



## CFRS Weekly Update – 11/07/25

### Weekly Update – At a Glance

- Exercise – Brunton Park
- DRP success at Ulverston
- Service shortlisted twice in UK Fleet Champions Awards
- Workplace fatalities statistics reinforce importance of health and safety
- Staff Network – Listen and Learns
- Alliance FC – mental health football club now recruiting players
- Expressions of interest in Learning and Development roles open
- Funeral of the late firefighter John Allison
- Contracts awarded for cleaning and grounds maintenance
- HR training / information sessions
- DBS eLearning
- NJC Pay Award (Corporate staff only)
- Crimestoppers launch campaign to 'speak up' about sexual harassment and domestic abuse
- Guest Wi-Fi reminder

**\*\* Please note that the above information should be shared with all staff on parade.**

**Detailed information for each of these headlines can be found below.**

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## Risk critical / Operational

### Exercise – Brunton Park

On Tuesday 8 July, seven appliances attended *Exercise – Brunton Park* at one of our L4 Tactical Plan sites in Carlisle.

Crews from Carlisle East, Carlisle West, Longtown, Alston and Silloth were joined by cross-border colleagues from Gretna and Langholm in Scotland to undertake a breathing apparatus and command and control exercise.

The exercise involved a large fire in the concourse of Carlisle United Football Club, with multiple casualties missing.

The initial crews performed snatch rescues and liaised with Carlisle United stewarding and safety team before executing a plan to safely resolve the incident.



There was lots of effort from all participants and plenty of good practice shared between Scottish and Cumbrian fire crews.

I'd just like to again thank all involved in the preparation and execution of the exercise for making it a success, those who carried out roles such as ICL2 and safety officers, and particularly thank Carlisle United for allowing us to carry out this exercise and taking part to make it realistic.

### **Jackson Kidd**

Watch Manager, Carlisle Blue Watch

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### **Service shortlisted twice in UK Fleet Champions Awards**

Brake has announced the shortlist for the prestigious UK Fleet Champions Awards 2025 – and Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service has been shortlisted not just once, but twice!

Our service has been shortlisted for the following awards which recognise the achievements of organisations working to prevent crashes:

- Public Sector Driver Safety Award
- Road Safety in the Community Award

All entries will now be judged by an independent panel of judges from across the fleet sector, and the winners will be announced at a glittering ceremony hosted by Brake in central Leeds on Thursday 25 September.

This shortlisting is recognition of the outstanding work delivered by our teams to protect people on our county's roads – and fingers crossed we might be celebrating an award or two come September.

You can read the full press release about the awards shortlisting here: [\*\*Brake announces the shortlist for the UK Fleet Champions... | Brake\*\*](#)

### **Paul Milburn**

Group Manager, Protection and Prevention

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## **Developing Resilience Programme success at Ulverston**

The sixth Developing Resilience Programme (DRP) of the year, this time delivered at Ulverston Blue Light Hub for the first time, was another resounding success and demonstration of the strength of Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service – our teams!

The impact on the young people who completed the course Ulverston Victoria High School, and how far they had come in just a week, was remarkable as they showcased teamwork, bravery and determination while demonstrating what they had picked up on the final day.

The programme was organised by Jason Ferguson, Jamie Coward, Alan Spiers, James Crawford, Purple Watch, Amber Watch, Andrew Millray and Jude Gale.



DRPs combine operational drills with personal development to improve team building, problem solving and communication skills – and all of this was clearly on show as their families proudly looked on during the final showcase.

Each participant was presented with a certificate at the end of the week as a mark of their achievement in completing the programme, but it was the priceless knowledge, skills and behaviours which they picked up along the way that will hopefully stay with them as a lasting legacy.

The programme received glowing feedback from the school and proved that all of the time, effort and dedication put in by the station and wider CFRS staff was well worth it.

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## **Workplace fatalities statistics reinforce importance of health and safety**

The Health and Safety Executive has published its latest workplace fatal injury statistics, revealing that in the last year 124 workers were killed in work-related incidents in Great Britain.

The most common causes of fatal injuries are falls from height, being struck by a moving object, and being trapped by something collapsing or overturning.

With publication of these statistics we consider their significance to Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service, our maintenance of a positive health and safety culture, and the impact that has on reducing the numbers of adverse safety events and possible injuries.

**[Click here to read an article on this subject](#)**

I would also like to congratulate Luke Russell on the completion of the NEBOSH Level 6 National Diploma for Occupational Health and Safety Management Professionals.

Luke joined CFRS in the new post of Health and Safety Advisor in late 2023 to address a recognised lack of resources in health and safety following local government reorganisation, which he has ably strengthened, familiarising himself with the complexities of managing safety within the fire and rescue sector.

**Duncan Taylor**

Health and Safety Manager

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## **Equality, diversity and inclusion**

### **Staff Network – Listen and Learns**

Within each Staff Network page on SharePoint, there is a section titled *Listen and Learns* where a number of webinars, discussions and podcasts have been added, so please take a look to see if anything takes your interest.

### **[Staff Network Page](#)**

If anyone has any recommendations or links to other learning or support material that could be added to the Staff Network section, please get in touch with

**[kelly.drury@cumbriafire.gov.uk](mailto:kelly.drury@cumbriafire.gov.uk)**

## **Kelly Drury**

Watch Manager, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

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### **Alliance FC – mental health football club now recruiting players**

Kirk McGrady has established a new football club, Alliance FC, to address the mental health crisis in Cumbria and to ensure football can provide well-being, social inclusion and exercise for all. The following teams are based in West Cumbria and aim to be inclusive by catering for people with PTSD, Autism, OCD, dyspraxia, ADHD, and more.

- Men's open age team (16+)
- Men's six-a-side PAN disability festival team (16+)
- Mixed walking team (40+)
- Six-a-side PAN disability team (12–16 boys and girls)
- 11-a-side regular team (Year 9/10 school pupils)

To express your interest please call Kirk on 07481481187.

## **Annie McInerney**

Recruitment, Fitness and Engagement Coordinator

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## **Vacancies**

### **Expressions of interest in Learning and Development roles open**

A number of opportunities in the Learning and Development department are now open for expressions of interest:

- Watch Manager (Temporary)
- Crew Manager (Temporary)

You can find out more about the roles, eligibility and how to apply here: [\*\*Internal Expressions of Interest | Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service\*\*](#)



**Katie Norman**

Resourcing and Talent Advisor

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## **Other**

### **Funeral of the late firefighter John Allison**

Following a short battle with cancer, former firefighter John Allison has sadly passed away.

John was part of the crew at Patterdale for more than 20 years, along with his father Reg.

His funeral will be held at 11am on Friday 18 July at Eden Valley Crematorium – serving and retired members of Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service are welcome to attend.

## **Colin Wright**

Group Manager, Learning and Development

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### **Contracts awarded for cleaning and grounds maintenance**

Orian Solutions LTD and A & R Landscaping have recently been awarded the cleaning and grounds maintenance contracts respectively to maintain the estates across Cumbria Police and Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service.

These are the first contracts to be awarded by the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Estates department for the provision of services across the Police and Fire estate: [Click here to read more](#)

Can I also please issue a general reminder to staff that **all** contractors must be vetted prior to undertaking any work on our estate, whether working internally or externally, as per our policy and procedures.

The Fire and Police estates are unique, and our business demands the highest standards of both workmanship and conduct.

All contractors appointed by Estates are vetted contractors for security and to ensure they meet and comply with our professional working standards.

**Phil Robinson**

Head of Estates

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### **HR training / information sessions**

Please note there is face-to-face manager training scheduled for **Tuesday 15 July** in the Community Room at **Workington Fire Station**:

- 10am–11am: *Managing Absence*
- 1pm–3pm: *Workplace Complaints*

Please book via PDR Pro.

We are also running an informal drop-in session via MS Teams on Tuesday 15 July 11am–12pm for any member of CFRS staff to join explaining the various mechanisms open to staff regarding how to make a complaint. You can join the call via the following link:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 398 112 898 464

Passcode: o6evcZ

**Jemma Taylor**

HR Manager

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### **DBS eLearning**

There is now a *DBS Check Process* e-learning available on LearnPro under the Corporate ELearning section, Additional (NOT MANDATORY).

The purpose of this is to support managers with the checking process for their crew/team members. It is a tool for assistance and is **not** mandatory.

If you have any questions about DBS checks, please contact the People and Talent team.



**Takara Hanks**

Senior HR Advisor

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### **NJC Pay Award (Corporate staff only)**

Just a further update advising that Unison, GMB and Unite have now formally written to the NJC rejecting the offer of 3.2 per cent.

This is due to be considered by the NJC in the coming weeks. Further communication will follow when we are informed of next steps.

**Jemma Taylor**

HR Manager

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### **Crimestoppers launch campaign to 'speak up' about sexual harassment and domestic abuse**

Crimestoppers has launched a national campaign running until Wednesday 23 July to encourage people to speak up about sexual harassment and domestic abuse. To find out more about the campaign, visit [Independent UK charity taking crime information anonymously | Crimestoppers](#)

We are pleased to support this campaign, following on from the recent the launch of a new [Sexual Harassment Policy](#), which means we now have the following policies and programme in place:

- Crimestoppers FRA / SpeakUp Programme
- Workplace Complaints Policy
- Sexual Harassment Policy

Our *How to raise a complaint* poster can be found [here](#) and is also displayed in all stations as a reminder of the channels available to report.



**Helen Clark**

HR Manager

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### **Guest Wi-Fi reminder**

When booking a meeting room and expecting a guest that would require access to the Wi-Fi network, this can be done via Business Support but please note we need the email address and company name for the person and the date access is required. You will need to give at least 24 hours' notice to get this set up.

If you would like to arrange this yourself, please request access via the [ICT Portal](#).

**Jane Walker**

Business Support Team Leader

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To have your news included in this section please email:

[CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk](mailto:CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk)

## Our Code of Ethics



Putting our  
communities  
first



Dignity and  
respect



Equality,  
diversity and  
inclusion



Integrity



Leadership

