

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service

Press Release – Asian Fire Service Association (AFSA) Development Day

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service will be hosting the first ever national Asian Fire Service Association (AFSA) Development Day on Friday 19 June 2009 at Alfreton Community Fire Station. AFSA is a new organisation that has been set up as an inclusive support group which is open to all Fire and Rescue Service personnel. It will work both nationally and locally with Fire and Rescue Services to assist them in achieving their equality and diversity commitments to diverse communities.

AFSA is a consultative body which aims to assist, support and enhance this important area of work. AFSA members are committed to undertaking activities that support Fire & Rescue Services ranging from recruitment and retention, and positive action to community safety and religious and cultural awareness. It is the aim of AFSA to work with the national fire service community to improve the understanding and expectations of those most at risk in society.

To date AFSA have raised significant sums of money for charities including breast cancer awareness and sending fire appliances to Pakistan and to Tanzania. This a core part of the aims and objectives of the new group

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, who have a high commitment to the equality and diversity agenda, have been a key partner and driver in setting up the national group.

Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive Brian Tregunna said “I am delighted to be able to host AFSA’s Development Day for its members prior to its national launch in September 2009, and I look forward to building a close working relationship with AFSA who have a vision that we are pleased to support”.

Zahoor Ahmad, Chair of AFSA, said “I am pleased to have been elected to be the first shadow chairman of the group we are pleased to be in Derbyshire to hold a development day for our members. This day will be critical to our future success as this will lay the foundations of our future values, constitution and strategy. We could not do this without the overwhelming support of FRS staff from across the country and at all levels. I’d particularly like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Brian Tregunna, Chief Fire Officer of Derbyshire FRS, for hosting us for this event.”

Shilla Patel, AFSA Chair London region said “AFSA was set up 5 years ago by a small group of Asian London firefighters who felt that there was not enough support and who would benefit from more networking. Since then the London group has expanded considerably and its members include operational, FRS, Asian and non Asian individuals, all sharing the same core values. The London AFSA region feel extremely proud that the support group has now gone national and we wish to extend our support and best wishes to the national committee and the other local regions.”

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