



CFRS Weekly Update – 16/1/26

Weekly Update – At a Glance

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- Fire Fighters Charity: Bag It and Bank It to support your fire family

**** 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

Appointments following Station Manager promotion process

Following the recent highly-competitive Station Manager promotion process, which drew a significant amount of interest and applications, we are delighted to confirm the following appointments which will come into effect from **Sunday 1 February 2026**:

- **Jonny Wills**, currently Station Manager of Learning and Development, has been substantively promoted and will move to Tech Services
- **Kieran Moyes**, currently with South Wales FRS, has been substantively promoted and will join Cumbria FRS as Station Manager of Learning and Development (subject to pre-employment checks)
- **Kevin Vannet**, currently Watch Manager of Whitehaven and Workington White Watch, has been temporarily promoted to Station Manager of LCU 4 (Bootle, Egremont, Frizington, Millom, Seascale)
- **Karl Read**, currently Watch Manager of Kendal White and Blue Watch, has been temporarily promoted and will move to Learning and Development while Kieran Moyes transfers into the service
- **Mikey Wilkinson** has been granted a move to become Station Manager of LCU 8 (Arnside, Grange, Milnthorpe, Ulverston)
- **Sarah Studholme** will move to become temporary Station Manager of LCU 2 (Aspatria, Cockermouth, Keswick, Maryport, Silloth, Wigton)

These outcomes follow those confirmed in *CFRS Weekly Update* on 9 January 2026:

- **Scott Cameron** has been substantively promoted to Group Manager of Prevention and Protection
- **Jamie Coward** has become Station Manager of Operational Assurance and is temporarily promoted to Group Manager Service Delivery for Westmorland and Furness
- **Kasey Grainger** will become Station Manager of Operational Planning following Station Manager Paul Dean's retirement from the service later this month

All other Station Managers will remain in their current positions within the service.

Ben Ryder and Lauren Woodward

Assistant Chief Fire Officers

Prevention opportunity for on-call staff in rural area home fire safety

We are seeking expressions of interest from on-call staff to support the Prevention department by carrying out home fire safety visits (HFSVs) for vulnerable members of your local communities and those vulnerable people who reside in rural areas of the county.

The opportunity aims to strengthen prevention activity in Cumbria by providing practical safety advice, provision of detection equipment, and reassurance to those most at risk.

Training will be provided for the delivery of a HFSV, and details of payment will be provided upon enquiry about the opportunities.

To register your interest or find out more, please email dean.readman@cumbriafire.gov.uk

Dean Readman

Station Manager, Local Command Unit 5 (Alston, Lazonby, Penrith) and Prevention

Service passes mass decontamination practical assurance visit

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service has successfully passed its mass decontamination (MD) practical assurance visit. Every year National Resilience (NR) assures MD capabilities across all designated services, with every third year requiring a practical assessment.

On the evening of 18 November 2025 MD-trained crews from Barrow, Grange, Milnthorpe and Ulverston attended Barrow Fire Station for MD practical assessment.

As NR single point of contact (SPOC) for the service I was extremely pleased with the performance of all teams involved in the assurance exercise. The objective of full MD erection was completed in 34 minutes – well within the required time of 45 minutes – and the effort and professionalism shown on the night was a credit to the organisation, with positive attitudes and behaviours being highlighted by the attending NR assurance team.

The MD Unit is on an immediate (999) response time and must be available 24/7 as expected by NR. To improve availability of the MD Unit, it is hoped that we can onboard a further two stations within the next financial year, with consultation on this set to start early March.

We also plan to improve the wider knowledge of MD capability across the Service by arranging a roadshow where we can invite commanders and teams in to better understand the asset.

