



EPS-Northwest and Northern Branch Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday 19th July 2022 Times 12-1pm

Attendees:

Andrew Swapp (AS) – Chair
Bernard Kershaw (BK) – Events Co-ordinator
Dharmesh Nayee (DN) – Digital Communications Officer
Jenny Jones (JJ) Secretary
Kirsty Miller (KM)
Kirstie Banks – Lyon (KBL)
David Lawrence (DL)
Carole Billington (CB)
Alison Love (AL)
Andrew Sharrock (AS)
Diane Walker (DW)
Pete Morris (PM)
Kevin Topping (KT)
John Langley (JL)
Allan Cordwell (AC)

Apologies:

Rachel Hutchinson
Julie Ferguson
Sarah Riley
Kevin Place

Welcome by Branch Chair

AS welcomed members onto the call and thanked all for dialling in, acknowledging that with the current heatwave and subsequent meetings that a number of members would be unable to attend today. AS advised that the Executive Committee had agreed that it would be useful to hold this session before the summer holidays, to update members on national workstreams, highlight known risk on the horizon and to provide an overview of future plans for the branch.

National Update

AS gave the following national updates:

A few branches across the country have no Executive committee. We are fortunate as a branch that our committee is engaged and has been in place together for number years. Northern Branch with



approximately 30 members, currently has no chair or Exec committee. We have included them in our events for the last few years but nationally we have now been asked to do this on a more formal basis to encourage Northern members to set up their own Exec and run their own events going forwards. On a temporary basis we will twin with them and AS will take on the interim chair to support new members and encourage them to form their own Exec committee.

The National Operations Board recently met, this group comprises of branch chairs & professional working group chairs and has an overarching view of all national workstreams. Following an interview process, 3 new EPS Board members have been appointed, Alan Crosier, Peter Cheeseman & Sandra Little. At the EPS AGM in September, they will be formally appointed. Their portfolios are currently being worked on to identify who will lead on which areas.

The EPS are trying to raise their profile by having stands at conferences across the country and a request has been made nationally for volunteers to staff a stand for a few hours at events. If anyone can assist, please contact AS. The main one that is currently in the diary is on the 21/22ND September and is the Emergency Services Show at the NEC Birmingham. If anyone is interested in assisting please forward details to AS.

2023 will be the EPS 30th Anniversary and the society are looking to elevate their profile and celebrate the milestone with various events.

Jacqui Semple has stood down as chair of EPS – Jeannie Barr is covering the chair in the Interim.

Local Issues – Risks and Threats

AS gave an overview of the following local issues,

Ongoing weather extremes particularly with the heat at present. AS advised that he can look at a guest speaker on extreme weather but we should expect that Risk groups will focus on this risk over coming months.

Industrial action increasing and planning will be needed for this. Announcement from Aslef (train drivers union) taking industrial action Sat 30th July. Different from RMT strikes, next one for RMT will be the 27th July. Members to have an awareness that this can affect events, meetings etc. if people have to travel to attend.

NW Cyber Resilience group now in place with KT & DN leading looking at plans to support partners and what training can be delivered. KT noted Cyber Technical Advice Cell is included in plans but could be activated by SCG similar to STAC for cyber issues. All NW LRF's are currently writing plans using the same template. Training & exercising will follow the plan writing, this will be very focused on Business Continuity for individual agencies rather than a multi-agency exercise.

National electricity power outage, planning ongoing to ensure LRF's/Agencies are prepared for this

BK noted Moorland fires/wild fires as a risk with current temperatures -KT advised that a wildfire workshop was held in Lancs in 2021 following issues with public open space protection orders. KT highlighted some of the key learning and agreed to circulate the full workshop report to members.



ASh raised open water swimming linked to heat as a risk which is taking up a number of agencies resources when having to respond to this type of incident.

The phasing out of the PSTN is a slow burn incident, Dec 2025 is end date for everyone to be moved over to fibre, no more copper, will need consideration over next few years.

Alan Cordwell (NWS) extreme issues at present due to demand and failures of providers BC issues causing problems. AS suggested that learning from this could possibly form an event for the future.

Future Events –

BK gave an update on the following events:

Luncheon bite size sessions working well, we want to have variety but also maintain momentum.

From Sept 22 after Emergency Services Show & National AGM we will look to have sessions every 6-8wks. Some topics being considered are:

- Hugh Deeming – Department of Transport report on the impact of severe weather on transport . Hugh is happy to deliver a session on this
- Lucy Easthope – New book When the dust settles, look to do session for us
- Alan Goodman – space weather presentation
- GMP review on lessons learnt from Arena – AS lots of organisational learning not picked up previously so set up a team to review debriefs/actions & ensure that actions are addressed. What is organisational learning, debrief processes, link to arena learning can all be covered in the session.
- NW CT presentation

Any other speakers please suggest to BK/AS/JJ. AS checked that all members were happy with 6-8wk timescale? KT yes as Luncheon learning much easier to do more regularly.

AS national are keen for events to keep up momentum and open branch events wider so that nationally members can access a much wider pool of learning. We have already done this with our last session.

AS advised that the GMP debriefing session may be a face to face session in October and will incorporate our AGM as we haven't had one for some time and need to hold one to meet our branch requirements.

AOB

ASh – thanks to AS, JJ & BK for assistance with aerial display advice/guidance and support was really helpful and came readily. Event was very successful and help greatly appreciated. AS great example of what the society is for and thanks for comments.

KT – Gateway releases, CCS doesn't seem to be progressing this. Graham Scott spoke to Jo Gillespie in RED and she sees benefit so may now start to be progressed.