

Update from outgoing Borough Fire Commander, Kevin Mckenzie.

LFB Key Achievements for Last Year (April 2021 – March 2022)

The past year has been challenging due to Covid restrictions which led to some community engagement activities being scaled back. LFB are now back to normal business and catching up on key partnership and community engagement work. Below is a snapshot of some of the contributions and achievements made by LFB Bromley led by Borough Commander Kevin Mckenzie. Kevin has now moved into a new role in LFB Policy at headquarters, and would like to thank the Bromley partnership for their support during his tenure.

Staff training - Safeguarding

We have delivered Safeguarding training to all LFB staff across the borough through online training packages and face-to-face engagement. We also continue to educate our staff about issues such as modern day slavery, dementia awareness, and exploitation.

Following positive interactions with Bromley special educational needs reform officers and the charity CASPA. Work is underway to empower those from the neurodiverse community. In May 2021 a scoping meeting was held with Borough Commander Kevin Mckenzie, Helen Dyer- CEO of CASPA Charity, Stephanie Withers- Group leader of SEN Advisory teams & Matthew Catchpole- SEND Reforms & Autism Project officer. The outcome of the meeting was a partnership set up to work with Bromley All-Age Autism. In December 2021 LFB held a training day at Orpington fire station for all on duty firefighters across Bromley borough. The training day was well attended and thought provoking with many discussions held taking a closer look at neurodiversity and LFB staff understanding of Autism within the community. This work aligns with LFB priorities and continues to raise awareness while exploring how we can support the partnership to increase employment opportunities for people with Autism and other disabilities.

Hoarders

Work to review information held on hoarders and a review of our process for identifying and recording hoarders both internally and externally is ongoing. This includes a continuous review of our operational risk information database to ensure up to date information is shared with partners, and maintained by our crews where appropriate.

Contribution to Community impact days

We continue to positively support LBB multi-agency initiative intended to target 'environmental, ASB, youth engagement, and Community Issues. Our attendance at community impact days across the borough is both proactive and consistent. Positive engagement results have been achieved in areas such as Mottingham and Penge. Borough Commander Kevin Mckenzie would like to place on record thanks to

Sandra Campbell and Cheryl Baker for their consistency, drive for excellence, and support.

Community Safety

We continue to engage with the voluntary sector in Bromley, and have recently formed a partnership with Bromley Brighter Beginnings to support the local Community and keep them safe from fires in the home by providing advice and guidance. A referral process has been set up with LFB south east area community safety team, and this is aligned with our local and organisational priorities of prevention and protection. Throughout lockdown we maintained our service to the community installing specialist smoke alarms for those with impaired hearing. We also continued to issue fire retardant bedding to safeguard adults and children.

Local Elections

For the first time since the official opening of Orpington fire station, the community room was used as a polling station for the local elections. The feedback received thus far has been positive and LFB await further feedback from the electoral office on this event.

Further Plans

Borough Commander Chris Line takes over LFB Bromley on May 16th. As part of the handover between Kevin and Chris the following were highlighted for future planning -

- We continue to explore how we can offer more training to domiciliary care workers in support of preventing fire related deaths. It was previously suggested that more training was required to help staff recognise and respond accordingly to fire safety risks.
- We will attend more safer neighbourhood boards to help us establish wider connections with the community. We are particularly keen to explore better links with the faith community and other community-based organisations, such as Neighbourhood Watch.
- We will explore a more structured approach to communicating to our fire safety messages to those in the community who typically do not use computers.