



AGENDA ITEM: 9

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

24 October 2016

ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT AND FIRE SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS IN WELSH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Report by Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present to Members the Wales Audit Office's annual improvement report attached at appendix 1 and the report on fire safety arrangements in Welsh fire and rescue services attached at appendix 2.

Background

- 2 Under the Local Government Measure 2009, the Auditor General for Wales (AGW) is required to report on how well public authorities are planning for improvement and delivering their services.

Information

- 3 The annual improvement report summarises the audit work undertaken at NWFRA since August 2015. Taking into consideration the work carried out during 2015-16, the Auditor General will state in this report whether he believes that the Authority is likely to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement for 2016-17.
- 4 The AGW has concluded that the Authority has arrangements in place that are likely to enable it to secure continuous improvement in 2016-17.

- 5 The AGW is satisfied that the Authority has arrangements in place to ensure it meets its obligation to set improvement objectives and publish an evaluation of its performance and that its arrangements for achieving financial resilience are sound. The report also states that the Authority plans and delivers a range of appropriate activities that improve fire safety and has arrangements for evaluating the impact of campaigns, but, in common with others, lacks a framework for fully evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of these activities. Therefore the first suggested proposal for improvement is 'that at national level develop and agree principles on how to evaluate the success and outcomes of current interventions, events and prevention work'.
- 6 The second proposal is 'at national level, establish arrangements with the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST) and relevant health boards to identify the extent of unreported injuries resulting from fires to enable identification of potentially vulnerable people or higher risk premises'.
- 7 The Wales Audit Office has also undertaken a detailed study on fire safety arrangements in Welsh fire and rescue services and this report is attached at appendix 2 for members' perusal. The suggested proposals for improvement are the same as those stated in the annual improvement report.

Recommendation

- 8 Members are asked to note the annual improvement report and the report on fire safety arrangements in Welsh fire and rescue services attached.