



CFRS Weekly Update – 08/08/25

Weekly Update – At a Glance

- Additional 10 fire appliances for Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service fleet
- Leading expert in lithium-ion technology hazards speaking live in September
- Scottish Women in the Fire Service Event 2025
- Pride by the Harbourside 2025
- Expressions of interest in Learning and Development roles still open
- Expressions of interest for new Tactical Firefighting and Management of Contaminants Working Group
- Green book annual leave year change
- North West Regional Tactical Firefighting Challenge 2025
- Next Mental Health Working Group meeting
- Fire Fighters Charity: HOPE programmes
- Baton of Hope tour 2025
- Annual Awards – still time to submit nominations

**** 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

Additional 10 fire appliances for Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service fleet

To support the ongoing effort in modernising our fleet, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service has acquired 10 fire appliances from West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service.

Technical Services are currently delivering a project to ensure each appliance is fully operational and equipped, as modifications are required to meet local requirements.

The receiving stations for these appliances are being identified and Technical Services will soon be contacting the relevant managers to provide further details and coordinate the handover.

The integration of these appliances into our fleet will also allow us to establish five fully-equipped reserve appliances, helping to speed up changeovers and maintain operational cover across the county.

This project is in addition to our ongoing fleet replacement programme.

As part of the next phase, we will soon begin engaging with operational crews regarding the procurement of two new Scania appliances and two Enhanced Rescue Units, ensuring our fleet continues to meet operational demands effectively and safely.

Tony Paterson

Group Manager, Service Support

Leading expert in lithium-ion technology hazards speaking live in September

Professor Paul Christensen will be speaking live via Teams on **Friday 19 September 2025** from **10am–12pm**, as invited by a group called LIBERATE

(Lithium-Ion Battery Emerging Risk Action Team), which was set up by a Station Manager in West Sussex a few years ago.

Paul is a Professor of Pure and Applied Electrochemistry at Newcastle University and the leading expert in the country with regards to his research into hazards relating to lithium-ion technology.

Full details can be found [here](#).

Paul Dean

Station Manager, Operational Planning

Chair, Emerging Technologies Working Group



Scottish Women in the Fire Service Event 2025

Women in the Fire Service have received formal notification of the next annual Scottish event and we have been asked to distribute the details to services.

Second Annual Scottish Women in the Fire Service event

Date: Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September 2025

Location: Scottish Fire & Rescue Service HQ Cambuslang, Westburn Dr,
Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 7NA

Cost: Free (Accommodation/travel at the expense of attendees' own service)

They are initially offering **30 spaces**, however, should interest in attending exceed this number, there may be a possibility of additional places being available. Spaces are open to all and both operational and corporate staff.

To complete your booking form for the **Women in the Fire Service Scotland Event 2025**, please click [HERE](#).

Please click [HERE](#) to read the **Women in the Fire Service Event Privacy Notice**

If you are attending, please notify either Kasey Grainger, Jo Richardson or Lauren Woodward – these spaces will be filled quickly so please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Kasey Grainger

Station Manager, Operational Assurance

Pride by the Harbourside 2025



A wonderful community event is taking place on **Saturday 16 August 2025** in **Whitehaven**, celebrating **Pride by the Harbourside 2025!**

Whitehaven Blue Watch will be attending the event and if you're interested in helping out on the day – whether it's lending a hand, chatting with the public, or just being part of the team – please get in touch.

It's a fantastic opportunity to connect, celebrate diversity, and show that inclusion is at the heart of everything we do here at Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service.

Kelly Drury

Watch Manager, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



Vacancies

Expressions of interest in Learning and Development roles open

A number of opportunities in the Learning and Development department are still 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

Expressions of interest for new Tactical Firefighting and Management of Contaminants Working Group

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service is seeking expressions of interest from passionate, knowledgeable, and forward-thinking personnel to join a newly-established Tactical Firefighting and Management of Contaminants Working Group.

This working group will play a critical role in shaping and supporting the service's approach to operational tactics and best practice in minimising firefighter exposure to harmful contaminants, in line with national guidance and fire sector developments.

If you're interested in being part of this important piece of work, please submit a short expression of interest (max 300 words) outlining:

- Your current role and experience
- Why you're interested in joining the group
- What skills or insights you can bring

Please send your EOI to tom.harding@cumbriafire.gov.uk by Friday 29 August 2025.

For full details click [here](#).

Tom Harding

Station Manager, Learning and Development



Other

Green book annual leave year change

In the coming weeks you will be receiving further information on next steps as well as your annual leave calculations for the remainder of the year.

This comes following the recent consultation and engagement that has taken place in regards to the change to the annual leave year.

This change applies to green book employees only.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the HR team via email to HR@cumbriafire.gov.uk

Toria Barnes

HR Advisor

North West Regional Tactical Firefighting Challenge 2025



I am pleased to share that a team from Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service proudly competed in the North West Regional Tactical Firefighting Challenge, held on Saturday 26 July 2025 at Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service HQ. This dynamic and demanding event brought together fire services from across the region to test and showcase operational excellence in a high-pressure, realistic firefighting scenario.

Representing Cumbria were:

- **Incident Commander** – Karl Read (Watch Manager – Kendal Blue & White Watch)
- **BAECO** – Christian Neen (Crew Manager – Whitehaven On Call)

- **Fire Ground Operative** – Ryan Collins (Crew Manager – Whitehaven On Call)
- **BA Wearer** – Sean Fitzsimons (Firefighter – Whitehaven On Call)
- **BA Wearer** – Pat Campbell-Jenner (Firefighter – Ulverston Amber Watch)



Highlights included:

- Strong performance in the overall event
- Christian Neen receiving an award for the 'Best BAECO' performance

- First place in the VR Casualty Care Triage even

Read the full report from the event [here](#).

Tom Harding

Station Manager, Learning and Development

Next Mental Health Working Group meeting

The next Mental Health Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 14 August, 11am–12.30pm, at Penrith HQ,.

All are welcome to join either in-person or by dialling in.

Anyone is free to come along, whether you just want to attend this meeting or will be a regular attendee going forward,

For details on how to join virtually [click here](#).

Orlanda Wright

Resourcing, Talent and Well-being Lead

Fire Fighters Charity: HOPE programmes

Life can be unpredictable.

Stress at work, challenges at home, big changes like moving house, facing difficulties in your relationships, or even just feeling a bit overwhelmed – it all adds up.

But what if you could develop your resourcefulness before life throws its toughest moments at you?

Fire Fighters Charity has spaces on several **HOPE** (Help Overcome Problems Effectively) programmes in the coming months, aimed at anyone in the fire services

community who feels they'd benefit from a boost to their well-being during a time of change or uncertainty, however big or small.

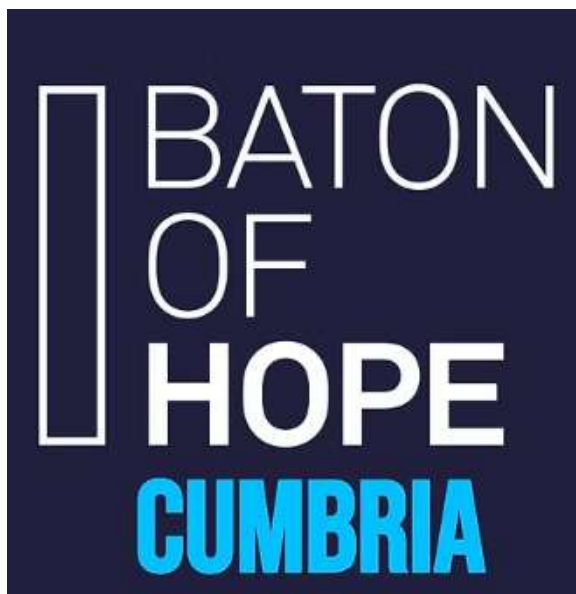
Completely anonymous and flexible, the programme fits into your schedule – whether you're on a PC, laptop, tablet, or phone.

And if you're approaching or recently retired, there's also a tailored programme to help you during this period of transition, as well as a completely self-directed option, which you can start and complete at any time.

Find out more at firefighterscharity.org.uk/hope

Fire Fighters Charity

Baton of Hope tour 2025



Following the huge success of their very first tour in 2023, the Baton of Hope is working with teams across the UK for an even bigger event in 2025. The aim is to help 'Stand Up To Suicide' as we spread the message of prevention far and wide.

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service will have crews along the route showing their support. For further details about the event, please click on the following links:

[Why Cumbria?](#)

Baton of Hope Cumbria route

Cumbria stops and mini events

Please discuss this event on your stations, in your offices, and with your teams to see if you can get involved and support this event along its route.

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch!

Kelly Drury

Watch Manager, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Annual Awards – still time to submit nominations

You still have time submit your nominations for our Annual Awards celebrating the skill and dedication of our workforce.

You can nominate a colleague or team by email to media@cumbriafire.gov.uk – please include your name, the name of the person/team you are nominating, the award you are nominating them for, and the reasons for the nomination (giving as much detail as possible).

We would love to encourage video nominations which can then be played at the awards ceremony for those who are shortlisted to be recognised – you can submit those by email to the same address.

This year's categories are:

- Community Contribution Award
- EDI Champion
- Unsung Hero Award
- Outstanding Achievement
- Inspirational Leader Award

- Team of the Year
- Community Ambassador of the Year
- Service Leadership Team's 'THACK' Values Award
- On-Call Champion
- Outstanding Contribution

You can find more information about the categories and criteria here: <https://tinyurl.com/2h5kumen>

The winners will be revealed at a ceremony on Friday, 24 October 2025.

If you have any questions please contact Lauren Woodward, Orlanda Wright or Liam Waite.

Lauren Woodward

Assistant Chief Fire Officer

To have your news included in this section please email:

CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk

