



Thames Valley Emergency Services Collaboration Programme Register

This is a supporting document to the Thames Valley Collaboration Report. This collaboration register is intended to demonstrate the projects being considered and worked on within the Thames Valley Emergency Services Collaboration Programme through the involvement of:

- South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS)
- Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS)
- Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS)
- Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS)
- Thames Valley Police (TVP)

DEMAND MANAGEMENT & RATIONALISATION					
What do we want to achieve?	Partners	Why are we doing it?	What is being done?	Benefits to date	Status
Using firefighters rather than Police Officers to gain entry to patients who have collapsed behind closed doors	BFRS OFRS RBFRS TVP SCAS	Fire Engines are better equipped to gain entry to a property than Police cars and can often provide a faster response. This enables quicker intervention by ambulance crews.	Across the Thames Valley, fire engines are now mobilised in preference to Police to assist ambulance crews at this type of incident.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 200 of TVP hours saved and diverted to other operational responsibilities Reduction in property damage due to FRS ability 	Established

SHARED ESTATES & ASSETS					
What do we want to achieve?	Partners	Why are we doing it?	What is being done?	Benefits to date	Status
Best use of Emergency Services buildings to provide the most effective and efficient services to communities	BFRS OFRS RBFRS TVP SCAS	Create environments to promote collaborative working. Improve public value via effective utilisation and getting the best possible value for money. To engage better with local communities and raise public profile by bringing a community space to areas within some stations	Regular meetings taking place to identify opportunities for improvements which remain under constant review. Refurbishments to current stations also incorporating community spaces. Completed premises include Blue Light Hub in Milton Keynes and Theale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £200+k overall net savings delivered to build the Strategic Asset Investment Framework. Increase in interaction between partners, sharing of information and best practice leading to improved efficiencies when serving the community. 	Established – constant Tri Service consideration
Joint emergency services contracts wherever practical	BFRS	To achieve greater savings and obtain the best	All the Emergency Services Procurement teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £146k savings made during 2018/9 to 	Established

	OFRS	possible value for money for the residents of Thames Valley through a greater combined buying power.	collaborate and have a joint work plan to bring together all suitable contracts. Review of current processes is underway and a contract register established to identify further collaboration opportunities and reduce duplication	reinvest in enabling partners to provide protection to the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none">35 joint contracts across TV Fire Services established to produce ongoing procurement savings.	
Collaborative purchasing of operational vehicles.	BFRS OFRS RBFRS	To achieve greater savings and get the best possible value for money for the residents of Thames Valley and support operational alignment.	Joint procurement of fire engines across the Thames Valley. Joint procurement of high reach vehicles to enable the 'high rise' strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Savings of £173k achieved 2018 - 21 in revenue to support service continuity.	Established

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES & PARTNERSHIPS					
What do we want to achieve?	Partners	Why are we doing it?	What is being done?	Benefits to date	Status
Shared specialist posts	BFRS OFRS RBFRS TVP	This is the most effective use of specialist officers in providing the relevant skills to services.	Processes embedded by the former shared procurement officer across the Thames Valley Police and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue are now business as usual. Shared Monitoring Officer across Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority Gloucestershire Fire Service and Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Standardised processes introduced and embedded by procurement officer in to the newly formed Thames Valley Procurement Working Group to explore and secure on-going savings (total of c. £499k 2018 – 21).	Partially Established
Aligning the way we provide our emergency response	BFRS	To ensure effectiveness and efficiency in dealing	Work has been formalised under one programme with	N/A*	Partially Established

	OFRS	with emergencies by working together seamlessly.	two areas of high priority: the aligning of breathing apparatus sets and procedures to gain maximum benefits of joint working. There will be a continuous focus on the National Operational Guidance publication schedule to enable consistent operational procedures in the Thames Valley.		
Deliver a consistent approach to Fire and Rescue On call Firefighter recruitment, to maintain resilience and flexibility for each service to recruit to fit its need and increase the diversity of the workforce.	BFRS	Ensure Fire and Rescue Services are best placed to attract and retain the right quality of people to deliver our service. A consistent approach between services will mean the most efficient use of resources. Will also achieve greater economies of scales to allow financial savings and pooling of resources.	A common process to operational recruitment from attraction and engagement through to acquisition training has been agreed. The next stage is to focus on collaborative candidate attraction and engagement and On-Call Firefighter recruitment and selection. A Workforce planning group has been set up comprising of representatives from each partner to share best practice and identify collaboration opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancies and information sharing across the region is now business as usual. This ensures equal opportunities is available to existing employees. 	Initial Work Only

