



National Coastwatch

E Y E S A L O N G T H E C O A S T

ASSESSMENT AND LIAISON TEAM ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT

Station: NCI Froward Point

Date: 11th March, 2012

Start and Finish Times: 09.30 - 15.30

Date of Last Review: 27th February, 2011

Personnel in attendance:

Assessor: Anne Channing

Acting Station Manager: Mervyn Balson

Station Training Officer: Peter Kiel (Deputising for Michael Powel)

HMCG: Jeremy Linn HMCG Liaison Officer

Watch Keepers: Bob Eaglesfield Barrie Eggleton
Gerry Scutt Marcus Ogborne
Phil White Tim Trent

Declared Facilities: Visual VHF Radio Radar (Raymarine C120)

Number of Watchkeepers at Station: 63 (Plus 8 Trainees with 3 pending)

Number of Watchkeepers involved in Review: 6

Number of Watchkeepers R/T qualified: 55

Watch Timetable: **Summer hours:** 0900 – 1700 (2000 frequently)

Winter hours: 0900 - 1600

Station Management: The Station Manager had only recently been elected but it was obvious he was well respected and had a strong Management Team.

Station Documentation: The documentation required to be on view was well displayed despite the lack of space with other relevant information easily accessible for watchkeepers to refer to. Entries in the Log Book were neat and readable.

Station Equipment: The equipment is provided in accordance with DFS requirements with clear operating instructions. The unique design of chart table was more than fit for purpose with the necessary equipment nearby. The tape recorder was in use when the Live Exercises were taking place.

Training Regime: The Training Manual is very comprehensive to follow and a good record of the yearly re-assessment procedure of watchkeepers is kept.

Radar Assessment: The radar was operated professionally by the watchkeepers throughout the assessment.

AIS Assessment: All watchkeepers operated the AIS to a good standard.

Radar/AIS Return: Annual Radar Competency Return completed

Report on Activities During Review: A professional watch was maintained throughout and a detailed handover was observed. The watchkeepers had varying lengths of time with

the Station and when interviewed showed a good standard of knowledge. A Live Exercise was planned for the morning and the afternoon with the Dart Lifeboat dropping a marker buoy with the watchkeepers taking it in turns to con the lifeboat to the "casualty" via Channel O. In the afternoon after the third scenario the Dart Lifeboat offered to conduct a further one and was asked if they could drop a marker buoy which would drift out of sight from the Station to make conning the lifeboat more difficult. Throughout the scenarios the watchkeepers worked well together with good communication skills, chart plotting etc. and had the qualities required when dealing with an emergency.

Recommendations: The recommendations noted at the last DFS Review had been implemented or were in the process of being implemented.

Positive feedback: This is a well equipped and managed Station and has a good working relationship with other voluntary rescue services in the area. The Visitors Centre is an attraction for the many walkers on the coastal path and is a valuable source of income for the Station. Jeremy Linn HMCG Liaison Officer was very satisfied with the overall performance of the Station.

Conclusion: NCI Froward Point retains its DFS status.

Signed:

Anne Channing

Date: 12th March 2012

Date of Next Review: March 2013