone more senior than themselves and industrial action was often cited as the reason behind bullying/harassment.	(2020 survey compared to 2018 staff survey not HMICFRS survey)	 2018-19 - There was a total of 20 disciplinary cases. One case was recorded as bullying and harassment. 2019-20 - There was a total of 18 disciplinary cases. None were recorded as bullying and harassment The 4 disciplinary cases which have been recorded as bullying and harassment during the last 3 years were all relating to male members of staff. 	have also not experienced it themselves (improved from under 50% in 2014) Discipline cases relating to B&H have reduced to zero in 2019-20 from three in 2017-18 This is testament to our concerted efforts to improve our organisational culture, educate and listen to our staff	experienced it themselves (improved from under 50% in 2014) Discipline cases relating to B&H have reduced to zero in 2019-20 from three in 2017-18 This is testament to our concerted efforts to improve our organisational culture, educate and listen to our staff	
 Managing performance and developing leaders 		General Unconscious bias training has been delivered to staff as part of ED&I training and specific applied training has been delivered to staff carrying out selection processes.	Unconscious Bias training was delivered during lockdown to managers and others responsible for recruitment, performance management etc. Work is ongoing to deliver more training in this area including the potential for collaboration with the Police.	No change since the November update. This work is ongoing.	No change since the previous update. This work is ongoing.	GREEN