



CFRS Weekly Update – 18/07/25

Weekly Update – At a Glance

- Community safety engagement in Barrow schools
- National Highways road safety updates
- Breathing apparatus update
- Kendal Unity Festival
- Expressions of interest in Learning and Development roles CLOSING TODAY
- Final call to attend North West Tactical Firefighting Challenge
- Annual Benefits Statements 2024–25
- My Money Matters webinars (Corporate staff only)

**** 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.



Risk Critical / Operational

Community safety engagement in Barrow schools

Please find this as a quick update to what has been happening at Barrow over the last few weeks regarding community safety.

All watches have been heavily involved in summer activities with Watch Manager Michael Bradshaw and Watch Manager Simon Rodger organising sport in schools engagement sessions. The crews have attended several schools in the area to firstly play sport – in this case cricket and rounders – followed by the pupils asking questions about the fire service. We also gave them fire safety advice.



The days coincided with hot weather and on each session the squirting of the hose ended in a cooling water fight for the students, teachers and ourselves! Everyone involved has thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and more are planned over the coming months.

The Unity Festival proved a huge hit in Barrow town centre as crews started with a parade through the town with approximately 100 others waving flags from different countries of the world.

Arts and crafts as well as different European and Asian food was served at the town hall. The Unity Festival coincided with the hottest day of the year so the hose came off again as children and adults danced to live music from different corners of the globe while being showered with water. Everyone loved being cooled off, learning about the fire service and accepting fire safety advice.

Barrow have more interesting community engagements within the coming months – hopefully they will prove as beneficial and enjoyable as the above.

Simon Rodger and Michael Bradshaw

Watch Managers, Barrow Fire Station

National Highways road safety updates

The link below will take you to the latest National Highways road safety update. This includes Summer T.R.I.P. campaign, Towing, Kirby Thore School and A66 Dualling Scheme and GM Fire Biker Training Videos and more.

This update and future ones will be uploaded to the *Road Safety* section within the Prevention section on SharePoint.

Click here: [**National Highways July 2025 road safety update**](#)

Steve Brockbank

Watch Manager, Prevention

Breathing apparatus update

Thank you to all personnel who have attended the FBT courses from Cumberland from April to now and Westmorland before that.

We sincerely hope you have got some benefit from the input provided.

We are receiving positive feedback from the approach that the Learning and Development department are taking with the progression towards the Tactical Firefighting updates as detailed in the National Operational Guidance issued by the NFCC

For all the details on changes over the last year, what's coming next, and for a reminder about upcoming FBT courses, you can read a full update [here](#).

Tom Harding

Station Manager, Learning and Development



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Kendal Unity Festival

This popular free family festival takes place at **Kendal Town Hall** on **Saturday, 26 July 2025** between **10am and 4pm**, where a variety of organisations and community groups will offer a wide range of engaging activities.

The festival is designed to bring people together to celebrate diversity and create connections and understanding between people.

As well as being a fun day, the following will also be available:

- Bystander training, on offer to help people think about how they could respond positively to sensitive situations
- The immersive *Escape to Safety* exhibition is powerfully evocative and those that take the 'journey' are invited to visit a reflective space afterwards

Please consider popping along and supporting this event.

Kelly Drury

Watch Manager, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



Vacancies

Expressions of interest in Learning and Development roles

A number of opportunities in the Learning and Development department close **TODAY** (Friday, 18 July) 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



Other

Final call to attend North West Tactical Firefighting Challenge

Thank you for those showing interest in being part of the Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service competition team for the upcoming inaugural North West Tactical Firefighting Challenge. I am pleased to announce the team competing will be:

- Karl Read

- Christian Neen
- Ryan Collins
- Sean Fitzsimons
- Patrick Campbell-Jenner

In addition to the five-person competing team, **CFRS has a further five spaces available for personnel wishing to attend the event.** Interest will be on a first come, first serve basis for this fantastic opportunity. I look forward to hearing from you.

The event is all day and evening on **Saturday, 26 July 2025** at **Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service HQ**, with highlights including:

- Teams compete in realistic firefighting scenarios to test tactical skills and teamwork
- Workshops and seminars from industry experts about latest techniques and technologies
- Networking opportunities with fellow firefighters and industry professionals
- Attendance at the regional evening event held at the Hilton Hotel in Chester with Dan Stevens as guest speaker
- Food and refreshments provided to all attending including three-course evening meal and accommodation for the Saturday night

We will be holding a training session for the chosen team to represent us and showcase our service on this regional stage.

If you are interested in attending, please register your interest no later than **5pm** on **Monday, 21 July** OR if you would like further information, please contact Tom Harding (tom.harding@cumbriafire.gov.uk)

Tom Harding

Station Manager, Learning and Development

Annual Benefits Statements 2024–25

Annual Benefit Statements and Remediable Service Statements (ABS-RSS) for 2024–25 are due to be released on or before **Sunday, 31 August 2025**.

The quickest and simplest way for you to receive your ABS-RSS is on LPPA's online portal – PensionPoint

Access to the pension portal to register for an account can be found here:

[PensionPoint - Log in to your LPPA online portal - Home](#)

On registration, LPPA ask that you: "Please use a **personal email address** (rather than a work one) in case you move employers or retire."

In the lead up to the ABS-RSS being released we will be providing information around "contribution adjustments" and will carry out a presentation on "understanding your ABS-RSS".

The slides for last year's presentation can be found here:  **[ABS-RSS presentation.pptx](#)**

Simon Long

Senior Pensions Advisor

My Money Matters webinars (Corporate staff only)

Want to learn more about Shared Cost AVCs without the faff? Great news – My Money Matters has made it super simple to book onto their upcoming webinars.

No logins, no forms, no fuss: **[just click and go](#)**

Pick a topic that interests you, choose a time that works, and reserve your spot in seconds. That's it!

Learn how you can save more for your retirement through the Shared Cost AVC scheme today.

A pension is a long-term investment, the fund value may fluctuate and can go down. Your eventual income may depend upon the size of the fund at retirement, future interest rates and tax legislation.

Jemma Taylor

HR Manager

To have your news included in this section please email:

CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk