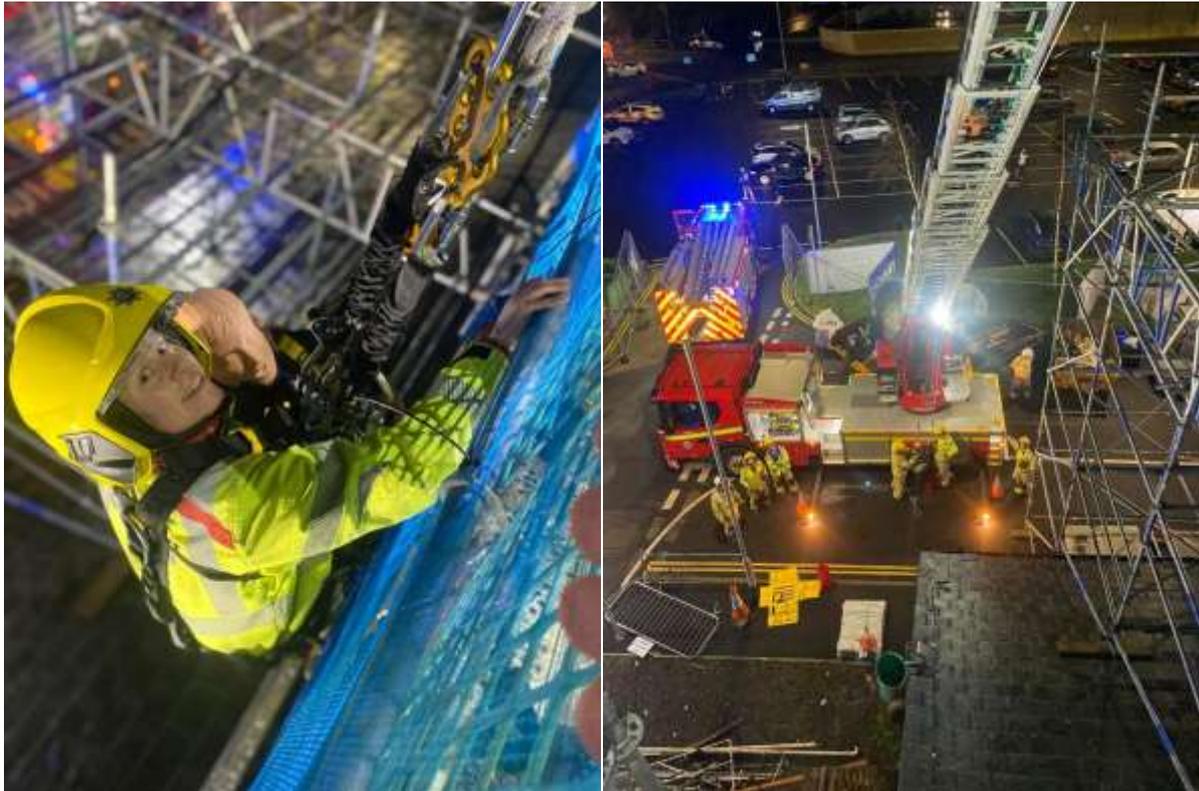
I would like to thank all attending crews for their effort and professionalism throughout, with a special mention going to Dave Johnston, Watch Manager at Milnthorpe, for stepping up to the role of Decontamination Sector Commander, and Crew Manager Glenn Irvine and Station Manager Mike Wilkinson (MD Instructors) for their support throughout the assurance process.

Tom Wright

Station Manager, Local Command Unit 9 (Barrow, Broughton, Coniston, Walney) and National Resilience Single Point of Contact

City entertainment venue hosts rescue at height exercise

Tuesday night saw crews take part in an exercise at The Sands Centre in Carlisle thanks to the support of Cubby Construction, simulating a contractor having a medical episode on top of the scaffolding currently being used for renovations to allow our firefighters to practise a complex rescue at height. The 'casualty' was successfully rescued using line rescue equipment and turntable ladder.



New Road Safety Strategy published

The government has published its first Road Safety Strategy in more than a decade, with a plan to reduce deaths and serious injuries on Britain's roads by 65 per cent by 2035.

Plans have been outlined to consult on a potential minimum learning period for learner drivers, eye tests for older drivers, and lowering the alcohol limit for driving to help prevent causes of collisions

You can read the strategy here: [Road safety strategy - GOV.UK](#)

Steve Brockbank

Watch Manager, Prevention

Applications open for 2026 Fire Cadets intake – volunteers needed to help run units

Applications are now open for young people aged 13–17 to join the Fire Cadets in Cumbria at our existing unit at Workington Fire Station and new units launching at Barrow, Carlisle East, Millom and Whitehaven from March 2026.

Units meet one evening each week and offer:

- A welcoming and inclusive environment
- Realistic fire and rescue service activities
- A uniform to wear with pride

You may have spotted outgoing cadet Olivia on ITV Border this week as she was interviewed about the impact the huge programme has had on her both from a career and personal perspectives. You can watch the piece here: [Four new fire cadet units set up to train the next generation of firefighters - Latest From ITV News](#)

We're also looking for adults to become Volunteer Fire Cadet Instructors and help run the units.

To find out more about the cadets and how to apply to be a cadet or Volunteer Fire Cadet Instructor, visit [Fire Cadets | Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service](#)

Andrew Lowes

Station Manager, Local Command Unit 5 (Alston, Lazonby, Penrith) and Prevention

Deadline approaching to identify lockers at CFRS HQ

To help us to identify which lockers are available for new starters, if you currently have a locker in either room on the ground floor of CFRS HQ at Penrith, please complete the form on the back of the changing room doors by Friday 23 January to indicate which locker(s) you are using. Please note this includes small lockers as well.

Once this deadline passes, any lockers which have not been identified will be opened to determine if they are free to use.

If you have a member of staff who is off sick, please can we ask managers to check if your staff have a locker and to sign the form on their behalf.

If you have already completed the form following the previous email about this subject sent last year, you do not need to do so again.

Joanne Cullen

Project Delivery Lead

Appeal for crew interest in supporting drill ground assessments

Expressions of interest are being sought for staff who are interested in being part of the crew for drill ground assessments during the upcoming Supervisory Managers Promotion Process.

These opportunities will be particularly useful for firefighters who have catch-up drills to complete, as well as any developing firefighters whether wholetime or on-call.

If you would be interested in finding out more, or would like to register your interest, please contact me by email colin.wright@cumbriafire.gov.uk or call 07825 340313.

Details of payment will be provided upon enquiry about the opportunities.

Colin Wright

Group Manager, Learning and Development

Learning opportunities from across the sector

Please remember when viewing briefs and case studies from other services to access our own operational information notes regarding our procedures: [Operational Guidance](#)

Greater Manchester FRS

December's Organisational Learning Brief from Greater Manchester is now live on LearnPro: [GMFRS December 2025 OLB](#)

This month's edition includes a mix of risk-critical reminders, operational updates and examples of good practice, including:

- Door-ram injuries
- Gas detector use at gas incidents
- Avian flu awareness (water and animal rescue)
- Improving water supplies at protracted incidents
- Incident of Note: bridge jump into water
- Reflection on command hours changes

Kasey Grainger

Station Manager, Operational Assurance



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

World Religion Day – 18 January

World Religion Day promotes unity and understanding among all faiths. For Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service, World Religion Day reinforces our commitment to creating an inclusive, respectful workplace, values that strengthen our teams and build trust with our communities.

The NFCC Religion and Belief Toolkit provides practical guidance on:

- Uniform and dress adjustments for faith needs
- Dietary considerations and fasting periods
- Leave for religious observances
- Best practice and legal compliance

By embracing these principles, we ensure every colleague and community member feels valued and respected. Learn more by exploring the [**Religion and Belief Toolkit - NFCC**](#)

Kelly Drury

Watch Manager, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



Vacancies

Supervisory Manager Promotion Process (on-call only) – still open!

If you are interested in applying for the role of Crew or Watch Manager, **the on-call only Supervisory Managers Promotion Process is still open.**

The on-call only process is designed to be more accessible to on-call staff and is only open to current CFRS employees. Successful candidates in this process will only be eligible for on-call roles.

If you are currently in an 'eligible permanent' or 'eligible substantive' pool for a Supervisory Manager role having attended the last process, you will need to re-apply and be successful in this process.

Eligibility

- To be eligible to apply for Crew Manager positions you will need to currently hold the post of competent Firefighter
- To be eligible to apply for Watch Manager positions you will need to currently hold the post of competent Crew Manager and hold a current Incident Command Level 1 skill

For all roles a proof of competency will be required.

How to apply

Join one of our engagement sessions to learn more about the role and requirements.

Apply via the correct role application form on the CFRS Vacancies webpage:

cumbriafire.gov.uk/leadership-vacancies

The application form will require you to give answers to four questions that are linked to the NFCC Leadership Framework – there is a 300-word limit for **EACH** question.

The on-call only application process will close at midnight on Sunday 8 February 2026.

Engagement session

- Final engagement session for the on-call only process – Tuesday 20 January 2026, 6pm–7pm

For further information

Either speak to or email:

Katie Norman

Resourcing and Talent Advisor

katherine.norman@cumbriafire.gov.uk

07917 515892

Colin Wright

Group Manager

colin.wright@cumbriafire.gov.uk

07825 340313



Other

Safety recall – Hosted Service charger plugs

The ICT Service has been advised of a **product recall** affecting one specific type of mobile phone/tablet mains charger plug **supplied by the Hosted Service to users on the ex-Cumbria County Council network.**

The recall is due to a potential **overheating risk.**

Who is affected?

This recall applies **only** to charger plugs that:

- Were issued **from January 2025 onwards**
- Have **retractable pins**
- Have **no brand name printed** on the casing and match the image provided

Similar plugs with **any branding printed on the front case** are NOT affected by this recall.

Affected charger:



What you must do

If you have one of the affected chargers:

- **Stop using it immediately**
- You may temporarily use another charger you already own, or charge via USB through your laptop or monitor

The hosted ICT Service will send a further update shortly regarding the process for the replacement of the recalled chargers.

Joanne Cullen

Project Delivery Lead

Additional parking at CFRS HQ Penrith

Please note that the temporary car park at CFRS HQ Penrith is still available for use by visitors via Kemplay Bank for the foreseeable future – we have been experiencing a high volume of visitors to HQ recently and, to help making parking easier for everyone, you may wish to use the temporary car park and walk the short distance to the station.

Commissioner asks the public to support an increase in council tax for Cumbria FRS

Cumbria's Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, David Allen, has launched a council tax consultation for 2026–27.

The consultation is asking for residents to support an increase of £4.95 per year for a Band D Property – the equivalent of a penny per day.

Residents can complete the [survey online](#) or call 01768 217734 or email commissioner@cumbria-pcc.gov.uk to obtain a paper copy. The deadline to complete for the survey is Friday 23 January at 5pm.

Acas free January webinars

Acas will be running a number of free webinars this month which may be of specific interest to those with line management responsibility.

A helpful refresher around supporting staff through sickness absence and managing reasonable adjustments.

Please note they are not specific to the fire sector but do follow requirements for best practice.

You can use the links below to register for a place:

Sickness absence: Supporting your staff

Wednesday 21 January, 2pm–3pm

[Register your place](#)

Reasonable adjustments: How to get them right

Tuesday 27 January, 2pm–3pm

[Register your place](#)

Jemma Taylor and Helen Clark

HR Managers

Greene King 'Tub 2 Pub' collection – Macmillan Cancer Support

Following on from the success of the 2025 'Tub 2 Pub' in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and facilitated by Greene King Pubs, I will be once again collecting containers throughout January.

There will be collection points the same as last year at the following locations:

- Carlisle East Fire Station reception
- Carlisle West Fire Station reception
- Carlisle East Fire Station admin offices (HR, Finance, etc.)
- Workington Fire Station

Further to this, I am trying to expand and will be able to collect from locations at CFRS HQ Penrith, as well as Whitehaven and Kendal fire stations.

All plastic biscuit, confectionery and cracker containers are accepted. Any further queries you have, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

Nick Stather

Firefighter, Carlisle West Red Watch

Christmas disco is a festive hit with Barrow youngsters

On Monday 22 December Barrow Fire Station hosted a FREE Christmas Disco for the local community with the hope of offering an inclusive, family-centred festive experience.

The disco was a great success, attended by 75 local children plus parents and carers who all had a fantastic time dancing to music, playing games, interacting with the fire crew and exploring the station and appliances.

I would like to thank resident Barrow Fire Station DJ and on-call firefighter Dan Hayes for entertaining, as well as Barrow Blue Watch for your preparation, decoration, and dancing skills.

Tom Wright

Station Manager, Local Command Unit 9 (Barrow, Broughton, Coniston, Walney)

Fire Fighters Charity: Bag It and Bank It to support your fire family



Fire Fighters Charity's January Bank it and Bank It Recycling Championship is back!

Could you help to raise £85,000 throughout this month by donating your unwanted clothing, shoes and handbags to one of the charity's clothing banks?

You can find your nearest one via [the online map](#).

Fire Fighters Charity

To have your news included in this section please email:

CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk

