



CFRS Weekly Update – 23/1/26

Weekly Update – At a Glance

- Changes to cordons for electric vehicle fires
- Operational Assurance themes update
- Appeal for crew interest in supporting drill ground assessments
- Occupational Health and Wellbeing Coordinator vacancy
- Supervisory Manager Promotion Process (on-call only) – still open!
- 2026 Festival of Fire Sport
- Make the new year count – Corporate staff only (LGPS pension)
- Pensions team station drop-in clinics

** 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

Changes to cordons for electric vehicle fires

As a result of recommendations received from the NFCC, the initial cordon for fires involving electric vehicles have been changed to 50m due to the risks involved with fires of these types.

The following documents have been changed to reflect this:

- [OIN 0051 Electric Vehicles](#)
- [OIN 0056 Cordon Control](#)
- [SI 0032 Electric Vehicles](#)
- [SOP 3.13 Fighting Fires in Vehicles](#)

If you have any queries regarding these changes, please email opsplanning@cumbriafire.gov.uk.

Sarah Holton

Watch Manager, Operational Planning/PDC

Operational Assurance themes update

For this quarter to the end of March 2026 the theme for Operational Assurance is **Rescues from Water and Flooding** incidents.

Operational Assurance Officers will be focusing on the following:

- Use of the  [Submerged Person Tool](#) and the relevant OIN/SOP
- Quality of radio messages
- Whether the necessary skills and equipment needed were available
- Identification of hazards and control measures that have been taken (for example, decision logs kept and/or an ARA has been completed)

OperationalAssurance@cumbriafire.gov.uk

SharePoint link – [**Operational Assurance**](#)

Kasey Grainger

Station Manager, Operational Planning

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**](mailto: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



Vacancies

Occupational Health and Wellbeing Coordinator

INTERNAL ONLY

Salary: 28,598–29,540

Hours: 37 hours per week

Contract: Permanent

Location: CFRS HQ Penrith

Closing date: 11.59pm, Sunday 8 February 2026

Interviews: Interviews will be held in-person on Friday 13 February 2026 at CFRS HQ Penrith

** This post requires a Standard DBS Check **

Find out more and apply: [CFRS0174 – Occupational Health and Wellbeing Coordinator | Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service](#)

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.

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

2026 Festival of Fire Sport

FESTIVAL OF FIRE SPORT



22 AND 23 APRIL 2026, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Are you ready to showcase your sporting skills, teamwork and friendship?
Represent your fire and rescue service at this year's Festival of Fire Sport.

- Men's Football
- Women's Football
- Men's Rugby
- Women's Rugby
- Men's Cricket
- Women's Cricket
- Squash
- Ice Hockey
- Open Water Swimming
- Golf
- Netball
- Table Tennis
- Badminton
- Water polo
- British Firefighter Challenge



This event is open to all UK fire and rescue and NFCC employees.
Register your interest today: firesportuk.com

SCAN
HERE



As Chair of Fire Sport UK, I am pleased to announce the 2026 Festival of Fire Sport that will take place across South Yorkshire on 22 and 23 April 2026, bringing together as many sections as we could to host fixtures and events over the two-day festival.

- Day 1 (22 April) – The opening day will see many active sections hosting fixtures and events. We have secured venues for the national football, rugby and cricket sections to hold fixtures and these sections are all organising themselves to showcase their talents and to compete against suitable opponents. We also expect other events to be organised that people can register their interest to participate, including racket sports, open water swimming, golf, netball, bowls, ice hockey and even waterpolo
- Day 1 Celebration Evening Event – On the evening of 22 April, we are planning a celebration evening event with three-course dinner and entertainment. This will be a ticketed event with tickets on sale through an Eventbrite link. It is hoped that competitors, participants and spectators of all events will join us for the evening celebration where we can come together, share our experiences, celebrate success and inspire one another to continue

to engage in the activities on offer through Fire Sport UK. More details on this event will emerge as planning continues.

- Day 2 (23 April) – Sheffield City Centre will host the British Firefighter Challenge event. This is an established event organised by firefighters, for firefighters. The event pushes firefighters to their limits and provides a great day of entertainment for participants and spectators. The venue for the event will be in the Peace Gardens in Sheffield City Centre. Participants will be able to register their interest with the British Firefighter Challenge website: britishfirefighterchallenge.co.uk

This is a call for people who may be interested to start getting involved. The QR code on the poster below takes you to a page where you can find out who to contact for more information about all of the activities on offer over the festival.

This event is open to all UK fire and rescue and NFCC employees. Register your interest today at firesportuk.com

Chris Kirby

Chair, Fire Sport UK

Make the new year count – Corporate staff only (LGPS pension)

The new year is a time for setting goals – typically people look to start exercising more or trying new hobbies, but what if you focused on improving your financial future?

With the tax year ending on 5 April 2026, you've got time to take advantage of your remaining tax-free allowances and boost your retirement income with a Shared Cost Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) scheme. You'll have to action this by March's payroll.

The tax-efficient savings tool can help you contribute more to your future for less with tax savings on contributions – every 100 added only costs a basic rate taxpayer 72.08*. You can [apply for a Shared Cost AVC scheme here](#).

If you've already got a Shared Cost AVC plan, the run-up to the end of the tax year is a great time to review your contributions and make sure you're making the most of your allowances. You can [**manage your contributions here**](#).

If you'd rather learn more before acting, MMM are hosting exclusive webinar sessions to help you prepare for the end of the tax year with tools to help you make the most of this year's allowance. [**View the available sessions here**](#).

A Shared Cost AVC scheme is a pension product for active LGPS members, and can only be accessed from age 55 onwards, rising to 57 in 2028. While Shared Cost AVC schemes can offer valuable benefits, they may not be suitable for everyone.

**Basic rate taxpayer savings are a guide and based on current Income Tax (20 per cent) and National Insurance (eight per cent) rates, which are subject to change. These figures are not guaranteed.*

It's important to remember that as your pension is invested, the fund value can go down as well as up, and you may get back less than you invest. The Pension eligibility and tax rules that apply depend on your individual circumstances and may change at any time.

Jemma Taylor and Helen Clark

HR Managers

Pensions team station drop-in clinics

The Pension Team will be running pensions drop-ins at stations across the county to give you the opportunity to meet us face to face to ask any questions you may have in relation to Pensions (purely on a factual basis, no advice will be given) or if you need help logging onto PensionPoint, etc.

The sessions will be drop-ins – there is no need to book – and there is no obligation to come and see us but we will be on station for two hours for each session.

Meet the team at our...

Pensions drop-in clinics

Our Pensions team is hitting the road and visiting stations around Cumbria for a number of drop-in clinics. This is your chance to meet the team face-to-face and ask any questions you might have about your pension. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity...



Whitehaven

- ▶ Wednesday 4 February 2026
- ▶ 9am–11am

Workington

- ▶ Wednesday 4 February 2026
- ▶ 12pm–2pm

Penrith

- ▶ Thursday 19 February 2026
- ▶ 1pm–3pm

Keswick

- ▶ Wednesday 4 March 2026
- ▶ 10am–12pm

Carlisle East

- ▶ Wednesday 11 March 2026
- ▶ 12pm–2pm

Kendal

- ▶ Tuesday 31 March 2026
- ▶ 10am–12pm

Barrow

- ▶ Thursday 2 April 2026
- ▶ 11am–1pm

Wigton

- ▶ Date TBC
- ▶ Time TBC

No need to book – just turn up!

Making Cumbria a safer place for all



[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [@cumbriafire](#) [cumbriafire.gov.uk](#)

Melissa Taggart

To have your news included in this section please email:
CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk

