

Theme/issue	ETAP actions	Timing/next steps
<p>Response to COVID 19</p> <p>HMICFRS conducted a national FARS COVID-19 inspection in the autumn, focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is working well and what is being learnt? • How the fire sector is responding to the COVID-19 crisis? • How fire services are dealing with the problems they face? • What changes are likely because of COVID-19? • <p>They focused on five issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What services are doing during the pandemic and what impact the tripartite agreement between the National Fire Chiefs Council, National Employers and Fire Brigades Union had. • How services looked after their staff, in particular their minority ethnic and vulnerable staff. • How services fulfilled their statutory functions. • What worked well including any best practice. • How services worked with others, including other blue light services. <p>The Report – in the form of a national overview report and a report on each FARS – was published on 22nd January 2021.</p> <p>The parallel HMICFRS inspection report for Policing has not yet been released).</p>	<p>Building on the national findings ETAP's review will focus selectively on aspects of the preparation and response which highlight both examples of good practice and opportunities for learning. We will avoid duplication and concentrate on adding value.</p> <p>ETAP members working on this: Force – Tony Wilmott FARS – Craig Brown Commissioner's Office – Jane King</p>	<p>When the HMICFRS report on policing is also published, we will move to the next stage and identify a small number of areas for local consideration and discussion where we will offer feedback/advice.</p> <p>We are also looking at the joint working across the Force, FARS and the Commissioner's Office, particularly on staff wellbeing.</p>

<p>ETAP and Ethics</p> <p>Recent months have made it difficult to follow our previous approach of conducting ‘Thematics’. We have used some of our Planning and Development time to look for ways of refocusing attention on the ‘ethics’ aspect of our role and on bringing a more flexible approach to our scrutiny role.</p>	<p>During the autumn we did some desktop research to learn from the work of audit committees and other scrutiny bodies in similar settings.</p> <p>ETAP’s financial scrutiny role is underpinned by the work of the Finance Panel. To support our broader remit we are in the process of setting up an Ethics & Review Panel, which will work in parallel, to focus on the promotion and maintenance of ethical standards and behaviour and on thematic reviews and other forms of scrutiny.</p>	<p>The Panel has had its first meeting to agree an outline workplan and this was discussed in today’s ETAP P&D session which preceded this meeting.</p> <p>We will discuss with the Commissioner’s Office and the FARS areas of focus for thematic reviews and other forms of scrutiny that will add most value over the coming year.</p>
<p>Jane King, ETAP Ethics and Review Panel Chair 03/02/21</p>		