

South – East Fire Improvement Partnership

August 2006



Introducing the South-East Fire Improvement Partnership

What is the South-East Fire Improvement Partnership?

The South – East Fire Improvement Partnership (SEFIP) is formed by the 9 Fire & Rescue Authorities (FRAs) in the South-East;

Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Royal Berkshire, Surrey & West Sussex. The work of the partnership will be funded by the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) and the Local Government Association (LGA) Capacity Building Fund (CBF) from 2006 to 2008.

What does SEFIP plan to do?

SEFIP plans to support activity and establish links between the 9 FRAs in order to help deliver an effective and efficient quality service to their communities. It aims to achieve this by providing cashable and non cashable resources to regional workstreams, help Members and managers develop new skills, identify examples of best practice notifying partners in FRAs in order to encourage change and addressing key issues facing local government e.g. CPA. SEFIP will provide some funds which will help drive forward the prime

activities that the region has been trying to achieve. This will be supported by FRS's contributing both financial and physical resources. Full details of SEFIP's priorities can be found on the next page.

How does SEFIP fit into the Regional Management Board (RMB)?

SEFIP will deliver the Improvement workstream of the RMB. Consequently the day to day activities of the partnership will be coordinated from Kent as the lead authority for this workstream.

SEFIP will work with regional workstreams on projects that will deliver the RMB business plan. In addition the Lead Member of SEFIP will be the representative on the GOSE Regional Improvement Partnership (GRIP). Further details how SEFIP will report to this body is described on the following page.

What can SEFIP do for me?

SEFIP will be able to help FRAs achieve a number of things. In addition to providing assistance to funding it will encourage communication between regional workstreams and other

Programme Management

As part of its role as the lead authority for the Performance Improvement Workstream of the RMB, Kent Fire & Rescue Service are responsible for project & programme management.

In order to do this effectively KFRS is putting together an 'everything you need to know' pack which we hope will include a meeting timetable.

Please could each workstream supply KFRS with a set of meeting dates.

agencies. SEFIP will also be in a position to run events such as training seminars, and research best practice ensuring that examples are distributed to all partners.

In short SEFIP will be able to help FRAs gain above and beyond what they may achieve on their own. In addition it will increase value for money,

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Who to contact for more information about SEFIP

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Improvement Officer
Name & Contact details to be confirmed

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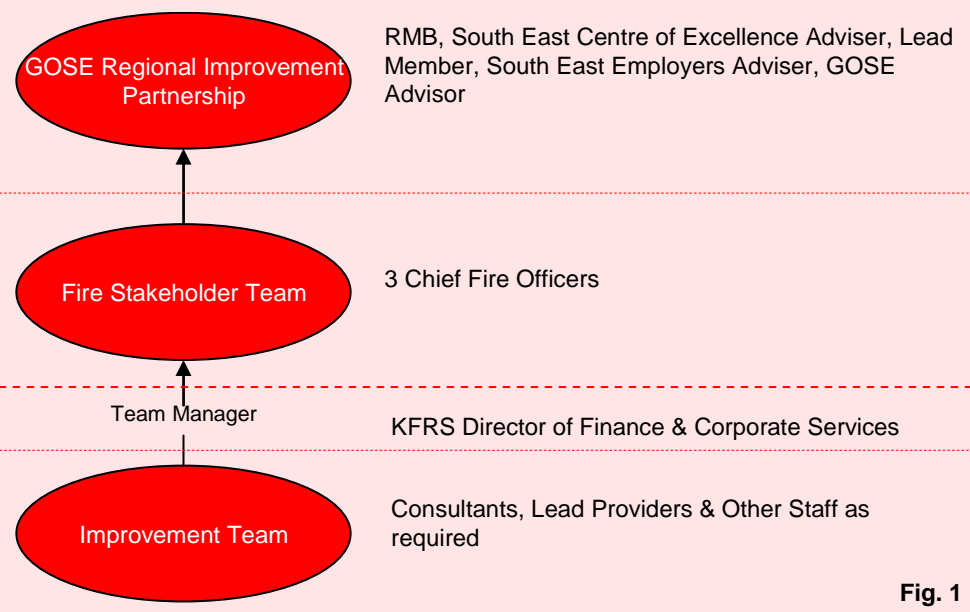


Fig. 1

Priorities for SEFIP

- Verifying the evidence base and reviewing priority improvement areas arising from CPA.
- Meeting the performance management needs of constituent authorities for regional activities.
- Delivery against the National Framework for FRAs.
- Delivery of a process of peer review & challenge on a regional basis.
- Facilitation & shared learning experiences for staff within South-East FRAs
- Production of an annual business plan for the RMB.

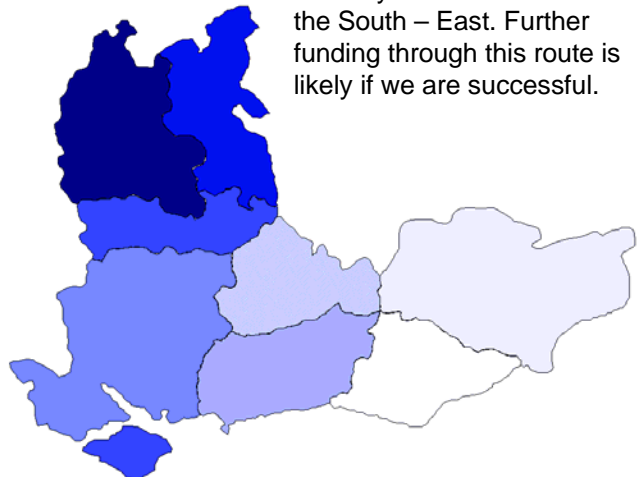
Forthcoming Events

- Seminar: Procurement – populating the Blue Light Database
- Publications: Business Plan 2007/08

What's next for SEFIP?

SEFIP is still developing although it has made some commitments to certain areas: see SEFIP's priorities.

It is important that SEFIP works. If it proves to be successful then it may be possible to acquire more funding, in turn allowing further improvements in Service Delivery to all communities in the South – East. Further funding through this route is likely if we are successful.



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something which will be beneficial as it approaches CPA 2 – The Harder Test.

How do I get funding?

SEFIP will be able to contribute to both regional workstreams and additional projects that are able to demonstrate both a benefit to FRAs and value for money once it has received the CBF money in September 2006.

Any project that SEFIP agrees before this date will have to be funded by the respective authority and although no problems are foreseen, SEFIP will be unable to guarantee funds until then.

The process of submitting a bid to SEFIP is still being refined although you will be requested to provide details of how you intend to use the resources. The easiest way to achieve this is by creating a project plan, templates of which can be provided upon request.

How does SEFIP fit into regional government?

SEFIP will report to GRIP as demonstrated in **figure 1**. The coordination of SEFIP will be managed by the Improvement

Team who will facilitate and implement the agreed programme. The Improvement Team can be contacted via the details on the previous page. The Team Manager (also based as KFRS) will then report to the Fire Stakeholder Team, which is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of SEFIP's operations. Membership of the Fire Stakeholder Team will rotated with no member serving less than a period of 1 year.

The Fire Stakeholder team is accountable to GRIP; a partnership overseeing all improvement partnerships. As well as ensuring that SEFIP is performing GRIP will provide the Fire Stakeholder Team with direction, which will in turn be delivered to the Improvement Team for implementation across the region.