JOINT CONTROL ROOM

What do we want to achieve?	Partners	Why are we doing it?	What is being done?	Benefits to date	Status
Single call handling and resource mobilising service for Fire and Rescue calls	BFRS ORFS RBFRS	This provides an excellent service across the Thames Valley at a reduced cost in comparison to running three services. It all provides a great platform for further collaboration.	The Control centre is fully established and at a steady state thereby saving operational costs. A technological upgrade has been introduced to pin point mobile phone users to provide a quicker response. Initial assessments on the introduction of Multi Agency Incident Transfer (MAIT) has begun, this will reduce the time taken to log and respond to emergency calls. A high quality performance has been maintained throughout the challenge of Covid and the drought of summer 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Savings of c. £1.2 million per year for the three fire and rescue services to build on control room efficiencies via the introduction of technological enhancements. 	Established / Delivered
Develop a procedure to identify services which will attend and support sudden deaths in the community and remove the need for multiple services to attend certain types of sudden deaths in specified circumstances	TVP SCAS Coroners	This will allow SCAS to deal with the majority of natural deaths from initial attendance to reporting the death to the deceased's medical practitioner. This will allow Thames Valley Police to focus on unnatural deaths that may be suspicious or have a criminal nature.	Definitions of varying circumstances have been identified along with a specified response procedure for each.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced on scene time for SCAS, due no waiting to perform a TVP handover, enabling a quicker response to the next incident. Reduction in TVP's involvement in unnecessary cases by c. 45% which freed up resources to attend more appropriate incidents 	Established

INFORMATION SHARING					
What do we want to achieve?	Partners	Why are we doing it?	What is being done?	Benefits to date	Status
To implement a single way of mapping risk and modelling our response options across Fire and Rescue Services	BFRS OFRS RBFRS	This will give us a more effective and efficient way of understanding the most vulnerable areas of our communities, and how we can reduce risks across the region through a balance of our prevention, protection and emergency response arrangements	A joint group has been established across the three Fire and Rescue services to create a common methodology to increase consistency across the region. A risk model has been agreed to be implemented in phase 2.	N/A*	Established
Joint investigation of relevant incidents between the FRS's and TVP	BFRS OFRS RBFRS TVP	This is the most effective use of specialist investigators in light of changes to the accreditation and produces the most accurate and complete investigations.	Fire Investigation Teams and the Thames Valley Police Forensic Investigation Unit regularly work together to investigate serious incidents. Stage two is building upon this foundation and developed a Forensic Fire Scene Investigation Unit to provide resilience for the region in line with the ISO 17020 accreditation.	N/A*	Stage one - Established Stage two - Partially Established

PROTECTION					
What do we want to achieve?	Partners	Why are we doing it?	What is being done?	Benefits to date	Status
Creating a single fire protection function across the Thames Valley	BFRS	To provide a more resilient service that is better for business in the Thames Valley by pursuing a single Fire Protection function	Stage one consists of working practice alignment across the three TV FRSs. The initial focus will be on enabling Fire Safety	N/A*	Stage one - Established

	OFRS		Inspectors to work in a consistent way across Thames Valley and look to align all other areas of technical guidance. Stage two will evaluate the feasibility of creating a single hub for specialisms in fire engineering and the enforcement function.		Stage two – initial work only - paused
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* - N/A: where benefits cannot be identified at this point

PROJECTS NOT BEING TAKEN FORWARDS					
What we wanted to achieve?	Partners	Why did we not proceed?	Latest Update	Status	
To explore additional methods of risk mapping using the agreed model, to increase collaborative opportunities in prevention, protection and emergency response arrangements.	BFRS	Each services working are not yet aligned appropriately enough to agree a key set of parameters and what each service would require/find advantages from a secondary phase of the Risk mapping and modelling project.	Phase 2 is to remain as an opportunity for consideration further into the collaborative process	Phase 2 not started	
	TVP				
	RBFRS				
Developing a single approach for the Thames Valley, supporting apprenticeships across the emergency services.	BFRS	Scope of the Workforce Reform project has been reduced and operational apprenticeships, as a TV collaboration workstream, has been put on hold in order to develop other elements within the project scope more effectively and efficiently.	A greater level resource is being focused on the following areas: On-call recruit, attraction, selection and training alongside information sharing.	Thames Valley apprenticeships not started	
	TVP				
	RBFRS				
To adopt the Neighbourhood alerts system currently used by TVP into the Thames Valley FRS's as a Thames Valley asset.	BFRS	The alerts system would need to be aligned to individual services' communications strategies, meaning each service would need to manage the system alongside its other	Services are to continue to work on this on an individual basis, with each FRS having adopted their own form of the system. This is to be monitored for opportunities for	Project Stopped	
	TVP				

	RBFRS	external channels, therefore limiting collaboration opportunities. There is also very little cost saving to be achieved.	a more collaborative approach, should clear benefits over and above existing arrangements emerge.	
A joint scheme between RBFRS and TVP Whitley Wood	RBFRS	It became very clear that a combined scheme did not provide the best value and the decision was taken not to proceed.	The amount of work carried out between the two property teams will not be lost as this kind of joint project learning will enhance future projects.	No longer progressing as a collaborative project