

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY		
DATE:	12 OCTOBER 2023	REPORT NO:	CFO/046/23
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, PHIL GARRIGAN		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEGAL SERVICES - NICK MERNOCK	REPORT AUTHORS:	MO JOGI & VICKY CAMPBELL
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A: EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ANNUAL REPORT, APRIL 2022 TO MARCH 2023
--------------------	--

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress made against Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority ('MFRA') Equality, Diversity and Inclusion ('ED&I') objectives for 2021-2024 and present the annual report for publication.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
 - a) note the content of the report and;
 - b) approve the ED&I Annual Report for publication on the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) website in order to demonstrate MFRA's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and how it has met its Public Sector Equality Duty).

Introduction and Background

3. The purpose of this report is to demonstrate MFRA's compliance with the Equality Act 2010 General Duty and to update stakeholders on the key outcomes delivered in the year with regards to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

4. The Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (s.149) states that in the exercise of their functions, public authorities must have **due regard** to the need to:
 - a. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
 - b. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
 - c. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
5. In order for public authorities to demonstrate they are meeting the PSED there is a number of specific duties which require public bodies including MFRA to:
 - a) Publish information to show their compliance with the Equality Duty, at least annually
 - b) Set and publish equality objectives, at least every four years.
6. The PSED states that all information above must be published in a way which makes it easy for people to access it.
7. It is proposed the report is published and promoted on the intranet portal and website and copies will be available for request in braille, large font and different languages on request.
8. This report includes information on the effect that our policies and practices have had on people who share a relevant protected characteristic, to demonstrate the extent to which we have furthered the aims of the general equality duty for our employees.
9. The report also provides our fourth gender pay gap report which is required by all Public Sector Bodies over 250 employees.
10. This year for the first time the report considers the ethnicity pay gap, this is not currently a requirement on the Authority but is seen as best practice by the Service.
11. MFRA recognises that a representative workforce will provide a Fire and Rescue Service that respects and responds to the diversity of the local communities that it serves. For the purposes of comparison in this report, the general population of Merseyside has been used and the national fire and rescue service staff population is used where available as a further benchmark.

Equality and Diversity Implications

12. The ED&I Annual Report evidences how MFRA executes the provision of the Equality Act 2010 and in particular shows due regard to the needs of the nine protected groups through the monitoring of the ED&I action plan and our five equality objectives.

Staff Implications

13. Staff have been integral to the creation of this report through a number of processes including attending, Staff Networks and meetings with the Diversity Team and providing regular written communication updates. The data contained in the reports will be used by officers carrying out future Equality Impact Assessments, changes to services or development of employment and service delivery policies.

Legal Implications

14. The reports demonstrate the work that is being conducted to meet the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty requirements.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

15. There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

16. There are no risk management, health & safety or environmental implications arising from this report.

Contribution to Our Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

17. The production of this report demonstrates how MFRA are delivering services in a way that meets its legal duties in relation to the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty requirements, and how best practice is essential for a public sector organisation.
18. The Annual Report also shows how we manage our services to engage with diverse communities, and gives examples of how we serve, how we protect and how we keep those communities safe.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/111/11 If this report follows on from another, list the previous report(s)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AFSA	Asian Fire Service Association
AWoL	Absent Without Leave
BAME	Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic
CFO	Chief Fire Officer

DCFO	Deputy Chief Fire Officer
DWP	Department of Work and Pensions
EIA	Equality Impact Assessment
ED&I	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
FF	Firefighter
FRS	Fire & Rescue Service
HFSC	Home Fire Safety Check
HMICFRS	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services
LCR	Liverpool City Region
LFB	London Fire Brigade
LGA	Local Government Association
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, Queer/Questioning +
MFRA	Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority
MFRS	Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NR	National Resilience
POD	People and Organisational Development
PSED	Public Sector Equality Duty
PT	Physical Trainers
REACH	Race Equality and Cultural Heritage
SHQ	Service Headquarters
SRT	Search and Rescue Team
TDA	Training and Development Academy
TDP	Training Delivery Partners
UwFR	Unwanted Fire Signals