



CFRS Weekly Update – 8/5/26

Weekly Update – At a Glance

- ▶ Appliance defect monitoring
- ▶ Hydrant usage reminder
- ▶ Temporary Watch Manager vacancies – Learning and Development
- ▶ NFCC Lead Officer for Lived Experience vacancy
- ▶ NFCC Leadership and OD Board membership
- ▶ Protection team begin proactive business engagement campaign
- ▶ Fire Cadets celebrated at pass-out parades
- ▶ New online calculator for Firefighters' Pension Scheme
- ▶ Mental Health Awareness Week
- ▶ National Walking Month

**** 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

Appliance defect monitoring

Following feedback from stations and discussions with mechanics, we are introducing a simple measure to improve fleet maintenance and reduce on-station defect times.

A standardised sheet is to support the mobile mechanics while on station. **This sheet is to be fixed to the pump bay door or within the pump bay**, with each defect clearly recorded in Sharpie pen alongside its defect number. Once the defect is cleared it can then be wiped off.

Defect Number:	Defect Description:



Implementing a consistent system across all stations and appliances will support mechanics in identifying and clearing defects more efficiently while routine checks are being carried out. These will be sent to station with double-sided tape to attach.

As always, feedback is welcome.

Jonny Wills

Station Manager – Technical and Fleet Services

Hydrant usage reminder

Please ensure all hydrant usage and inspections/defects are recorded via the QR code below. It is important this data is captured to keep MDT mapping information up to date:



It is important to recognise the different types of hydrants that you may come across and you should understand the importance of how to open and close each.

Information on hydrants can be found in the following presentation: [Testing Fire Hydrants NEW 2024](#)

Or via: *SharePoint > Learning & Development > Operational Training > Core Training*

The presentation goes through each type of hydrant which can be found within Cumbria and explains what the different MDT hydrant icons mean.

Technical and Fleet Services team



Vacancies

Temporary Watch Manager vacancies – Learning and Development

The Learning and Development team is pleased to offer two temporary Watch Manager opportunities to support the development and delivery of operational training within the service.

The opportunities are:

- ▶ Temporary Watch Manager – three-month opportunity
- ▶ Temporary Watch Manager – six-month opportunity

These opportunities are open to substantive Crew and Watch Managers who are interested in gaining further leadership experience, supporting course development, and contributing to departmental objectives.

The temporary roles will provide successful applicants with the chance to:

- ▶ Develop and demonstrate Watch Manager level leadership skills
- ▶ Gain valuable experience in a supervisory manager functional role
- ▶ Support and develop operational training delivery and performance within L&D

Further details regarding role expectations, application process, and closing dates will be shared via the Recruitment page: [Internal Expressions of Interest | Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service](#)

Tom Harding

Station Manager – Learning and Development

NFCC Lead Officer for Lived Experience

EXTERNAL ROLE

The National Fire Chiefs Council is looking to recruit a new Lead Officer for Lived Experience.

The NFCC follows this definition of Lived Experience:

The unique knowledge, perspective and understanding that a person or group(s) of people have, which is formed through their direct experiences. Lived experience in this sense is likely to be drawn on from a person or people who are from an underrepresented group or a group that have experienced institutional and structural barriers or direct discrimination. Listening to, reflecting on, and learning from lived experience can assist in informing change in a way that cannot be accessed by people who do not have that experience.

The primary purpose of this role is to chair the Lived Experience Advocacy Forum which is comprised of national network/organisation leads for the following groups:

- ▶ AFSA
- ▶ Black Members Network
- ▶ Fire Fighters Charity
- ▶ FireWorks
- ▶ UK FirePRIDE
- ▶ Women in the Fire Service

Other groups with lived experience may be invited to join the Lived Experience Advocacy Forum in the future.

Lived Experience is one of the priorities in the [PCL Strategic Plan](#) which is overseen and steered by the People, Culture and Leadership (PCL) Committee. The Forum Chair will be a member of the PCL committee. They shall also attend Steering Group and Chiefs Council as-and-when required to represent and advocate for the Forum.

If you would like to find out more or submit an application follow this link: [Lead Officer for Lived Experience - NFCC](#)

Closing date: 12 noon, Tuesday 26 May 2026

If you would like to discuss please contact Abigail Hopewell, Head of the People, Culture and Leadership Hub, or Amy Keirl, Senior PCL Specialist – Equality Diversity and Inclusion, directly by email or via the PCL Hub email address pclhub@nfcc.org.uk

NFCC Leadership and OD Board membership

EXTERNAL ROLE

The National Fire Chiefs Council is looking to recruit individuals to join the Leadership and Organisational Development (OD) Board. The Leadership and OD Board reports to NFCC's People, Culture and Leadership (PCL) Committee which, in turn, informs and makes recommendations to the Fire Chiefs Council.

