



AGENDA ITEM: 10

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL

18 July 2016

CO-RESPONDING PILOT

Report by Richard Fairhead, Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Purpose of Report

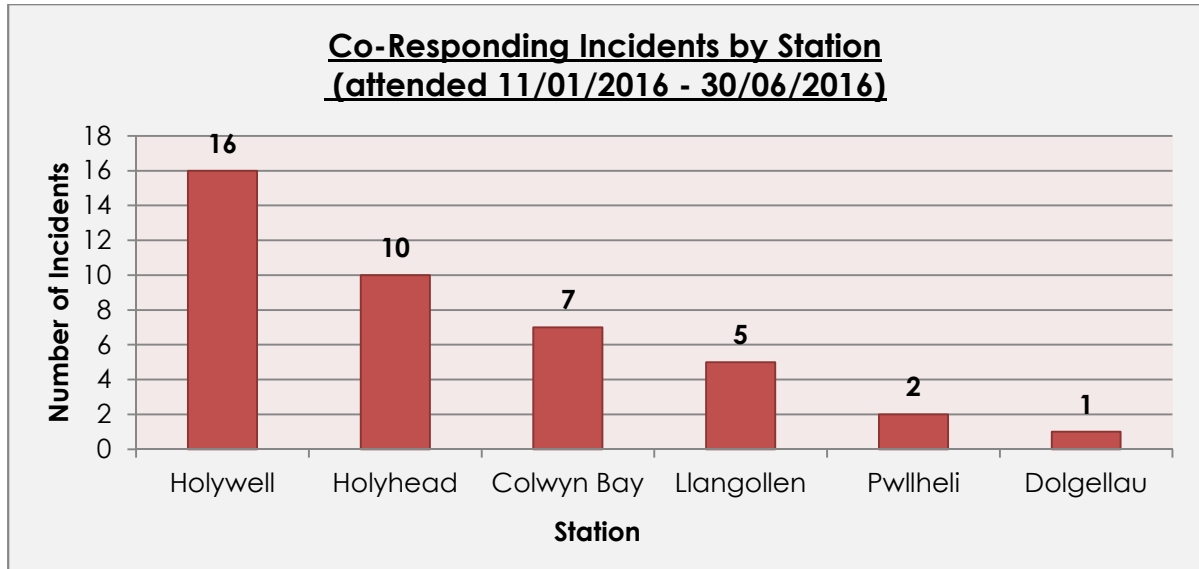
1. To update members on the progress and initial findings of the co-responding pilot being carried out by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (NWFRS).

Background

2. In this context co-responding is a term used to describe a medical emergency being responded to by both NWFRS and the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST).
3. In July 2015 NWFRS was contacted by the National Joint Council (NJC) stating that agreement had been reached with the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) for co-responding pilots to take place in fire and rescue services across the UK. NWFRS volunteered to take part and its offer was accepted by the NJC in early August 2015.
4. NWFRS satisfied the conditions identified by the NJC; notably around insurance and indemnity; and was notified in early August 2015 that the Service had been accepted onto the pilot.
5. It was identified that the pilot would run until 30 June 2016 following that date a full evaluation would be undertaken.
6. In early June 2016 NWFRS were advised that further agreement had been reached by the NJC and the FBU and the pilot would be extended and run until the 28 February 2017.

Information

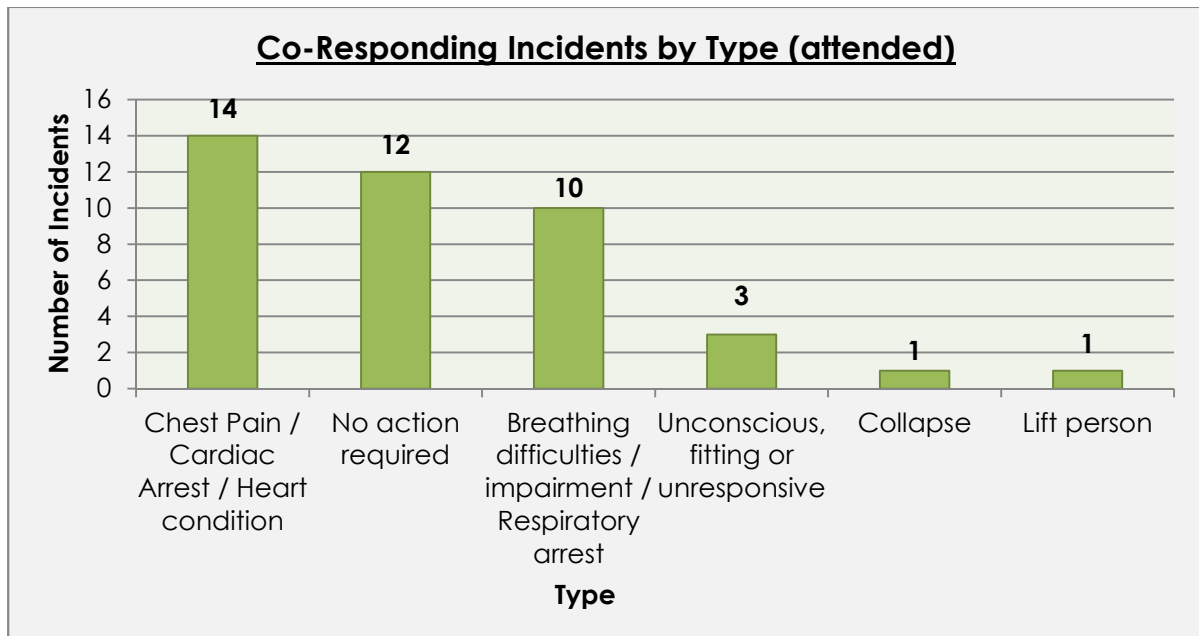
7. NWFRS and WAST worked together to develop the principles around how the pilot would operate in North Wales and agreed the following:
 - a. all NWFRS personnel involved in the pilot must
 - i. be trained to the correct level
 - ii. satisfy a debarring scheme (DBS) check
 - iii. undergo a course of inoculations protecting against Hepatitis;
 - b. the co-responding pilot would run from 7 stations across the region allowing the 3 different duty systems operated by NWFRS to be part of the pilot;
 - c. NWFRS would only respond to calls identified by WAST as RED 1 calls – these are life threatening medical emergencies and only include:
 - i. heart attack
 - ii. cardiac arrest
 - iii. severe bleeding
 - iv. respiratory arrest
 - v. unconscious / non responsive persons.
 - d. NWFRS would only respond in a predetermined area around each of the trial stations and would only respond if attending did not affect fire cover.
8. One station (Deeside – 24 hour shift station) withdrew from the pilot due to lack of volunteers; the other 6 (Holyhead, Colwyn Bay (day crewed stations) and Holywell, Llangollen, Dolgellau and Pwllheli (retained duty system stations) were all co-responding by 4 February 2016.
9. Up until the end of June 2016, NWFRS have received 143 requests from WAST for a co-response to attend medical emergencies. NWFRS attended a total of 41 of these incidents.



10. The reasons for non-attendance have been

- a. No crew available - 54
- b. Incident outside pre-agreed area - 22
- c. Crews stood down by WAST - 26

11. The table below show the types of co-responding calls attended by NWFRS:



12. The patient outcome of the 41 incidents attended has a 63% positive result, with 26 casualties being treated and either discharged at the scene or transported to hospital. This percentage is viewed by WAST as being extremely good.

Clinical Outcome	Number of Incidents
Advanced Life Support* - Patient Died	13
Patient Died	2
Patient improved and treated on scene	3
Patient treated on scene and discharged	2
Return of spontaneous circulation	1
Patient treated and transported to hospital	18
Patient treated on scene by WAST	1
Patient treated on scene NWFRS	1
Grand Total	41

** Advanced Life Support (ALS) is a set of life-saving protocols and skills that extend Basic Life Support to further support the circulation and provide an open airway and adequate ventilation (breathing).*

Recommendation

13. That Members note the information and progress made by NWFRS in developing the co-responding trial and the positive outcomes achieved through NWFRS intervention for 63% of the casualties.