

WINTER 2019

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THE JOURNAL OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Rosenbauer: Innovation and Quality.



Rosenbauer has a strong reputation for innovation and quality. The highly experienced engineering, design and development teams, led by the directors at senior board level, bring the best possible product to the market.

Built on a strong foundation, Rosenbauer UK were extremely successful in 2018 with turnover exceeding double that of 2017. Entering 2019, Rosenbauer established a broader Management Team to facilitate further company development through the provision of our quality product range and exceptional service.

The new management team is led by Nick Uwins as Managing Director, accompanied by Ian Robertshaw as Operations Director and Nina Robertshaw as Head of Finance and Administration. With a mixture of skills and experience, this new team has set out to bring a settled period in the company's history that will stabilise and consolidate the company's position in the UK municipal, airfield and industrial firefighting and rescue markets.

Advanced Technology

The Rosenbauer AT series covers the complete range of municipal fire fighting vehicles based on chassis from 12 to 18 tonnes, with a variety of water tank sizes from 1,000 to 5,000 litres. These water tanks are integrated into the high strength aluminium superstructure directly above rear chassis. In the case of the AT Fire Appliances supplied to Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service the 2,000 litre water tank is mounted directly above the rear axle, leaving the front locker completely free for the stowage of operational equipment. These appliances also feature the ergonomically designed digital operator's control panel with automatic pressure control; the digital screen is integrated into the acoustic pump cover. This digital control panel features a live schematic of the pumping system giving the operator a real time visual indication of the pump status.

The AT superstructure is designed to provide additional strength the chassis frame; the sub-frame and superstructure are bonded together to create an ultra-strong monoque. This strengthening of the chassis gives the driver an enhanced feel for the road conditions as it reduces the amount of twisting moments that are accounted during fast cornering.



Featuring an integral crew cab designed for firefighters, the revolving safety staircase allows the crew to enter and exit the vehicle quickly and safely, even when wearing breathing apparatus; this staircase is attached to the crew door and will lock when pressure is applied to the staircase in any part open condition.

The AT superstructure maximises the available space for the stowage of operational equipment. With the addition of the folding footboards which forms a continuous platform along the side of the appliance level with the lower crew cab step. These footboards enables access to the higher levels of the lockers providing a stable platform for the firefighters and a welcome seating area during extended operations.

Rosenbauer Metz Turntable Ladders

Metz Turntable Ladders from Rosenbauer are synonymous the world over for cutting-edge technology, quality, functionality, innovative designs, and intuitive operability. Represented at the global level by an extensive worldwide service network, Rosenbauer appliances are a reliable partner for firefighters all over the world; featuring ergonomic controls, modern CAN bus control systems, high performance hydraulic system and precise monitoring of jacking width, the Turntable Ladder is a world leading aerial firefighting and rescue appliance.

Rosenbauer Turntable Ladders are available in an impressive operating range from 20

metres to 64 metres working height. The most popular model produced is the 32 metre with articulated top section with a length of 4.65 metres; this is also available on other models. The recently released 3.0 version of the XS making the setup range of the turntable ladder much more flexible and outreach has been increased by another 1.5 meters over the XS 2.0. With a single-person load, it can now reach up to 23.2 meters. This accomplishment was made possible by optimising the ladder itself and using a new, lighter rescue cage. The compact operating radius of the XS 3.0 provides firefighters access to previously unreachable scenes, even under the tightest conditions.

Parked cars, lush urban greenery, narrow streets: aerial ladders are deployed in increasingly tight quarters.

Rosenbauer aerial ladders have automatic terrain levelling capabilities. So the ladder set stays in the horizontal position up to an inclination angle of 10° in the longitudinal or transverse direction. Automatic levelling switches on whenever the aerial ladder starts up. In extreme situations the automatic levelling may not be enough, it is therefore possible to manually operate the jacking to provide an inclination angle of 14°. Ground pressure is measured at each jack position meaning the ladder is ready for use even extreme conditions and uneven ground conditions without any compromise to safety and reliability.

Every Rosenbauer aerial ladder is equipped with a hydraulic vertical-horizontal jacking system for stability. This fully supports movements in the horizontal and vertical direction, these are continuously controlled to support the maximum operating range possible. The jacking system makes it possible to extend the telescopic boom by the full extension length and rotate 360° even in narrow 3 metre wide operational conditions. The infinitely variable jacking allows the unit to be used over, under and around obstacles such as high kerbs, street furniture and parked vehicles; it is possible to vary the jack height from side to side so that it is able to swivel the turret over obstacles. This also maximises below ground operations thanks to the ladder's inclination angle up to 22°.

The innovative rescue cage has the ability to carry a 500kg load, including wheel chair users and casualties via a stretcher when using the additional facility of a removable, multifunctional column. The cage has three access points, so as not to compromise safety, as well as the ability to lower around any point of the vehicle. The cage mounted RM15 monitor can deliver over 2,000 litre per minute and can be connected to the supply by a telescopic waterway that replaces the traditional delivery hose method.

Rosenbauer Panther

The Rosenbauer PANTHER is one of the most successful, efficient, and variable ARFF vehicles worldwide. Its multi award-winning design and powerful performance make it the most modern fire-fighting

vehicle of our time, pushing the boundaries of firefighting capabilities. The PANTHER concept stands for optimal system integration of chassis, bodywork and firefighting equipment.

Rosenbauer UK have now expanded the Panther fleet into England, Scotland and Ireland, with further sales anticipated this year for this ever increasingly popular appliance. The PANTHER is produced in a variety of chassis configurations, 4x4, 6x6 and 8x8, with varying in features, depending on the size of the required vehicle, it is customisable to fit the airports requirements - be them big or small.

Increasingly popular the 6x6 and 8x8 models are available with High Reach Extending Turret, HRET, technology that includes the patented Stinger piercing tool for external firefighting of the interior fuselage of aircraft.

The cabin of the Panther is common across the range providing an excellent field of vision for the driver and occupants. Seating with breathing apparatus is available for up to six firefighters including the driver. The cabin is designed, tested and certified to



EC29 providing a safe working environment for the crew.

These appliances can have a top speed over 120km/h, with coil spring type suspension and active stability control allowing the crew to respond to incidents quickly and efficiently. Panthers boast a wide range of Rosenbauer products including the main water pump, high-pressure pumps, foam systems, roller shutters, remote control monitors and light masts.

The innovate design and features of the Rosenbauer Panther, combined with its superior functionality, means that the vehicle will further strengthen the airport's capability to react to any emergency scenario; a must have for all airports.



Fire Investigation Dogs

The role of a fire investigation dog is in its most basic term, a tool to assist the fire investigation officer to ascertain if there is any liquid accelerant present at a fire scene.

The conviction rate for arson is very low, by its very nature fire destroys evidence, which can make the job of finding the cause and origin very challenging. Getting hard evidence to prove arson in a court of law is incredible difficult.

This is where the fire investigation dogs come in. Although they are no silver bullet they are by far the best way of finding if any liquid accelerants are present at the fire scene.

When carrying out a fire investigation a systematic approach must be adopted, part of that approach is to collect all the available data. For collecting data concerning liquid accelerants the dogs are the best tool available.

Should a fire dog indicate a find at an incident, alone this proves nothing, it is only a small part of the jigsaw that can help prove or disprove if arson was the most probable cause. The fire investigator will take the dog alert in to consideration along with all the other factual data that is available and using all this information form a hypothesis. Samples of where a dog has alerted are collected by crime scene investigators and sent to scientific labs for analysis.

A dog alert can give an early indication as to whether an accelerant has been used. But it must be used with caution, it is nothing more than a presumptive indication that accelerant may be present, it is the labs that give the definitive answer.

Should the labs results come back with an inconclusive result after a dog has



indicated, this doesn't mean the dog is incorrect, it just means the laboratory is unable to identify what it is the dog has alert on, since dogs can outperform the best scientific equipment in current use this isn't surprising. But I also know that there are many produces in every household that will contain petro-chemicals that may cause a dog to give an alert, this doesn't necessarily mean the dog is wrong it may just mean an innocent substance contains one of the dogs target substance.

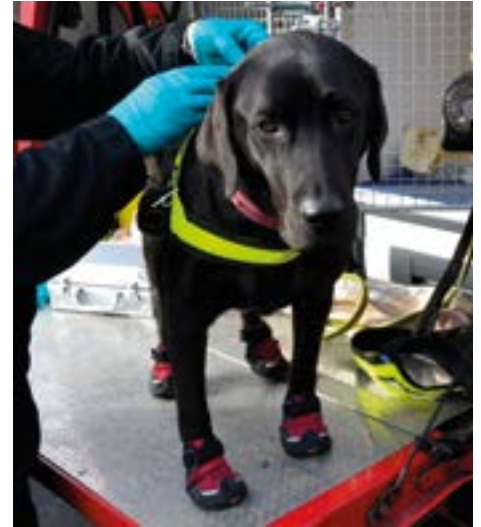
The fire investigator using all their knowledge and experience will the come up with a likely hypothesis as to the cause of the fire. He will then test this hypothesis against every other possible likely cause and then come up with the final hypothesis. As with any hypothesis it is only as good as the data that it is based on, this hypothesis may change as new information comes to light.

But it's not only at the fire scene the dogs can be used in an arson investigation, we also carry out route search's, following the likely route an arsonist may have taken to an incident, this is to try and find a container that may be linked with an arson attack. Also property searches of a suspects houses and sometimes screen a suspects clothing on arrest.

To prove the dogs capabilities we carried out tests by putting .02ml of petrol on a shirt washed it in washing machine at 40 degrees C then allowed it to dry naturally. Then using the dogs to screen the shirt along with six other shirts which went through the same process but without adding any petrol. The dogs were able to identify the shirt with the petrol on it and also indicate the precise location the petrol was put on the shirt. The GMS (gas mass spectrometer) just picked a reading up in the parts per trillion range.

Some of the benefits of using a fire investigation dog are;

- Dogs can detect accelerant in parts per trillion which is much smaller concentrations than any portable scientific equipment presently available.
- Dogs can accurately and rapidly detect the location of accelerant, which may reduce the time an investigator needs to spend excavating large fire scenes.



- The number of samples that require expensive forensic testing are reduced.
- Dogs can work on a cold fire scene many days after an incident.
- The use of dogs may deter would-be arsonists.
- A dog can to gain access to confined spaces.
- The dogs can be used to screen equipment prior to its use at an incident to prove it is clear of any liquid accelerant to help stop any cross contamination.
- A fire investigation dog/handler team is good for public relations in respect of arson prevention and community fire safety.

Another important role we carry out with the dogs is community engagement, in this role we find the dogs really help get a message across. By explaining the dangers and consequences of playing with fire we also show how the dogs help catch people who start fires deliberately. We've carried out numerous school assemblies and by using the dogs as a hook we are able to engage with the children in a unique way. When the message we are telling them starts to fade, they never forget the dogs and by remembering the dog the message we have given them is once again remembered.

We have received a lot of positive feedback with this initiative and we are collating the statistics to try to quantify any success.

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Surrey FRS Fleet Management



In recent months, Surrey Fire & Rescue Service have been integrating four new appliances into their operational fleet which they believe are currently the most capable appliances ever used and possibly some of the best currently available in the UK. These vehicles are replacing Volvo FL6 Saxon built appliances, which over the years have served the service very well but are now well beyond their original expected service life.

The work started on this project over three years ago and as with most FRSS, Surrey looked at what they currently operate, and used that as a basis along with any learning outcomes, since the last build.

This developed into a fairly detailed specification with an emphasis on innovation. Surrey used the procurement process to select Rosenbauer as the winning bid and started to work closely with them to finalise the detail before the build. As part of that process they asked Rosenbauer how they could innovate the product further, still giving a product that met the requirements, but also increasing or improving its capabilities and yet reducing the overall price. For example, Surrey asked for a 3,000 litre water tank and have ended up with a 4,500 litre water tank. Surrey asked for a 4,000 litre per minute pump and ended up with a 4,500 litre pump.

The chassis of the appliances was awarded to Scania on a P chassis cab series with a 360 HP euro 6 engine, originally on a CP 28 cab, though as part of the innovation work we changed the cab to a CP14 day cab and a Rosenbauer fixed crew cab. This allowed us to not only have a larger crew area but to also have a staircase which opens out with the crew door allowing much easier access and egress, improving crew safety. The body design changed to the AT body, the only difference being the addition of the fixed crew cab.

Other areas Surrey wanted to incorporate into the design was a clean cab policy as part of our work to reduce the possible exposure of fire fighters to contamination which can be quite challenging. Rosenbauer removed the stowage of BA sets to the front lockers and now have 2 BA sets in each front side locker and whilst we still keep PPE in the crew cab we only allow clean PPE to be stored in the cab. Once dirty or contaminated it is bagged

and stored in individual plastic boxes within the lockers. The bins can also keep spare PPE if desired.

Once you visit the factory during the build and see how the product is designed and the production line process of building the bodies and how they marry the body to the chassis, you can quickly see how the engineering and the quality of the product is so good and how it can be delivered at a competitive price compared with the more hand built products we are used to in the UK fire market. All the components that are used to build and fit out the body are built by Rosenbauer and are designed to work together.

Other challenges we faced were how we can still have all the current equipment in the lockers along with BA sets and spare BA cylinders and in addition we added a Rosenbauer Ultra High Pressure unit, along with the 4,500 litre water tank and 200 litre B foam tank. Rosenbauer who build fire appliances not only for the UK, but for all parts of the world, were up for the challenge and brought together a plan which delivered all that and more. We ended up with an appliance that is shorter (7.7 metres), 50 mm narrower and 100 mm higher (at 3.4 m) with an operating weight (mainly due to the additional water) of 17.4 tons.

Other innovations are the side platforms at the base of the roller shutters which fold down and become access platforms to enable fire fighters to reach equipment within the lockers and reducing manual handling issues.

The appliances have brought in a new set of capabilities which we have never had before and in some cases challenged some of the ways we have worked in the past and has developed some interesting conversations and challenges. However, most people once they become familiar



with the vehicles are very positive and praise the appliances for the capabilities and the quality of the product.

Near the end of the build and after having a demo AT for a short period, one of the features that the vehicle had was a roof monitor and very quickly the service saw the advantages and benefits of a roof monitor and it was decided to retro fit a roof monitor on the last vehicle as shown in the pictures. The roof monitor gives us the capability to deliver up to 2,000 litres of water per minute with either the driver or OIC operating the joy stick and other controls from the cab without ever leaving the vehicle and to also be able to put foam down the monitor, with a throw of over 60 m.

This appliance is to be based in Salfords, near Gatwick airport, which will help better support any aircraft incidents. But also being close to the motorway it is able to quickly support incidents on the busy M23, M25, etc.

All in all, it is a very exciting time for the service as it develops its capabilities to help firefighters and the local communities.



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BFRS Five thousand people “safe and well”



More than 5,000 Bedfordshire residents have benefitted from life-saving Safe and Well visits.

Across the county 5,612 visits were carried out between April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2019, by Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and its partners.

This is almost double the number completed the year before.

A Safe and Well visit involves trained staff visiting vulnerable people in their homes, which can include the elderly, people who live alone, smokers, people with health conditions such as limited mobility, and households that do not currently have smoke alarms fitted. The visit provides advice and guidance on fire safety in the home including the installation of required safety equipment such as smoke alarms. The visits can also see a falls risk assessment carried out, crime prevention

advice discussed, along with smoking and alcohol consumption.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Andy Hopkinson explained: “There has been a huge shift over the past few years to addressing the growing risk in our communities that comes with an ageing population. Our drive to get out into the community and complete Safe and Well visits is closely aligned with our mission to help make Bedfordshire safer and we do believe helping people in their homes contributes hugely to this.”

Fire service staff complete the visits and also work with partners including local authority, charities and community organisations to receive referrals.

As a result of Safe and Well visits, when required the Service signpost or make referrals to partner agencies that may be

able to offer additional support, like the Bobby Scheme or Telecare.

Prevention Support Manager Jordanna Simpson manages the Service’s Safe and Well programme. She said: “Everyone involved with the Safe and Well programme has worked extremely hard to make the most vulnerable people within our communities stay safer for longer in their own homes – a huge thank you to all involved.”

The public can also request a Safe and Well visit for a vulnerable friend, family member or neighbour by emailing sandwell@bedsfire.gov.uk or calling 01234 845 000. If we are unable to visit we can still provide advice. Further details can be found on our website <https://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/Community-safety/Home-safety/Safe-and-Well-visits.aspx>

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Fire service wins national award for its support for the military

Humberside Fire and Rescue Service is to receive national recognition for its commitment to Britain's Armed Forces

The Service, which employs 1,100 people and has its headquarters in Hull, has won a Silver Award under the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme.

The scheme recognises employers of all sizes who employ and support reservists, veterans, the military and their families. The Service itself employs more than 100 reservists and veterans and has introduced new policies and procedures to ensure they are treated fairly – including by giving 15 days extra leave a year to reservists to enable them to do their annual mandatory training.

Station Manager Terry Taylor, pictured left, who served in the Royal Engineers before becoming a firefighter, said:

"We have 30 stations across Humberside and there aren't many that don't include a couple of veterans or reservists

"Over the last couple of years we've made a real effort to ensure we offer a forces-friendly working environment. We've introduced small cultural changes such as encouraging veterans to wear their military ribbons on their fire service uniforms.

"But we've also made wider changes. For

example, we now have gold-standard policies in place to support reservists who are deployed on active service, making sure we keep in touch with their families and ensuring nobody suffers a break in their pension contributions".

Watch Manager Mark McKenzie, right, became a firefighter twenty years ago after serving in the Royal Engineers. He has been a reservist in the Royal Engineers for the past 12 years. He said:

"I used to keep it quiet that I was in the reserves but things have changed in the service and there's now an open acceptance and I genuinely feel that my role and experience in the military is something that is very much valued.

"I've been deployed to Afghanistan as a reservist during my time with the Service and managers were very supportive and made sure I didn't lose out in anyway.

"I value the support the service gives to the military and feel it's made a big difference"

Now in its fifth year, the ERS Silver Awards reward employers who employ and support those who serve, veterans and their families – typically by putting in place employment practices that support reservists to train and mobilise



and veterans to transition to civilian life. The RFCA Yorkshire and The Humber run the scheme on behalf of the Ministry of Defence in the region.



Commenting on the announcement of the 2019 Employer Recognition Scheme Silver awards, Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace said:

"These awards recognise the outstanding support for our armed forces from employers across Britain and I would like to thank and congratulate each and every one.

"Regardless of size, location or sector, employing ex-forces personnel is good for business and this year we have doubled the number of awards in recognition of the fantastic support they give".

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Johnny Mercer said:

"Veterans make a huge contribution to businesses across the country and it's fantastic to see a record breaking number of organisations recognised for their support

"We're working closely with businesses to help them further understand the huge value that veterans, reservists and military spouses can bring to their organisation"

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Kent Fire and Rescue Service Water rescue training



With many large areas of open inland water in Kent, water and mud rescues are unfortunately not uncommon for fire crews based in the county.

And while Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) has launched, and continues to run, campaigns to prevent people needing rescuing from water in the first place, there will always be a need for highly skilled crews to respond to water and mud incidents.

In November 2017, KFRS reviewed its water rescue and flooding training to enhance and bolster existing training programmes offered to all operational personnel. Overseeing the development of training provision, in line with national guidance, was KFRS Operational Training Manager for Water Rescue and Flooding, Chris Kendall.