The Leadership and OD Board sits alongside two other boards responsible for delivering the [**PCL Strategic Plan**](#) (People; Equality Diversity and Inclusion) and links closely with work to support health and wellbeing which is overseen by a new Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee.

The Board is chaired by CFO Matt Cook, NFCC Lead for Leadership and OD. It meets four times per year to oversee and set direction on a range of leadership and OD-related projects and workstreams which supports achievement of priorities set out in the PCL Strategic Plan.

There are two types of Board membership roles:

- ▶ **Board member.** This is a standard membership role which has voting responsibility
- ▶ **Developing member.** NFCC has recently established a new 'developing member' role. Its purpose is to help open doors for talented individuals and help grow the next generation of leaders in the fire and rescue sector. The Developing Member role is open to all individuals who are not currently working at Area Manager (minimum) or equivalent level of their FRS, who wish to develop national Board-level experience and can demonstrate aptitude and readiness to participate. Developing member positions have voting responsibility.

We particularly welcome applications from women and individuals from a minority ethnic background and other minority characteristics, as we recognise these are

currently underrepresented in senior leadership roles in the UK fire and rescue sector. All appointments will be made on merit.

If you would like to find out more or submit an application please follow this link: [**Leadership & Organisational Development \(OD\) Board Membership - NFCC**](#)

Closing date: 12 noon, Tuesday 26 May 2026

If you would like to discuss please contact Abigail Hopewell, Head of the People, Culture and Leadership Hub, or Andy Morford, Senior PCL Specialist – Leadership and OD, directly by email or via the PCL Hub email address [**pclhub@nfcc.org.uk**](mailto:pclhub@nfcc.org.uk)



Other

Protection team begin proactive business engagement campaign

More than 140 businesses received free fire safety advice during a day of proactive engagement activity by our Fire Protection team.

The team met traders in Keswick and Cockermouth face to face to understand current knowledge of business fire safety in the community and identify businesses that may benefit from further engagement.



By proactively engaging with businesses on their doorstep, we aim to improve understanding of fire safety in our business community, making the county safer for employers, customers and nearby residents.

More campaign days are planned throughout the year, with the next taking place in Arnside, Grange and Milnthorpe on Wednesday 13 May.

Brian Ing

Station Manager – Fire Protection

Fire Cadets celebrated at pass-out parades



More than 50 Cumbrian Fire Cadets have been recognised at pass-out parades for our units in Barrow, Carlisle, Millom, Whitehaven and Workington.

The cadets put on a show with a live demonstration of some of the basic firefighting skills they have developed during their initial training programme in front of their families and friends.

They were then presented with certificates by Assistant Chief Fire Officers Lauren Woodward and Ben Ryder.

Thank you to all of our crew, staff and volunteers who have supported the expansion of our Cadets units from one to five – we couldn't have achieved this without you.

You can watch a video feature filmed by ITV Border on the pass-out parades here: [**Newest generation of fire cadets graduate in Cumbria | ITV News Border**](#)

Alasdair Guthrie

Station Manager – Prevention

New online calculator for Firefighters' Pension Scheme

LPPA has launched a new online pension calculator in PensionPoint, giving Firefighters' Pension Scheme members quick and easy access to up-to-date estimates of their future benefits.

Members can:

- ▶ Generate instant pension estimates using existing or manually-entered pay details
- ▶ Explore different retirement dates to see how these could affect their benefits
- ▶ Access the tool directly via their PensionPoint account as part of improved self-service options

The calculator is available to most members, including those affected by McCloud. However, it is not yet available for:

- ▶ Retained Modified Scheme (2006 Special) members
- ▶ Deferred members with 1992 scheme membership

Members in these groups should continue to contact LPPA directly for an estimate. LPPA will continue to develop the calculator and expand availability over time.

Simon Long

Senior Pension Advisor

Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week (11–15 May 2026) provides an important opportunity to pause, reflect and shine a spotlight on mental health and wellbeing.

This year's focus highlights the importance of connection, resilience and self care, alongside the role we all play in supporting one another and reducing stigma.

Throughout the week, CFRS will be offering a range of optional resources, webinars and training opportunities to support awareness, learning and reflection.

These activities are shared to make support visible and accessible to all, with no expectation or obligation to take part.

Sharing is caring in my little world.

