



AFSA

Asian Fire Service Association

newsletter

Summer 2011

Welcome

The role of AFSA and the changes we are all experiencing in the FRS means that we have a crucial role in influencing the change around us. The Equality Act 2010 and Fire Futures (2011) are just two of many changes facing the FRS. The good news has been that AFSA has been engaging with key leaders at the top and they recognize the value of the work we do in upholding the principles of fairness and public value in tough times, providing practical support for people and helping the FRS make the necessary changes. Enjoy the newsletter

Zahoor Ahmad, Chair AFSA



Suffolk FRS Learning and Development Workshop 11 March 2011



The recent Managing Diversity Learning and Development Workshop was a huge success. Co-organised by the Asian Fire Service Association and Networking Women in the Fire Service, this was the first event of its kind to be hosted by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service. Following an opening speech from CFO (Chief Fire Officer) Andy Fry, the seminar was co-hosted by DCFO (Deputy Chief Fire Officer) Mark Hardingham, and also supported by Councillor Kathy Gosling, SCC (Suffolk County Council) Portfolio Holder Lead for Diversity, and Ms Julia Stephens-Row, SCC Assistant Director for Social Inclusion and Diversity.

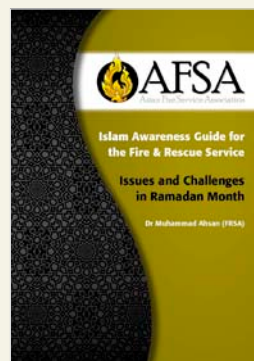
The Workshops were designed to support the personal development of Managers in the Fire and Rescue Service, the event was attended by 46 personnel on the day from Fire and Rescue Services across the region and further afield representing Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Lincoln, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, and East Sussex. Several delegates also received awards for their contribution to Equality and Diversity within the Fire and Rescue Service including our very own Gita Banerji (pictured together with DCFO Mark Hardingham).

AFSA Meets Fire Minister



On the Jan 21 the Chair Zahoor Ahmad, Jagtar Singh, Shilla Patel, Sultana Kimti, Julie Sandbrook and Umar Zaman met the Fire Minister Bob Neill at the House of Commons. He welcomed AFSA support around keeping him informed around evidence that redundancies were effecting disproportionately upon minorities.

AFSA Ramadan Booklet A Practical Guide for Fire Service Staff



During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to dusk. This document is designed to provide detailed guidance on a number of situations which may arise in the work place.

Further information contact afsafrs@yahoo.uk

AFSA London's successful celebration of diversity

On Friday 20th May 2011 AFSA members and advocates gathered together in an ornate setting at Hotel Russell, London to celebrate the support group's diversity. Guests included AFSA members from London, nationally, from the Communities and Local Government (CLG), NHS and charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support and Inspired by People.



Guests enjoyed a delicious Indian meal and participated in the charity raising events (i.e. auction and raffle), finishing with some Indian dancing and music from the DJ. During the evening we

raised a fantastic £501 for Macmillan Cancer Support and British Red Cross. We also had an opportunity to say farewell to Akwala Deol, London AFSA's vice chair and one of the founder member's who is off to America, but will remain a crucial part of the support group as the International Liaison adviser for London. Akwala was presented with a bronze firefighter statue.

The event was a huge success, with lots of excellent feedback. AFSA London hopes to hold similar events annually and would like to thank the organisers, guests and charities.



AFSA Response to the Red Tape Challenge

Amid concerns from members that the above initiative undermined the Equalities Act 2011 a response was submitted to the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) arguing strongly that the way in which the Equalities section of this website on the Red Tape Challenge site has been worded seemed to give the impression that the Equality Act per se is potentially at risk of repeal.



See Full response on <http://www.afsa.co.uk>

First AFSA Water Pump Installed in Bihar, India



AFSA volunteer Dennis Moss visited India in Feb 2011 and facilitated the installation of a water pump. The intention is to build further pumps in poor regions of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Congratulations to these AFSA members



Sultana Kimti (TWFRS) and Harjit Singh (Hertfordshire FRS) passed the AFSA sponsored Foundation stage of PRINCE 2.

AFSA AGM (21st July 2011) & Development Event (22nd July 2011) Date for the Diary



This event will be held in Bristol and hosted by Avon FRS and will include leading speakers and development workshops around leadership and change management analysis.

Further information contact afsafrs@yahoo.uk

AFSA National Conference 17th/18th Nov 2011 Date for the Diary



This year's conference will be hosted by Hampshire FRS. For further details please contact afsafrs@yahoo.uk