He said: "Following in depth analysis of training provision, an enhanced training programme was rolled out to all personnel. The service now has around 500 Water Rescue First Responders (Module 2), 60 Water Rescue Technicians (Module 3), 60 Rescue Powerboat Operators (Module 4), 12 Water Incident Managers (Module 5) and 3 Flood Rescue Tactical Advisors (Module 6).

"We have 27 water rescue first responder stations, five specialist Water Safety Unit stations who undertake technical water rescues, and two of those are specially trained and equipped to use underwater sonar equipment. We also have four inland flood rescue boats, and one inshore boat.

"We are currently going through the process of replacing all of our dry suits with more modern and specific personal protective equipment (PPE) following a procurement process. This will mean our operational crews have the very latest PPE to assist them in being safe and effective at operational incidents."

A number training venues are used dependent on the level of training, and what the particular aims and objectives are to be achieved.

Chris said: "We use natural venues across Kent and also a tidal venue in West Sussex for a majority of our staff, as well as an artificial white water centre for specialist



water rescue crews and specialist courses such as the rescue from vehicles in water course."

KFRS' latest firefighter recruit course recently embarked on their module 2 initial course, which was their first introduction to water rescue. The two-day course took place at Shoreham-by-sea in West Sussex. They left the course with the ability to:

- Demonstrate water rescue scene management through a process of dynamic risk assessment
- Identify and apply the role of the first responder within the incident management structure
- Apply a working knowledge of hydrology and associated hazards
- Identify and use appropriate PPE
- Demonstrate self-rescue from water
- Understand and apply relevant rescue techniques including throwlines
- Have a working knowledge of specialist rescue equipment





- Demonstrate techniques for movement in shallow water
- Awareness of flooding and associated hazards
- Have a working knowledge of casualty management relating to the water environment
- Medical problems associated with water
- Identify and explain an understanding of the hazards associated with entrapment, mud and ice and unstable ground
- Identify and explain the additional hazards and difficulties associated with working in darkness or reduced visibility

One of the more specialist courses now available focuses on rescues from vehicles trapped in water. Chris said: “We have worked hard with specialist water rescue instructors from across various services including South East Coast Ambulance Service’s (SECAmb) specialist Hazardous Area Response Team (HART), to help us develop and deliver a specialist accredited two day course for our water rescue technicians in performing rescues from vehicles trapped in flood water.

“The decision was made following a number of incidents which made us look at the historical data to see how many incidents of this type our operational crews were attending. To ensure we provided the best possible service to our customers, and to ensure firefighter

safety, we decided to introduce this course and have now delivered this to almost all of our specialist water rescue technicians.”

The multi-agency work doesn’t stop there however.

Chris continued: “We understand that in many rescue incidents, especially in water and flood rescue, a multi-agency response is required if we want to achieve the best possible outcome. Therefore it makes sense that we train with our partner agencies such as Kent Police and SECAmb HART. This enhances our crews’ capabilities as they get an opportunity to train alongside the individuals they will be working with at real life incidents, ensuring everyone is aware of little nuances between the services, and truly realising each other’s strengths along with

equipment and capabilities. We regularly welcome partner agencies to a variety of training courses or exercises we run, and they do the same.

“We recently organised and arranged a multi-agency collaborative training exercise in the River Medway underneath the M2 Medway Bridge. This bridge is unfortunately an area where a considerable number of incidents take place, and we believe it’s really important to train local crews and specialist rescue teams from KFRS, along with specialist rescue teams from other agencies, together at locations where we know there is a high volume of rescues.

“This improves our response and teamwork at these unfortunately reoccurring incident hot spots.”



Chief Fire Officer scales new heights for charity



Bedfordshire's fire chief will be hiking up Mount Kilimanjaro to raise cash for charity. Chief Fire Officer Paul Fuller CBE will complete the seven-day trek in Kenya this September to raise funds for The Fire Fighters Charity and Children's Burns Trust.

Ten-thousand pounds is the target for the Chief, who is trustee at both charities.

CFO Fuller said: "This is a huge challenge. I know it will be tough but it will be worth it to raise much-needed funds for these two great charities.

"Both charities are extremely important to me. They have moving and inspiring stories to tell of the life-changing work they do to support burns survivors and those in the fire and rescue community."

The whole expedition will take about seven days, travel through four different climate zones and reach extreme altitude at almost 6,000 metres.

The Fire Fighters Charity provides services that enhance the quality of life for serving and retired firefighters, fire personnel and their families. The charity

receives no government funding and relies on the generosity and enthusiasm of its supporters.

Children's Burns Trust is dedicated to providing rehabilitation support for burned and scald injured children and their families, as well as prevention and awareness campaigns for which there is little or no national funding.

To find out more and donate, visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/teams/paulkili>

HRH The Duke Of Cambridge Meets Beneficiaries At The Fire Fighters Charity

In September His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge today visited The Fire Fighters Charity's Harcombe House centre in Chudleigh, Devon, to find out how it supports members of the UK's fire services community.

The Duke met individuals and families who have been supported by the Charity and undertook a tour of the newly renovated centre, observing an art therapy session and activities in the Charity's gym area.

Chief Executive of The Fire Fighters Charity, Dr Jill Tolfrey, said of the visit: "It was an honour to welcome His Royal Highness to Harcombe House and to introduce him to some of the people we have supported over recent months. "Working within the fire and rescue services can take a significant mental and physical toll on individuals and families, so I was delighted to share the breadth of our work to support the mental, physical and social wellbeing of the fire community with His Royal Highness."

Coinciding with Emergency Services Day, The Fire Fighters Charity also hosted guests from other emergency services who met The Duke to discuss the wellbeing of all those who work to keep our communities safe.

Watch highlights from the day and read more about the visit on The Fire Fighters Charity website here: www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/shout-winter-2019



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All London school fires this year had no sprinklers fitted

All London school fires this year had no sprinklers fitted, new Brigade figures reveal Shocking new figures released today show that no schools, which have had fires this year, had sprinklers fitted.

This year alone, London Fire Brigade have attended 57 fires in schools* in the capital and new figures released by the Brigade show that not a single school had an automatic fire suppression system (AFSS) fitted.

The Brigade has long been calling for sprinklers to become a mandatory requirement in schools. In particular, we want sprinklers to be mandatory in all new school builds and for all schools to be retrofitted with sprinklers during major refurbishment.

Sprinklers are especially important during the summer holidays when buildings are empty and fires can smoulder undetected, causing extensive and expensive damage.

Charlie Pugsley, Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Fire Safety, said: "It is shocking that we have been campaigning for a number of years to make sprinklers mandatory in new schools and retrofitted during major refurbishments and yet this year, every school fire we have been called to has had no sprinklers fitted.

"Sprinklers are the only fire safety system that detects a fire, suppresses a fire and can raise the alarm. Sprinklers save lives and protect property. Millions of pounds are wasted every year repairing fire damage in London's schools when sprinklers could have prevented the spread of fire.

"This is not just about saving money; when a school is closed it disrupts a child's education, impacts on the local community and affects parents by closing breakfast and after school clubs."

Last week marked the ten year anniversary of a devastating fire at Thomas Fairchild School in Napier Grove, Hoxton. At the height of the incident, 15 fire engines and more than 100 firefighters attended the scene and crews remained at the school for more than 10 hours.

The school was closed for almost three years after the fire while it was rebuilt and the school's 300 pupils were schooled at two different locations.

Charlie Pugsley added: "The easiest time is to fit sprinklers when schools are being built or refurbished. I find it staggering that such a simple safety measure is so easily omitted from the designs."

In all school fires attended by the Brigade since 2014, there have only been 13 cases where sprinklers have been fitted.

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MAWWFRS brand-new Incident Command Unit



On Monday morning, 21st October 2019, a brand-new Incident Command Unit (ICU) went on the run at Carmarthen Fire station.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) have teamed up with Excelebrate and Emergency One to deliver a brand-new Incident Command Unit (ICU) to its fleet. The vehicle has been built by Emergency One whilst Excelebrate have installed their market leading critical communications technology onboard the ICU.

The new ICU will be deployed at major incidents enabling the sharing of critical information – data, video and voice – to support incident management and will serve to strengthen the resilience and operational response of the Service and its partnering agencies.

Chief Fire Officer Chris Davies QFSM said, “We are delighted to work with Excelebrate and Emergency One to deliver this state-of-the-art Incident Command Unit to the communities of mid and west Wales.

Despite the continuing financial pressures that are placed upon public services, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is determined to realise its vision; to be a world leader in emergency response and community safety. To achieve this, we always accept that there is scope for continuous improvement, but this brand-new Incident Command Unit will certainly allow us to move closer towards achieving our vision.

Through the purchase of this new ICU, complete with new technological solutions, we are setting out to better our operational response at major incidents;



this will enable improved sharing of information with partner agencies and our Joint Fire Control, whilst also improving our communications capability on the incident ground.

This vehicle will also enhance our ability to manage major incidents and, therefore, improve the safety of our fire fighters, improve decision making at incidents and improve our operational learning.

The work carried out with Excelebrate and Emergency One will enable us to successfully achieve these objectives and future proof our Incident Command capability. These benefits will become visible throughout our Service area in the years to come.”

The vehicle, based on a Mercedes Sprinter chassis will feature 3G/4G and satellite

communications ensuring uninterrupted connectivity wherever and whenever required which is critical where public networks might not exist, are unreliable or need extra resilience.

Operating from their HQ in Cardiff, Excelebrate continues to be the communications technology supplier of choice to the emergency services in Wales, providing resilient solutions to Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, South Wales Fire & Rescue, Central Beacons Mountain Rescue, South Wales Police, Dyfed Powys Police, Welsh Ambulance Service HART and more.