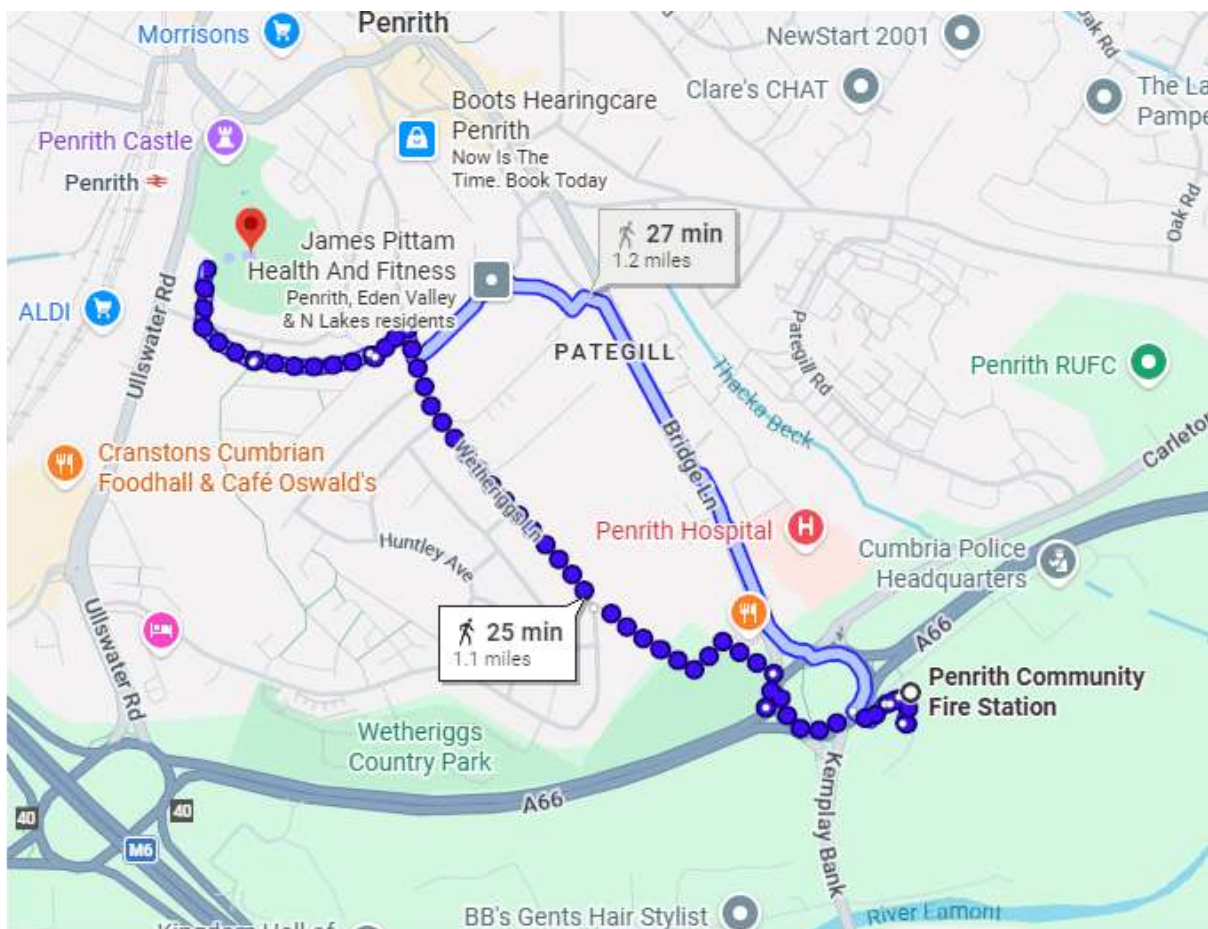
Annie McInerney-Thompson

Recruitment, Fitness and Engagement Coordinator

National Walking Month

May is National Walking Month – and this week we've got a short walk to share from Sean Philips in our Technical and Fleet Services team to help you get moving and stay active.

Sean's walk begins at CFRS HQ Penrith and follows the route outlined below:



1. Beginning from the station, cross the Kemplay Bank roundabout and follow the footpath before Tim Hortons through to Wetheriggs Lane

2. Turn left onto Wetheriggs Rise, then veer right to follow the footpath round and into Castle Park
3. Enjoy some fresh air in the park before returning the way you came to CFRS HQ

Annie McInerney-Thompson

Recruitment, Fitness and Engagement Coordinator

To have your news included in this section please email:

CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk

