

Minutes

Date:	23 rd October 2013	Venue:	Whittlebury Hall, Northants
Time:	10.30am		

Attendees

Name	Initial	Area / Organisation
Peter Gannaway	PG	Chair (London & SE, East Anglia, Midlands)
Anthony Williams	AWi	Wales
Andy Walker	AWa	South West
Beth Ridley	BR	South West
Sue Tyley	ST	FPA
Mark Andrews	MA	CFOA
Dave Curry	DC	CFOA
Lorna Simpson	LS	LABC
Guest Speakers		
Peter Barker	PB	BM Trada
Philip Mason	PM	Blue Watch

Apologies

Name	Initial	Area / Organisation
Andy Frankum	AF	Deputy Chair(West/East Midlands)
Robert Groom	RG	London and South East
Gary Lund	GL	North East
David Ryden	DR	East Anglia

1. Item 1 Introductions

Minutes / Notes	Action By
Introductions were made and apologies offered	

2. Item 2 Minute taker

Minutes / Notes	Action By
ST agreed to take the minutes of the meeting	

3. Item 3 - Minutes of last meeting

Minutes / Notes	Action By
The previous minutes were noted as accurate	

4. Item 4 – Matters Arising	
Minutes / Notes	Action By
PG to contact Sarah Stevenson-Jones to confirm whereabouts of the sheltered and support housing guidance. Is now in draft awaiting comments from the working group.	PG

5. Item 5. Presentations	
a) BM Trada b) Blue Watch c) LABC	
Minutes / Notes	Action By
a) PG recommended the one day BM Trada course on Fire Doors which he had recently attended. PB delivered a presentation on Fire Resisting Doors in Existing Buildings. There was discussion around the various certification schemes available for maintenance and installation. Awareness was raised regarding fire doors on the market that claim higher levels of fire resistance than is the case. Presentation to be sent to ST by PB for circulation	PB/ST
b) PM presented input on the new Blue Watch scheme which currently focuses on student rental and private landlords. A number of pilot schemes are currently in operation via the trading arm of Fire & Rescue Services. The group raised a number of discussion points around i) needing to be aware of when a property requires a fire risk assessment to be in place for common areas; ii) BlueWatch guidance being relevant to Article 5 of the RR(FS)O	
c) LS gave a presentation on the work of LABC and the challenges it faces in a competitive market place. PG to circulate LABC paper on Lakanal House. LS to send presentation to ST for circulation	PG LS/ST

6. Item 6 Reports	
Minutes / Notes	Action By
Fire Sector Federation update was provided by PG regarding 1. Raising awareness that the sector was failing to learn lessons from fires that had happened 40 years ago and questioning the governance that was in place to ensure for	

<p>example that response to Lakanal House fire is followed through</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The NSHFSG had been invited to speak at the All Parliamentary Group seminar on 4th Dec on risk assessment. PG to report back. 3. Primary Authority Scheme and its impact on social housing. MA informed the group that a pilot has been running for nearly a year. This will be a mandatory legislative scheme being introduced in March 2014 where FRS are able to develop a relationship with a nation wide organisation to provide assured advice on fire safety across its whole estate. Inspections would continue to be carried out locally but any issues identified would need to be raised with the lead FRS first. An organisation is able to choose which FRS it would prefer as its lead. It aims for inspections to be carried out on more of a sampling basis and to enable FRS to advise organisation on where fire safety budget should be targeted. There will be a cost for this service. 	<p>PG</p>
<p>DC from CFOA covered the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intention to have a new high risk accommodation lead – Mark Andrews 2. Our support and involvement with blue watch scheme 3. CFOA events calendar to be launched. Make available to this group. 4. National sprinkler week next February. 5. We are launching our 3 protection strategies based on home, business, road safety. 6. Continued dialogue with DWP with regards to data sharing – those receiving attendance allowance (help with personal care because you're physically or mentally disabled and you're aged 65 or over.) being the most useful. 7. Continued work with manufacturers of cooker shutdown devices by CFOA and DCLG. Devices for use by F&RS on a risk based approach – assistive technology. 8. Amendment 3 to BS 7671 for preventing the premature collapse of cables in escape routes – following fatal fire at Shirley Towers. 9. Joint proposal (ESC and BEAMA) to be put forward for a change to the standards for the ignitability of plastic consumer unit enclosures to enhance their resistance to ignition 	
<p>Welsh report AWi to forward overview of report to ST for circulation</p>	<p>AWi/ST</p>
<p>PG to check with AF regarding progress that has been made by the Technical Group regarding an FRA template</p>	<p>PG/AF</p>

<p>Demographics Panel No report due to absence</p> <p>Training and Competence Frameworks PG/ST updated the Group on the three new qualifications for residential premises which had been developed by the panel and which have recently been approved by Ofqual and now sit on the national Qualifications and Credit Framework. PG advised that in principle he was keen to see the Training Group continue in an advisory capacity as the training materials are developed. He undertook to circulate an FPA paper to regional networks outlining options for taking up the qualifications and invite feedback.</p>	<p>PG</p>
<p>8. Item 8 – Summit Panel</p>	
<p>Minutes / Notes</p>	<p>Action By</p>
<p>The Group discussed their stance on the need for a competent persons scheme for fire risk assessors. There was agreement that an overarching scheme that was easily recognised as a symbol of competence is needed. MA view was that FRS would welcome it. It was felt that there may be a role for the Fire Sector Federation.</p>	

<p>9. Item 9 – Next Meeting</p>	
<p>Minutes / Notes</p>	<p>Action By</p>
<p>An invitation from LS to meet at LABC in Vauxhall, London in February was noted and LS undertook to advise on available dates.</p>	<p>LS/PG</p>