Brigade shines spotlight on firefighter uniforms

At London Fashion Week, London Fire Brigade shone the spotlight on its uniforms through the ages since it began back in 1866. Just as trends come and go on the catwalk, firefighters have modelled many different outfits over the years. Across the decades every change implemented to kit for frontline firefighters has been about safety and protection - enabling them to do their job to the best of their ability while staying safe and protected. From wool, to the iconic plastic leggings of the seventies, to today's lightweight 'gold' standard kit, the capital's fire stations have seen many updates to its clothing lines.

The French are renowned for being bang on trend with 'haute couture' in the fashion world and this even extends to the world of fire helmets. The brass helmet was introduced to London Fire Brigade in 1868 after the first chief officer, Captain Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, was inspired by the French 'Pompiers' he saw in Paris. It's the longest serving helmet in the Brigade's history and was only replaced over 70 years later. It was adopted by almost all the British fire brigades and became an iconic symbol of the British fire service.

Forget your Gucci and Prada, woollen tunics were the name of the game in 1900. The double breasted navy blue 'Melton Cloth' tunic was the mainstay of the Brigade uniform for over a hundred years. It was warm, practical and smart. However, the brass buttons may have been beautiful but totally impractical by today's standards - velcro was yet to be invented.

Millinery was not just for fashionistas, fire crews had a head for it too. In 1938 the 'Gold Comb' fire helmet came along. It was made of cork and rubber and replaced the famous brass helmet once and for all. Although in use for only three years it influenced the general shape and style for the Brigade's helmets for many years to come. The change was made as the use of electricity became more widespread - brass was a conductor unlike compressed cork.

The Auxiliary Fire Service Firewoman from 1939 wore a smart uniform which included both a gas mask and a steel helmet. The uniform was an important part of commanding respect from the public and reflected the formal rank



structure they worked under. On a practical level the garments kept them warm through day and night shifts and in the winter months.

Fast forward to the 1970s and canary yellow was THE colour of choice for firefighter uniforms. Wool disappeared and was swapped for waterproof trousers. The bright colour was great for being seen in dark conditions but melting in extreme temperatures became an issue.

Deputy Commissioner Tom George at London Fire Brigade said: "I've seen some fashion faux pas in my time on the streets of London but the introduction of our latest personal protective equipment (PPE) for our firefighters reminds me how far we've come.

"In the seventies and eighties firefighters wore the iconic yellow leggings and woollen tunics. Following the fire at Kings Cross station in 1987 lessons were learned which led to kit changes.

"The thin plastic yellow leggings in extremely hot conditions offered little protection to crews. The tunic and helmet had left much of a firefighter's neck and ears exposed, even when wearing breathing apparatus. The gloves worn back then were the same as any you



can buy from a garden centre today, unlike those currently in use which offer protection from fire.

"After that fire improvements to head gear were made and padded over-trousers and more substantial tunics, with collars, were introduced."

The current 'gold' firefighter kit was introduced in October last year. The Brigade provides crews with tunics and leggings which are individually tailored for each firefighter's build and physique to allow crews to easily get to work whilst keeping them as safe as possible so they can respond to a multitude of incidents from fighting fires, freeing people trapped in crashed cars or complex rescues from collapsed buildings. The kit is built both for comfort and safety with 28 different sizes for both men and women to fit every body shape. The new uniform is lighter and more durable and includes boots (leather and rubber). The introduction of helmet torches, in addition to the chest torches firefighters wear, increase visibility.

Heathcoat Fabrics Limited

Introducing the most lightweight and high strength PBI product on the market. Technical textile specialists, Heathcoat Fabrics is expanding its Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) range. Heathcoat Fabrics' exemplary range has been strengthened by its newest PBI PRO development along with a new lightweight PBI TGP range and GARDTEX industrial protection range.

The UK-based manufacturer is recognised for its portfolio of woven and knitted PPE product range. Heathcoat Fabrics' newest product is Pbi PRO, which at 195gsm is at least 5% lighter than most PBI fabrics currently on the market, whilst offering high strength and durability. Pbi PRO is unique compared to competitor fabrics as we have created an engineered yarn to combine additional heat and flame protection with the super-strong filaments making for improved flame and UV protection.

Mark Drysdale, Commercial Manager of Protective wear Fabrics said: "Heathcoat has a long history of manufacturing PBI fabrics that have seen garments exceed 10 years of continuous active service.

"Our goal was to design an engineered yarn that would ultimately give protection to

otherwise exposed strengthening fibres, so that the strength proportion is protected against carbonisation and embrittlement and therefore doesn't risk breaking open upon exposure to heat and flame.

"Pbi PRO is a great addition to our current range of Pbi fabrics, being the strongest in our Pbi range. The advantage customers have working with Heathcoat Fabrics is our ability to design completely bespoke fabrics to suit their specific requirements."

Heathcoat Fabrics currently has several significant product evolutions, including:

Pure Range of Pbi fabrics for firefighting -
The Pure range incorporates the heat and flame protective properties of Pbi combined with strength and durability of Para-Aramid, including KEVLAR® and Twaron®. Heathcoat has combined fibre properties their most effective combination to create higher levels of performance and ensuring the best available protection for those on the front line.

Heathcoat Fabrics Ltd has created the GARDTEX range of inherently flame-retardant fabrics for protection against industrial hazards. The GARDTEX range

includes different fabric types, performance levels and price points to give the buyer confidence in selecting the right option for their professional needs.

The GARDTEX range offers inherently flame-retardant fabric solutions using both branded NOMEX®, Kermel, TeijinConex, Protal™ & Pbi fibres and non-branded fibres allowing the end user to choose the option that best suits their needs. When compared to other FR options, Heathcoat Fabrics solutions offer peace of mind that the flame-retardant properties of the fabrics will be maintained for the full lifetime of the garment.

The GARDTEX range is available in a range of dyed colours or producer colours with a variety of durable oil, water and chemical repellent, stain resistant, anti-bacterial or insect repellent finishes.

Pbi TGP is the lightweight solution for technical rescue, wildland firefighting and industrial PPE and knitted 3D FR spacers in a range of gauges and face fabrics. All Heathcoat outer shell fabrics are designed to provide breathability and comfort for the wearer and demonstrate an increased percentage of strength retention after exposure to UV.

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Challenges of Electric Vehicles to the Emergency Services

With the ever developing market for electric vehicles, the Emergency Services sector has had to take an active interest in how these can be used in the fire market. London Fire Brigade and Avon Fire Brigade have actively used electric vehicles for staff and safety inspection when not for critical service. However with the approaching Low Emissions requirements in London, larger commercial vehicles must also now be included.

The challenge for the Emergency Services is the availability of products suitable for commercial use and provide that longevity solution for on-scene incidents. Many of the OEM chassis suppliers are starting to develop products for the commercial vehicle market, however only demonstration models have been visible so far, with current availability of fleet vehicles unlikely to be seen until 2022 at the earliest, from suppliers such as Volvo and Mercedes.

WH Bence have taken an active role in trying to create hybrid systems (code name Godzilla), which bridge the gap between the current diesel powered systems and the future fully electric units, integrating the latest high-output battery packs working alongside energy efficient generator systems to create bespoke, hybrid power solutions. This allows many of the Emergency Services to reach carbon footprint requirements and offers a vast fuel saving, along with reducing the requirement for regular generator servicing. These hybrid systems can be easily integrated into a variety of coach-built and pre-manufactured vehicles and can be sized according to the power requirements for each variant of vehicle.

System Feature and Benefits

- DC power from 1Kwh to 400Kwh
- AC power from 1Kwh to 390Kwh
- Silent running
- Rapid return to service
- Resilience to catastrophic failures
- Vibration resilient
- Ability to remote access and control the system

These types of systems work well with the latest developments from Bence, which includes low voltage low power, fanless solid-state processors for command and control vehicles and low voltage lighting to support critical system use.



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Award Winning Private Network

With ever more congested networks for emergency services to try and use in major cities, Bence looked to simplify and provide uninterrupted communications through a stand-alone network. Last month the collective team of Bence Command, Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service, CellAntenna and Druid Software won the International Small Cell award for innovation for their private 4G LTE network.

The solution provided to Tyne & Wear created a long range secure private LTE network offering more than 50Mbps uninterrupted communications for voice, data and video. The solution was specifically designed to offer a modern approach to creating a private communications cordon for a major incident. The cell is designed to be integrated into any mobile platform and can actually be a stand-alone deployable solution so can be used by a range of first responders on scene. The encrypted network protects all on-scene data transfer and if the local major networks are down or lost, back-up satellite provision can be provided to allow data transfer across the country for counter-terrorism data collection.

Tyne & Wear have made the most of the solution, integrating the latest body worn cameras, high level drone footage and communications into the network. Bence were able to provide the latest High Definition body worn cameras with the

latest DGI Inspire with Infrared camera solution.

“This type of small cell gives Emergency Services a huge spectrum of development with products for the incident ground going forward”, says Oliver Brown, Managing Director of WH Bence.

System Features and Benefits

- Unprecedented Private LTE range
- The highest private LTE data rates
- Software user configurable
- Multiple thermal HD optical cameras can simultaneously connect
- Multiple HD BWC can simultaneously connect
- Multiple UAVs can simultaneously connect
- Unprecedented Private LTE building penetration
- Integration of Police, Train and County CCTV systems.

The state of the art command unit at Tyne & Wear has been deployed on numerous incidents across the North-East, offering support to other emergency services in critical situations.



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NIFRS Chairperson Wins UK 'Champion for Women' Award



Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) Chairperson, Carmel McKinney OBE, has won a UK 'Champion for Women' Award in the Rising Star Awards 2019. Carmel received the accolade in recognition of her work as a senior leader in actively supporting and nurturing female talent.

The UK wide Awards, sponsored by the Times and the Sunday Times, celebrate and recognise female contributors that represent the leaders and role models of tomorrow. Carmel is the only female from Northern Ireland to win and was one of 5 winners in the Rising Star 'Champions' category.

NIFRS Chairperson Carmel McKinney OBE said:

"As Chairperson of NIFRS, I am extremely passionate about mentoring, promoting and supporting women in the workplace and this award is very special in that

regard. To be the only female winner from Northern Ireland is a great honour alongside so many remarkable women.

"Every day I encounter exceptional up and coming female talent. It's great to see women supporting women in the workplace and learning from each other. As senior leaders we play an important role in nurturing and empowering those women who will become the leaders of the future and I am humbled by this recognition."

Sponsored by the Times and The Sunday Times, Luxury Content Director, Lorraine Candy said

"Supporting women in the workplace remains important to our readers, as well as an important strand of the journalism we create. We believe these awards help shine a spotlight on the tremendous work being achieved in the female pipeline."

Vanessa Vallely OBE, Managing Director, WeAreTheCity, said:

"I am so proud that for the fifth year running 'WeAreTheCity' has been able to shine a light on the achievements of so many remarkable women across the UK. Our 2019 winners join a 'phenomenal alumni' of 450 previous winners who continue to soar, both professionally and personally. It has been a truly amazing evening and I am ecstatic to welcome our 2019 winners to the 'WeAreTheCity' family."

The winners were announced for the 2019 'WeAreTheCity' Rising Star Awards and took place at a ceremony in the Landmark Hotel, London on, 3rd July.

ATLAS 2020, Secured by Design's annual national Crime Prevention training event

Each year Secured by Design (SBD) host a Continuing Professional Development training event for the Designing Out Crime Officers based in police forces around the country who deliver SBD at a local level.

A number of opportunities are offered exclusively to SBD's member companies to exhibit at this event, interacting directly with these officers and introducing them to their products and innovations.

ATLAS 2020 is taking place on 25-26 February 2020, at Gloucestershire's Cotswold Water Park.

Addressing Designing Out Crime Officers at last year's event, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick referenced Sir Robert Peel, founder of the Metropolitan Police, saying: "He was very, very clear that crime prevention was our first duty as police people.

"When I look back to Commissioners before me, right back to when I joined in 1983, I

think we would all say that policing is about preventing crime..... We start with preventing crime, we all do that and that is our job."



The Commissioner paid tribute to the effect that the network of SBD trained Designing Out Crime Officers – who are based in Police Forces and local authorities around the UK and who liaise with local authority planners, developers and architects to design out crime at the planning stage in a wide range of building sectors - are having on reducing the demand on their police colleagues.

"It is great for me to see the impact you are all having" she told the delegates, "There



are tonnes and tonnes of examples of crime that has been designed out, the problems that have been solved, the demand that has been reduced on all of our policing colleagues, by your work."

Martin Hewitt, Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, will be giving the keynote speech at the 2020 National Training Event.



GMFRS: Information for Residents in High Rise Buildings

Following the fire at The Cube in Bolton on November 15, 2019 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) wants to provide reassurance and advice to residents living in high rise buildings across Greater Manchester.

Any fire in a high rise building can cause concern for residents in other blocks, and in particular residents in buildings where cladding has been identified as posing a risk of external fire spread.

We are reminding all residents to find out the evacuation strategy for their building. This should be clearly displayed in the building but if it isn't you should contact your landlord or managing agent.

IF YOU HAVE A FIRE IN YOUR HOME:

- **Get everyone in your flat out of the building using the emergency exit routes and stairs provided (don't use the lift)**

- **Close all doors behind you**
- **Get out, stay out, call 999**

If you live in a building and the fire safety arrangements are simultaneous evacuation, then on hearing the alarm you should leave the building. If you do not know what the alarm sounds like you should contact your landlord or the managing agent for the building.

Since 2017, GMFRS has urged residents in flats to 'Stay Safe' and leave the building if you feel unsafe or your flat is affected by heat or smoke.

The best way to stay safe is to prevent a fire occurring and you should follow our general advice:

- Take care when cooking, never leave unattended and ensure your cooker is turned off after use
- Test your smoke alarm once a week by pressing the test button until the alarm

- If you smoke always make sure you extinguish your cigarettes safely To help keep your building safe
- Keep all landings, corridors and doorways clear of obstructions, including rubbish
- Never wedge communal doors open
- Never block emergency access to your building
- Park considerately so emergency vehicles can get as close as possible
- Get to know your neighbours. They may be young, elderly or vulnerable, and need help during an emergency

If you have a balcony:

- Do not use BBQs under any circumstances
- Never store flammable materials like gas on your balcony
- Reduce clutter and try and keep items on the balcony to a minimum
- If you smoke make sure you stub cigarettes out and NEVER flick them off your balcony

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- Don't keep things in your home or communal areas that burn easily. This includes bottled gas, paraffin heaters or liquid fuel
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Felpham Emergency Resilience Group



In 2017 Felpham Parish Council established its Emergency Resilience Initiative known as FERG (Felpham Emergency Resilience Group)

There was already evidence in place from the adverse effects of surface water flooding and evacuations in 2012. Other potential risks to the area and community were identified and assembled into a plan along with actions for prevention where possible and practical support for affected residents. All of this to be coordinated by Felpham Parish Council.

A range of equipment was partially provided by West Sussex County Council and built up by the Parish Council and is now in place to be used by our volunteer team. The team of around 40 persons were recruited through published information and outreach sessions to established community groups when and where they meet.

We have assembled a very mixed group of skills from our volunteers who collectively contribute to training and participation in four table top exercises per year. Responses at the behest of the County Council have also benefitted neighbouring parishes and we now are pleased to be exploring joint working in order to increase capacity and cover a greater area.

We consider that a key benefit of this initiative is the local knowledge of



people and places that can guide our own approach and that of the Emergency Services should it be required.

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Wolf Safety launches market leading ATEX torch

11 November 2019:

See the power - Wolf Safety launches high performance, multi-functional, market leading ATEX torch

There was a time when safety torches sacrificed performance. Those days have now gone with Wolf prioritising high power and absolute safety.

Wolf Safety, world leader in portable and temporary lighting for safe use in explosive atmospheres, has developed the TR-65 compact right angle primary cell torch, offering high power and multi-functional performance with a choice of three power modes.

With a market leading peak tested light output of 300 lumens emitted, no safety torch shines more brightly. Four AA batteries power three output modes from a slide switched high efficiency microchip circuit:

Slide once, the light comes on at 10% power, strong enough to see at close range, and be seen by in low light conditions, offering over 150 hours of light output, that's more than six days of continuous light;

A second slide of the switch brings up medium power at a peak of 150 lumens emitted, providing a highly useable light for 14 hours;

Slide again to select full power, maximum light output for full visibility in maintenance and rescue activities.

This leading edge torch, fully certified to EN and IECEx standards and compliant with the ATEX Directive for use in Zone 0 and 21 explosive gas and dust environments, offers greater user functionality in a lightweight, compact package.

Its beam pattern is designed to provide a good balance between intensity and size of spot beam, combined with a wide angle flood of emitted fringe light. This ensures clear illumination of any object being inspected with sufficient surrounding light to enable users to see potential hazards between ground and head height, thus making obstacles visible and avoiding the risk of trips or bangs to the head – a great safety feature.

To prevent being left in the dark, a battery level indicator tells users when 45 minutes of power remain and, for the last 15 minutes, the beam will repeatedly dip, giving an additional safety warning. The low battery cut-off feature built into the TR-65 will prevent over-discharge and avert the risk of possible battery leakage.

Wolf Safety products are internationally renowned for their robust and reliable performance in harsh workplaces and weather conditions. Their design, resilient construction and technical materials give unparalleled performance, enhanced by two decades of market leading torch manufacture and proven use in the world's harshest hazardous areas.

All the best features of the company's existing renowned safety torch range have been retained in the TR-65 as well as in their new TR-60 right angle torch, a more economical, single power mode alternative. Certified for use in ATEX Zone 1 and 21 explosive gas and dust environments, this model provides an impressive output of 260 lumens from the single power setting, combined with more basic functionality.

Both torch models are IP67 rated, more compact and lighter weight than Wolf's existing range of right angle torches, with a well-balanced, ergonomic design that is easy to use and operate with gloved hands.



THE TR-65 HIGH PERFORMANCE & MULTI FUNCTIONAL

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BALANCED SPOT & FRINGE OPTICS	BATTERY LEVEL INDICATOR & BEAM DIP	IP67 WATER & DUST TIGHT	4X AA BATTERIES - LOW BATTERY CUT-OFF FEATURE
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They incorporate two integral lanyard fixings enabling quick and secure attachment to a tunic, tool belt or harness. A flat rear face increases stability whilst a highly robust polymer sprung clip keeps the torch firmly positioned in place, allowing for detachment when required and engineered to 'give' if the torch gets snagged on passing hazards.

The torch is designed for easy user maintenance if required, with spare parts readily available, enabling users to replace the LED module, lens, clip, end cap, cassette or circuit if required.

Deputy Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary appointed



A former Army officer has been appointed as the new Deputy Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary. Dave Orford, who has held the position temporarily for the last three months, has now been appointed to the post on a permanent basis.

Chief Constable Jo Farrell said: "I am delighted to announce that we have appointed Dave Orford to the role of Deputy Chief Constable following a competitive recruitment process. "Dave brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and a really strong set of values to Durham Constabulary.

"It means we now have an executive team in place which will deliver real stability and the highest possible service to the people of County Durham and Darlington".

Mr Orford has more than 24 years' experience in policing, joining Durham Constabulary in 1995 after beginning his career in the Army.

During his service with the Royal Engineers, the Durham-born officer rose to the rank of lieutenant and completed a six-month tour in Bosnia protecting the besieged enclave of Gorazde.

He joined the police as a beat PC in Consett, but his experience in the former Yugoslavia shaped his view of policing throughout his career.

