



## **Brigade Executive Summary Summer 2025**

As explained earlier in the year the intention is to provide leaders with a regular summary of the matters considered by the Brigade Executive. The aim is to enhance transparency and to give insight into the range of topics discussed by Trustees.

Since the last summary, the Brigade Executive has met twice, once in June and once in July. The Trustees continue to be supported by a range of sub-committees to assist in the implementation of strategy, which includes Regional Committees.

The focus of the June meeting was the delivery of strategy, including the Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) funded targets, together with a presentation from the Safeguarding Manager and a report from the Chief Executive.

### **Delivery of Strategy**

Natalie Whipday (Director of Operations) gave an overview of the outcomes of the Uniformed Youth Fund (2023-25) together with a reminder of the focus for the funding extension to 31st March 2026.

The priorities for 2025-26 would include:

- Continuation of the Building Stronger Initiative including a series of targeted Growth Workshops.
- Partnering a PR Agency with experience of working with faith based organisations and denominations, including the production of videos showcasing the impact of the organisation.
- Investment in the Youth Leaders Network and Elevate Training.
- Website Audit.
- A focus on developing strategic partnerships with denominations and other faith based partners.

### **Safeguarding Report**

Debbie Moore (Safeguarding Manager) presented the annual Safeguarding Report, which included an overview of the past year's work and highlighted the priorities for the coming year.

Trustees also approved the Safeguarding Policy Statement and a new Online Safety Policy which will be communicated to leaders and made available on the website.

### **Chief Executive's Report**

Jonathan Eales (Chief Executive) reported on staffing, the structural review, the process for shaping a new five-year strategy (2026-2030) and matters relating to insurance.

Trustees approved changes to the Young Leader category. This would be renamed Youth Volunteer and was for young people aged 13-17 from outside the organisation that assisted in a younger age group, often related to DofE service.

Trustees also considered the implications of the Disclosure Act in Scotland and expansion in the scope for disclosure checking, as well as the changes in safer recruitment process that had been agreed in conjunction with the Church of Scotland.

The arrangements for Brigade Council on 6th September were also discussed together with the Executive's response to the West Lothian Battalion Motion.

The July meeting had more of a focus on Finance and Governance, although started with a presentation from Vaughan Staples (Development & Engagement Manager) on the work of the Development Team and engagement with Battalions & Companies.

The Trustees approved the year end accounts to 31st March 2025 and considered the Audit Report. The Trustees also approved transfers to designated funds to support delivery of strategy beyond this financial year.

The Executive considered the Risk Register and the Chief Executive highlighted the primary risks and actions taken to mitigate. Appointments to the Investments Committee were also approved.

Co-options to Executive were considered and Lee Bird, Martin Fair and Gareth Hopkins were re-appointed as Co-opted Trustees for the 2025-26 session and Martin Fair and Ian Rumbelow were re-elected as Co-Chairs of Executive for the coming session.

In addition to these meetings, the Executive met in May to consider the findings and recommendations of the independent review of the Battalion/District/Area Group aspect of the organisational structure. A presentation was given by Rod Morrison (independent Consultant).

Following this, a presentation was given to the Regional Committees in June and a session will be led by Rod Morrison for leaders in August and a presentation will also be given following Brigade Council on 6th September.

The Brigade Executive will next meet face-to-face at Carronvale House in October.

We hope you have found the above summary both helpful and informative.

Best wishes and thank you for all you do.

**Very Rev Dr Martin Fair**  
Co-Chair of Brigade Executive

**Jonathan Eales**  
Chief Executive