

Lakanal House Board Meeting
19th July 2010

1. Board Membership

Commissioner – Ron Dobson, Deputy Commissioner – Rita Dexter, Interim Head of Legal Services – Linda Armstrong, Head of Health and Safety – Brenda Weir, Director of Operational Policy and Training – Gary Dobson, AC Service Delivery – Dave Brown, AC Operational Policy – Jim Knighton, AC Fire Safety - Steve Turek

2. Attendees

Ron Dobson (RD) – Commissioner
Gary Dobson (GD) – Director of Operational Policy and Training
Linda Armstrong (LA) – Interim Head of Legal Services
Tom Davies (TD) – Legal
Brenda Weir (BW) – Head of Health and Safety
Steve Turek (ST) – AC Fire Safety
Mike Curran (MC) – GM Investigation team
Peter Mansi (PM) – GM Fire Investigation
Joanne Stibbards (JS) – SOM Control
Jim Knighton (JK) – AC Operational Policy and Training
Scott Hayward (SH) – POM Control
Leah Clements (LC) – Investigation team/notes

3. Apologies

Tim Cutbill, Rita Dexter, John Bradbury, Dave Brown

4. Minutes 22.06.10

- 4.1 Action 9.1: TC/JK to facilitate meeting with Gordon Fielding. JK confirmed he had liaised with Tim Cutbill and will provide Gordon Fielding with a set of dates.

5. Fire Investigation (Peter Mansi)

- 5.1 BRE produced a first draft of their report at the end of June. It still needs a lot more work.
- 5.2 BRE will be running the computer model again, with the addition of the wall by the staircase in flat 79. This will take approximately 2 weeks. RD highlighted the importance of this work in terms of fire development. PM stated that his expectation is that the fire and smoke will be contained within the bedroom, but when the fire does break through there will be a rapid deterioration rather than a slow decline in conditions in the upper level of the flat.
- 5.3 PM confirmed BRE are continuing with the work regarding the ducting in Lakanal House. From the early stages of the fire we are aware that a resident who was in the bathroom of flat [REDACTED] but subsequently escaped (Mr. Nuhu) taped a newspaper over the vent which would have prevented the majority of the smoke coming through. It is likely that the majority of the smoke

came in through the false ceiling after Mr. Nuhu and family left the bathroom.

6. General Investigation (Mike Curran)

a. Timeline

- 6.1 MC informed the Board that the Police asked LFB to provide a representative to attend a memorial on the 25th July. This has been passed on to BC Andy Snazell.
- 6.2 MC confirmed that based on comments received so far on the Sequence of Events, the team have revised the document and removed the 999 calls. This information will be contained within the Control report and the Sequence of Events is designed to give the perspective of those on the incident ground. Any information that was not available on the incident ground has been removed.
- 6.3 The Police are expecting a copy of the draft sequence of events by the end of this week.
- 6.4 The analysis of operational events is proposed to consist of blocks of analysis with excerpts of the evidence available to back up the points made. Within this there will be references to the full version of the evidence, which will be located in the appendix with a referencing system.

b. High Rise

- 6.5 MC stated a group is being put together in order to revisit the LFB high rise risk assessment to ensure it is still current. JK stated this would be carried out in line with the changes to the policy note. MC highlighted that changes to the high rise document have been generated as a result of the work Kevin Hughes carried out through his gap analysis. LFB need the source risk assessment to be robust first to ensure changes we make are covered. GD questioned if LFB are basing the policy on the GRA. JK confirmed that the Policy is being prepared in line with the GRA and if there is any information in the policy that is not covered in the GRA it will be explained why. No information in the GRA will not be supported by the Policy note.
- 6.6 MC summarised that the draft of the high rise procedure is working progress.

7. Control (Joanne Stibbards)

- 7.1 JS confirmed that Control are producing a sequence of events in which it is proposed to include all the information coming into Control throughout Lakanal and all communications to the fireground. In addition, an activity report will be produced to demonstrate the activities of all Control Officers throughout the incident, including for incidents other than Lakanal.
- 7.2 There are three outstanding Police interviews with Control Officers. One interview will be taking place tomorrow. There is a delay concluding the final two, due to one member of staff having retired and one being on long

term sick. MC confirmed that LFB had provided the transcripts of these Control Officers' calls to the Police and has asked them to identify if it is necessary to interview these 2 individuals.

- 7.3 Policy 521 has been reviewed and is up to date. A draft copy will be available to the Board next month.
- 7.4 Fire survival training has been carried out for the majority of staff. There will be mop up sessions taking place and these will be completed by 16th August.
- 7.5 A member of the training team has been detached to Control and will help with the development of annual refresher training. They are looking at e-learning packages and bringing the training records in line with the Brigade STEP system.
- 7.6 The training audit reported back last week to SH. This concurred with the recommendations that Control were already undertaking.
- 7.7 It was confirmed the letter drafted to CLG is with the Commissioner for comment.

Action: LA to re-send draft of CLG letter to Commissioner

8. AOB

- 8.1 RD stated that at the Board meeting on the 15th September, each team will be expected to present their draft analysis and conclusions based on the evidence collected to date. The Board will use this information in order to build their recommendations. The expectation is that Fire Safety, Fire investigation, Control and the Lakanal Operational Review team will have their reports in a draft format by this point. It was agreed that these should be distributed to the Board members a week before the meeting.

Action: MC to set a deadline for reports to be distributed to the Board.

Date of Next Meeting – 9:00 15th September 2010