He said: "I saw what can happen when law and order completely disappears and an entire country is torn apart".

As Chief Inspector, he was appointed deputy head of the force's Professional Standards Department and, after a variety of headquarters roles, was appointed to the position of Assistant Chief Constable in 2014. Dave is very keen on mountain sports and can often be found on his mountain bike in the summer and skis in the winter.



Following his appointment, the 49-year-old said: "I am proud to be given the chance to continue to serve those communities where I grew up and to uphold the traditional values of British policing dating back to Sir Robert Peel that the police are the public and the public are the police."

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Durham Constabulary ebikes

Electric bikes proved to be a life-saver when Durham Constabulary officers were called to reports of a vulnerable woman. Vital minutes were saved by PCs Terry Archbold and Sean Martin using the force's new e-bikes and ensured the woman was given the help and support she required.

The e-bikes were brought in by the force earlier this year to assist officers with patrols and responding to incidents.

Concerns were raised for the welfare of the female who had been sighted in the Chester-le-Street area.

Without an exact location and knowledge that a car may not be able to access all of the necessary locations and going by foot would take too long, the two officers headed out on the bikes.

They found the woman within ten minutes of the initial call being made.

Chester-le-Street Neighbourhood Inspector Dave Coxon said: "On the emergency response teams we regularly respond to 999 calls where a person may be missing or lost and there is a risk to the

life of a person either due to age, ailment or suffering a mental health crisis.

"The e-bikes have proved a tremendously adaptable asset in that they can go where vehicles are unable whilst allowing officers the ability to travel at much greater speed than on foot.

"We were called to a high risk to life incident where officers using the bikes were able to get into and search streets and a park.

"Within 10 minutes of the call coming in, those officers successfully located the vulnerable individual and were able to prevent them from coming to harm.

"We could not have done that so quickly without the e-bikes. They are literally proving to be life-savers."

Durham Constabulary has two Focus Aventura 2 e-bikes which are based in Chester-le-Street and are used by a number of trained Police officers and PCSOs.

The bikes are pedal assist and the electric motor only provides assistance when

the rider is cycling and can provide 250 additional watts of power – up to 15.5mph. Any further speed has to come from the rider or gravity.

They were introduced over the summer and have already clocked up more than 500 miles. They have been used for regular patrols, engaging with the community, tackling anti-social behaviour, and searching for suspects and missing people.

Officers used them a lot over the summer to patrol the Chester-le-Street area, paying particular attention to those areas which are hard to reach on foot and they will continue to be used as the cold weather sets in.

Due to the positive contribution the e-bikes have made in Chester-le-Street they have now been introduced to the Peterlee and Seaham areas and the scheme is expected to be expanded further in the coming months.

If you need to talk to someone at any time, Samaritans is available round the clock on 116 123.



Durham Volunteer Police Cadets



A teenager is proving that hard work and determination are the key to success as he prepares to become the force's youngest call handler. Scott Bowes has always had an interest in policing and joined the Durham Volunteer Police Cadets when he was just 14.

As a cadet, Scott was able to experience different community safety events from a policing perspective and with his ultimate goal of becoming a police officer, he even spent some of his holidays to America on work experience.

This involved shifts with officers from the Sandusky Police Department, a ride along with a Deputy Sheriff in Ohio and shadowing an officer in a correctional facility in Erie County.

Scott said the experience was "intense" but fascinating. When the teenager finished school with good grades, he initially started sixth form but decided the traditional educational route was not for him.

Instead, he applied for one of the force's apprenticeships and started his role as an IT technician in February 2019.

Scott, of Durham, has excelled in his role but throughout his time helping call handlers, he knew this was a role he wanted to experience with his interest in operational policing.

"The force control room is where it all happens and as a call handler, you are the one person that caller is going to be speaking to so you could be the difference between that experience being good or bad," he said. "I want to make a difference to where I live and I think that is the best way I can do that until I'm old enough to get on to the streets as a PC."

After shadowing call handlers, Scott spoke to his manager Mark Woodall and control room chief inspector Sue Robinson about the possibility of applying.

But there was just one problem; with the rules around the length of shifts, applicants have to be 18 to apply and Scott is only 17.

Showing his determination to achieve his goal, Scott did not let this deter him and along with the help of the two managers



and other senior officers, he took his case to the top.

"Because I'm not 18, I cannot work certain hours due to the European working restrictions so I had to make my case for an exception," he said. "There was a meeting between senior members of staff and they managed to alter my shifts so I could take up the role which I'm really grateful for."

Scott added: "They were really supportive and it really fits with chief constable Jo Farrell's values to be inclusive as they really helped me and adapted to allow me to achieve my goal."

Scott will take up his new role in January, three months before his 18th birthday.

"I'm really excited to start," he said. "It's going to be a real challenge and I hope to gain a deeper insight into the role of our PCs."

Chief Inspector, Sue Robinson added: "We are delighted that such a talented young man like Scott is joining the team of call handlers.

"We are always pleased to identify young talent both within the force and externally and showing that age is no barrier to this

role if you have the grit and determination to succeed.

"With the excellent training we provide, it won't be long before Scott is taking calls and making a difference to people's lives."

Scott plans to apply for the role of PC when he feels ready – and is over 18 – but encouraged anyone interested in the role to apply.

"Even if you don't feel you're qualified enough, if you work hard and have a goal you're committed to, you'll get there in the end," Scott said. "I took a risk leaving sixth form to work in IT but I've been supported all the way by everyone in the force and I'm proof that you can succeed if you really want it.

"Durham Constabulary has a great workforce and I've met some fantastic people so far so anyone looking for a new challenge in an outstanding police force should definitely apply to Durham."

For more information or to apply visit <https://www.durham.police.uk/Join-us/Pages/Recruitment.aspx>



Durham Constabulary Young Heroes

Quick-thinking children saved the life of their two-year-old sister after her dress caught fire while she hugged their new puppy.

The three siblings have now been named Weardale Police's Young Heroes for their bravery during the terrifying ordeal at the family home last December.

Five-year-old Wesley, seven-year-old Joseph and nine-year-old Bethany were getting ready for a weekend away with their sister Emma and parents Sarah and Stephen Burton.

Cocker Spaniel pup Jaxon had been bathed and was drying in front of the fire when Emma bent down to hug him but within a split second of reaching for him, the toddler's dress caught fire.

Despite witnessing the shocking events, the siblings raised the alarm and quickly shouted of Mr and Mrs Burton who rushed to Emma's aid.

They managed to rip her dress and nappy off, which had largely protected her from the worst of the flames during the traumatic incident.

An ambulance was called and Emma was taken to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle where she underwent a skin graft to treat burns to her back.

Mrs Burton said: "It all happened in a split second as her dress went up and Wesley screamed for help so we rushed to her.

"Emma's back was completely in flames and her dad ripped the dress off. Thankfully her baby vest and nappy had taken the brunt of it so I managed to get them off – it was very scary."

The toddler spent three weeks in hospital, meaning the family were largely apart for the Christmas break.

But instead of complaining about missing most of the festive fun, Wesley, Joseph and Bethany were nothing but supportive and stayed positive for the whole family.

Emma was released from hospital in the New Year and is doing well on her road to recovery.



Mrs Burton added: "We got home after New Year and the kids were fantastic especially because they had not had us for a lot over Christmas.

"They are little heroes and really look out for each other. We are really proud of them."

Teachers at Stanhope Barrington Primary School – where all three are pupils - nominated the siblings for the award which recognises young people who have gone above and beyond to help others.

PCSO Kim Anderson visited the school to present the children with their special certificates and gift vouchers.

PCSO Anderson said: "When we heard the Burton family's story we knew Wesley, Joseph and Bethany deserved to be crowned as our young heroes.

"Their bravery and courage, not just during the incident but in the weeks that followed, is so admirable and we are all so proud of them.

"The Young Heroes scheme was launched to recognise young people who have gone above and beyond and all three certainly have shown that.

"We had great pleasure in presenting Wesley, Joseph and Bethany with their awards and gift vouchers at their school and wish Emma all the best in her ongoing recovery."

Any young person aged between 11 and 18 and living in the force area can be nominated for the Young Hero Awards. To make a nomination call 101 and ask to speak to the Crook Neighbourhood Police Team.

'Safe & Secure' crime prevention garden



Police & private security industry collaborate as 'Safe & Secure' crime prevention garden proves a hit at prestigious show

The 'Safe & Secure' garden incorporating proven techniques to deter opportunistic burglars proved a hit at the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society's Hyde Hall Summer Flower Show last week, with thousands of visitors dropping in on the unique crime prevention garden.

The garden - a collaboration between Essex Police, Secured by Design and RHS Hyde Hall, with support from a number of SBD member companies and local companies - showed how simple and affordable crime prevention measures could be incorporated into any front or rear garden to add an extra layer of security, help deter opportunistic burglars and protect a home.

Visitors to the garden not only got to enjoy the garden itself, but also had the opportunity to discuss the security features - which included information on security products and defensive planting - with Crime Prevention Officers from Essex Police.

Essex Police Designing Out Crime Officer Stephen Armson-Smith said: "I would like to thank the RHS and our sponsors for all their hard work and generosity in creating this wonderful garden, where collaboratively we were able to demonstrate how both nature and security can work together to create a beautiful, safe and secure Garden".

Head of site at RHS Garden Hyde Hall Ian Le Gros said: "Well thought out defensive planting as part of garden design can provide an element of security, whilst at the same time provide a pleasant environment to live and work. We hope visitors will be inspired by the garden and see for themselves that there are several things that can be done to improve security in the garden - most of which are relatively quick and inexpensive to do."

Secured by Design Development Officer Lyn Poole said; "Garden security is such a great way to enhance the physical security of a home whatever size the house and garden".

Essex Police are proactively leading on a number of garden security initiatives



to help people protect their properties and their gardens. For further crime prevention advice, visit <https://www.essex.police.uk/advice>

Secured by Design (SBD) is part of Police Crime Prevention Initiatives, a not-for-profit police owned organisation that works on behalf of the Police Service to deliver a wide range of crime prevention and demand reduction initiatives across the UK.

SBD plays a significant crime prevention role in the planning process to design out crime, with a network of SBD trained Designing Out Crime Officers attached to police forces working with architects, developers and local authority planners to design out crime at the planning stage in a wide range of building sectors. Over one million homes have been built to SBD standards in the last 20 years - a third of all new homes built - with reductions in crime of up to 87%.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) are a UK

charity with a vision to enrich everyone's life through plants, and make the UK a greener and more beautiful place.

Contributions to the garden:

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Trauma medics use 999 callers' mobile phone camera

Trauma paramedics are using 999 callers' mobile phone cameras to get 'on-scene' at serious incidents such as stabbings and road traffic collisions in seconds rather than minutes.

In the first use of the technology in the capital for serious trauma incidents, paramedics in the London Ambulance Service control room ask 999 callers' to remotely access their smartphone cameras to quickly understand a patient's injuries and help decide if resources like London's Air Ambulance are needed.

If a caller gives permission, they are sent a text asking them to click and accept a link which then sends a stream from their camera phone to the medics in the control room. The platform also has technology medics can use to measure a pulse from the video stream and also can instantly locate the caller.

On average, London's Air Ambulance is dispatched to five critically injured patients each day. The GoodSAM Instant-on-Scene platform has been used 67 times since it was introduced in October and is already helping London's Air Ambulance trauma paramedics help patients within seconds and prioritise resources.

Chief Medical Officer for the London Ambulance Service, Dr Fenella Wrigley said:

"This technology is ground-breaking in London Ambulance Service and is already making an impact helping the most critically injured people in the capital.

"Viewing the scene 'live' on video helps ensure specialist resources, like the London's air ambulance, are sent to where they are needed the most. The technology helps clinicians assess the patient's condition and enables them to provide medical advice and support whilst ambulance and air ambulance clinical teams are on the way to the scene

"We will be looking at how in the future we can extend the use of this technology in other areas of our ambulance service to ensure patients get the right care from the right clinician."



Receiving accurate information quickly from a 999 caller is vital in the first moments after a serious incident. Data shows that a patient in cardiac arrest has a 50% chance of survival if treated in hospital, compared with only a 9% chance of survival on the streets of London.

Using the platform medics are better able spot any symptoms that may not be visible to someone without medical training and helps provide quicker treatment to the patient as the medical professionals are effectively 'on scene' – virtually - before they physically arrive.

Jason Morris, flight paramedic with London's Air Ambulance Charity said:

"In ten years of working in the control room this is one of the biggest innovations that I have seen, helping to enhance the skills that we already have.

"Being able use GoodSAM Instant-on-Scene to see the patient at the scene of the emergency is revolutionising how we respond to life-threatening incidents. This cutting-edge technology is already improving patient outcomes helping us to get to patients quicker and if needed give life-saving clinical advice."

The platform is accessible to everyone with a smartphone and doesn't need a downloaded app to enable the video stream – which means anyone can use this resource. It is not like Skype or FaceTime and works on any smartphone in seconds.

Professor Mark Wilson, neurosurgeon and GoodSAM co-founder, said:

"Our mission is to save lives through technology, and we believe the ability to instantly see the mechanism of injury and how sick a patient looks can make a considerable difference to patient care.

"By advising the caller (and seeing for example how good someone's cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) technique is), we believe we can also provide care before we get there through the people already on scene. This with the ability to instantly locate people could herald a significant leap forward in pre-hospital care."

The makers of the GoodSAM have donated it to the London's Air Ambulance Charity for twelve months and if successful there is hope that it could be used effectively in other areas of the London Ambulance Service control room.

Ambulance service volunteers celebrate 20 years



Marking 20 years of community first responders (CFRs) across the region, North West Ambulance Service (NWS) held a full day celebration event on Saturday 12 October to say a big thank you for the invaluable service they provide!

NWS currently has 870 active CFRs across the region, these are members of the public who volunteer for us to attend emergencies in their local community.

CFRs don't need any previous medical experience and are trained to be able to start life-saving intervention in the event of a cardiac arrest as well as other emergency situations.

Possibly being closer to the patient than an ambulance, they can give patients vital extra minutes when every second counts, as well as providing reassurance and assisting ambulance clinicians.

The celebration took place at Castle Green Hotel, Kendal and began with an exhibition to give guests the opportunity to learn more about the sponsors for the day. The event was entirely funded by sponsorship from organisations who work within the health sector.

This was followed by a conference where a number of speakers took to the stage to show their appreciation of CFRs and speak about the past, present and future of the volunteer role.

Awarded with a Gold 'Remarkable Responder' award, mother-of-two and trainee nurse, Amanda Walsh, works tirelessly to promote basic life support skills in her local community of Bolton. Another Gold winner was Peter Knapton, from Sedbergh. He was instrumental in setting up the CFR team in his local area and works hard to make new members feel welcomed, always going the extra mile. On one occasion, Peter drove behind an ambulance with a worried mum to a hospital many miles away in the middle of the night and later took her home.

Brain Pickup, CFR from Rossendale, received an 'exceptional contribution' award.

Admired in his local community, Brain received a number of nominations and was described as an inspiring leader, with his team proud to work alongside him. He has trained hundreds, if not thousands of people in the community in the vital skills needed to save a life, always with his unique fun and engaging style.

Regional Community Engagement Manager, Andrew Redgrave, said: "Over the past 20 years, our CFRs have undoubtedly saved countless lives and the role has evolved and grown significantly during this time.

"They have supported the ambulance service in training the public in life-saving skills and helped lobby for changes in education which will see children learning basic life support in schools from next year!

"The fact that these people give up their time willingly to help those in need is commendable and we're really glad to have been able to celebrate them at this fabulous event."

Sponsors for the event were Sliders UK, Stryker, The Defib Shop, SP Services, Mangar Health, Physio Control, Well Medical and Zoll Public Safety.

To find out more about how to become a CFR, visit www.nwas.nhs.uk/volunteer.



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Ambulance communicators are 'unsung heroes'

The Communications team at North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust has been shortlisted for an award at the 2020 Unsung Hero Awards.

The awards shine a light onto the hard work of non-clinical staff and volunteers in the NHS; work that is often overlooked, despite non-clinical employees making up nearly half of the workforce nationally.

Shortlisted in the Communications category, which recognises individuals or teams who have gone above and beyond expectations, the team faces competition from Blackpool Teaching Hospitals and Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS foundation trusts.

Along with media handling and staff engagement, the Communications team at NWAS is responsible for in-house film production, events, community engagement, freedom of information, website and intranet, social media and political and stakeholder engagement.

Informing and influencing over 6,000 members of staff, a population of over 7 million people, numerous public interest groups, MPs, councils and healthcare professionals across six counties, the team was shortlisted by the Unsung Hero Awards' judges following a number of accomplishments, including:

- Steady and consistent growth across all social media channels, circa 20% per annum, and using live Facebook videos to boost job applications.
- An annual internal awards ceremony funded entirely through sponsorship.
- Playing a key role in preparing staff for a CQC inspection which saw trust rating improve from 'requires improvement' to 'good'.
- Leading on the development of a social media e-learning package for all ambulance services across the country.
- Running workshops for all commanders in the organisation to help them understand the role of communications in a major incident.
- Delivering successful volunteer recruitment campaigns, using low-cost/free approaches to attract new community



responders ('Hero Next Door' - CIPR Pride winning campaign 2018) and volunteer car drivers ('Star in a Car').

- Implementing a free app for employees at no cost to trust, which 20% of staff have downloaded.
- Working closely with operational colleagues and health providers to deliver an annual winter campaign to support the public to 'make the right call' when it comes to healthcare (CIPR Pride winning campaign 2018 and Best NHS Publicity campaign, Health Business Awards).
- Coordinating community engagement to ensure representation with hard to reach groups including pride and disability events.
- Developing in-house media training for senior clinicians.
- Creating publication for clinical staff which was noted as an example of outstanding practice by CQC.
- Supporting the first official UK 999 Day, organised by the National Emergency Services Memorial Charity in Manchester – securing Sky News coverage with NWAS spokesperson.
- Undertaking the 'Big Communications Survey' with staff to inform an internal communications review (15% response rate with mobile workforce).

• Coordinating two series of BBC One's Ambulance documentary, including related social media and PR activity, briefing staff, engaging with key stakeholders and reviewing programmes in the editing process.

• Successfully integrating the patient experience function into Communications to strengthen the team's engagement offering.

Chief Executive at NWAS, Daren Mochrie said: "It's fantastic that our Communications team has been recognised for its innovative work behind the scenes.

"The team's recent achievements show the variety of projects they support, and the demand for their expertise across our organisation, as we strive to be the best ambulance service in the country.

"With effective communication influencing public confidence, organisational reputation and the morale of staff, it's a tough job to be fresh-thinking in order to engage with our diverse range of stakeholders and predominantly mobile workforce.

"Congratulations to the team on this achievement and best of luck at the awards."

Winners of the Unsung Hero Awards will be announced at an event on 28 February 2020 at the Hilton Hotel in Manchester.

Two Uniforms, One Job



The work West Midlands Ambulance Service undertakes supporting former members of the military and serving reservists has been recognised by making the shortlist of a prestigious award.

The submission, 'Two Uniforms, One Job' has made it through to the final of the 2019 Health Service Journal Awards in the Reservist Support Initiative category.

The panel recognised the ambition, visionary spirit and demonstrably positive impact that the 'Two Uniforms, One Job' initiative has had on patients and staff experiences within the health sector.

Over 3% of our workforce have previously served with the military, be that Navy, airforce or army and the Trust actively encourages staff to continue their military

career as well as their work with the ambulance service.

HR Manager, Maria Watson, said: "Candidates from the military and reserve forces come with structure and purpose and a definite sense of belonging. Many of their skills are extremely transferrable which means many find it an easy transition.

"We believe that WMAS offers a long-term career option as they come back into civilian life. Equally, the skills they gain as a Reservists has great benefit for the patients they treat and for their work with the Trust in general.

"We firmly believe that supporting our Reservists has a positive effect on their jobs in the ambulance service and equally

the skills and experience gained within the NHS benefits their military careers.

Director of Workforce and Military Champion at WMAS, Kim Nurse, added: "We are delighted to have been shortlisted as this recognises the collaborative efforts and dedication of our staff members over the last 12 months implementing 'Two Uniforms One Job'.

HSJ editor Alistair McLellan, said "We would like to congratulate WMAS on being nominated in the category of Reservist Support Initiative Award recognising their outstanding contribution ahead of this year's 2019 HSJ awards. Each of the finalists in this category have been chosen based on their outstanding commitment to excellence in healthcare."



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LAS cycle paramedic bicycle on show at the Science Museum

The first bicycle used by the London Ambulance Service's pioneering Cycle Response Unit (CRU) twenty years ago is now on display in the Science Museum's new Medicine Galleries.

The bicycle, and the kit cycle medics carried at the turn of the millennium, is on display in a newly opened and eagerly anticipated lifetime exhibition at the central London museum – donated by the founder of the CRU, Tom Lynch MBE.

The Medicine: The Wellcome Galleries at the Science Museum in London opened on 16 November. It's the biggest exhibition of its kind in the world, at 3,000 square metres.

Medic Tom - a BMX Racing Champion - first proposed a dedicated bicycle response team in 1998 – getting the go-ahead to launch a team in 2000.

The bike he used as a single-medical unit operating a trial in the West End is on display and a second, spare bicycle Tom used is at the London Ambulance Service Historic Collection.

After Tom's trial responding in the West End proved a success, he started to expand the unit across the capital.

In addition to the bicycle in the exhibit is the kit and medical equipment Tom would carry when responding to patients. This includes a defibrillator, oxygen and Tom's BMX-style helmet.

Tom said:

"It was very special for me to see the display for the first time - in this amazing new exhibition and among some wonderful pieces of medical innovation.

"Our Cycle Response Unit has come a long way since I rode this bicycle around the West End – we estimate our riders have since cycled an equivalent distance of circling the planet 70 times!

"As we approach 20 years since the formation of the unit, it's wonderful to have this integral display of our history showcasing how we've developed in the Science Museum for decades to come. I am so proud to represent the Service in this way."



Nowadays cycle medics still respond in the busy centre of the capital, including the West End and the City of London. The unit also has cycle responders in train stations and shopping centres in Stratford, Kings Cross and St Pancras and there is also a team based at Heathrow Airport and in Kingston and Richmond.

In 2007 Tom Lynch was listed in the Queen's New Year's Honours List and appointed as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to cycling, including his BMX career as a champion racer and coach, which was presented by HRH The Prince of Wales.

Problem Orientated Partnerships



A street games project which has seen antisocial behaviour on a housing estate cut by 95% has won a police problem-solving award.

Judges had a particularly difficult task of choosing the top three projects from the 12 finalists who presented their innovative ideas during the two-day Problem Orientated Partnerships (POP) conference held in Durham this week.

The Woodhouse Utd: Auckland Street Games project was crowned overall winner after judges heard how it tackled the problem of antisocial behaviour in Woodhouse Close Estate, in Bishop Auckland.

Inspired by the Street Games project in Peterlee, Beth Maddox, of the Bishop Auckland Neighbourhood Police Team, teamed up with the Auckland Youth and Community Centre (AYCC), Believe Housing, Durham County Council and other businesses to launch the Auckland Games a weekly activity session for children in Woodhouse Close.

By providing fun activities and engaging with the children and their families, the team have managed to reduce antisocial behaviour on the estate by 95% within just a year.

Presenting the awards, Chief Constable, Jo Farrell said: 'The impact of these projects on both individuals and communities has been phenomenal which demonstrates that Durham Difference at the heart of our force.

'Each of the projects has been a fantastic effort; getting a grip with the issues and leading partners to get underneath some really challenging problems.

'Deciding the overall winner has been a challenge in itself, but we typically liked the Auckland Games project as it built on an initiative which has worked elsewhere; the planning was particularly meticulous; and it also demonstrates a real sense of leadership.

'Beth saw a problem in the community which needed our help and with her tenacity and leadership, she saw it through.'



Beth said: 'I am delighted to have won the POP awards but even happier that we have been able to make such a difference to the lives of everyone in Woodhouse Close.

'To me the most important part is about making a change for the better in young people's lives and it has been brilliant to see the community come together.

'I certainly can't take all the credit as it was a big team effort with everyone in Bishop Auckland NPT and they deserve to be recognised for all their hard work too.'

Also honoured were the winners of the business award: Driving Down Demand - a project to help reduce the demand on control room handlers by cutting duplication between the Road Policing

Unit and insurance companies when it comes to recovering vehicles involved in minor collisions.

And the traditional POP award winning project title went to Operation Blue Mountain - a project which tackled the issue of courier fraud by targeting scammers who pretend to be police officers and tell victims their bank account has been compromised.

Mrs Farrell commended all of the finalists for their innovation and ability to solve issues facing communities.

She said: 'It has been an honour to judge these awards and I am proud to see the great work around problem solving being embedded within our outstanding force.'





Police dog Jet retires

A canine crime-fighter is putting his paws up after eight loyal years of active service.

Black Labrador cross, Jet is one half of the Durham Police dog duo, Jet and Ben, who are known as the 'Say no to Strangers' dogs.

They have worked with thousands of children across the force area, educating them on personal safety, 'stranger danger' and internet awareness.

He is so good at his job that he once received a WOW Award from a group of primary school children for helping them learn about the police.

Jet's last shift will be today (Friday, November 15) before he retires and puts his paws up for good.

His handler, PCSO Claire Kerr, said: "Jet was a rescue dog and came to us when he

was about one so he's served for a long time.

"Along with Ben, he plays an important role in educating children in County Durham and Darlington on personal safety.

"He started his police career as a search dog so he used to hunt out cash, weapons and drugs but for the last four or five years he's been enjoying educating children with me.

"He's a really lovely dog and he loves the children - mainly for the attention he gets - but we will be sad to see him go.

"He loves to be on the couch and playing with his tennis ball so we know he will be a dog of leisure in his new home.

"He will be a big miss."



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To foster with Enfield Council you:

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- ♥ must be a minimum of 21 years old but there is no upper age limit
- ♥ can be single, married or in a civil partnership

Foster with Enfield Council and receive:

- ♥ ongoing training and support including a dedicated supervising social worker
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**If you are thinking of fostering get in touch with
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@ fostering@enfield.gov.uk

🌐 www.enfield.gov.uk/fostering



Help transform a child's life by fostering

Enfield Council has put out an appeal to increase the number of people currently coming forward to be foster carers.

Enfield Council foster carers go above and beyond to give children and young

people a safe and secure home, making a big difference to their lives. Enfield Council needs to recruit more foster carers who can help bring a sense of family and belonging to vulnerable children and young people, so please contact Enfield Council's fostering team today and help transform the life of a young person.

Phil and Sally Wren from Enfield have been foster carers for just under a year. During this time they have seen several foster children stay with them.

Phil said "We do not have children of our own, so it seemed natural for us to become foster carers so that we could help lots of young people by giving them a secure and loving home and being their advocate."



They take children aged from birth to 18, and whilst some placements may be for a short time, for example to give a parent respite, some children stay long term as they cannot return to their families.

Phil continued; "Being a foster carer does present some challenges, but it is immensely rewarding. The hardest part is letting them go."

Sally added "It would be great if more people would consider becoming foster

carers with Enfield Council, the support we have received from social services is excellent, and our application was brilliantly handled.

"You take a little person into your life, and you help mend them and set them on the road to adulthood feeling loved and valued."

Another Enfield Council foster carer Trudy Pye and husband Keith have been fostering for an amazing 34 years. During this time they have fostered over 60 children.



As they explain: "We foster for Enfield because this is our own community and working with the local authority means we can work directly with the children from our community that need help.

"We enjoy fostering. It is hard work, challenging at times and in different ways - especially with behaviour and emotions. Sometimes they have so much going on they have to get through all of that first before they can trust you.

"It may take time, but when you achieve a breakthrough it is so rewarding. They've all got potential. Even when they may be difficult to engage with or present challenging behaviour - there is still a glimmer of hope. Most of the time, they don't believe in themselves unless you believe in them.

"Sometimes you don't think that you've changed their lives. But when a positive change happens it's worth all the hard work you put in. To be a foster parent,

being non-judgemental, having a big heart and having a spare bedroom is essential. You have to be there for the children through thick and thin because that is exactly what they need. At the end of the day, with your hard work, you can get back far more than what you give.

"We have been with Enfield Council for so many years and received excellent support throughout. If you are interested in giving children in our community a better future - be an Enfield Council foster carer. Contact Enfield Council Fostering Service today."



Foster care doesn't just transform the lives of children and young people - it also enhances the lives of foster carers and their families.

If you want to become an Enfield Council foster carer:

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- you must be a minimum of 21 years old but there is no upper age limit;
- you can be single, married or in a civil partnership;
- you'll receive ongoing training and support including a dedicated supervising social worker.

Foster carers receive a weekly allowance for each child or young person placed with them, plus a generous weekly foster carer fee. Membership is also paid to the Fostering Network which gives foster carers exclusive discounts on a variety of items including home insurance and days out with the family.

To find out more about being a foster carer for Enfield Council go to:
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