

West Midlands Fire Service chief Frank Sheehan resigns after child porn arrest

Exposed note: He took the Common Purpose 20:20 course in 1998. 20:20 is a five-day residential programme. This high-level programme is held just twice a year. The 20:20 week includes days in both London and Brussels visiting key institutions in the cities and examining how they operate and who holds power. For those interested in NLP, practitioners PPD Learning Ltd boast West Midlands Fire Service as one of their clients.

Nov 19 2008 EXCLUSIVE by [Nick McCarthy](#) Birmingham Mail

THE man in charge of West Midlands firefighters was forced to resign after he was arrested on suspicion of making indecent images of children.

West Midlands Police arrested Frank Sheehan, aged 55, yesterday at his home in Sutton Coldfield.

A spokeswoman for West Midlands Police said: "A 55-year-old man was arrested yesterday at an address in Sutton Coldfield.

"He was arrested on suspicion of making indecent images of children. He has been bailed pending further inquiries."

Fire crews across Birmingham were told about the shock departure of Mr Sheehan this morning.

He spent his entire career with the West Midlands service and lives in Sutton Coldfield with his wife and daughter and has been the fire service boss since 2003.

He started as a firefighter in the West Midlands in 1975 and rose through the ranks.

West Midlands Fire Service would not release any information about his

departure.

The chairman of the fire authority released a written statement and was not available for further comment.

Coun Peter Howard said: “Frank Sheehan has resigned from his post, for personal reasons, as chief fire officer for West Midlands Fire Service with immediate effect.

“The deputy chief fire officer, Vij Randeniya, will be acting in the role of chief fire officer.

“The authority has every confidence in the corporate board and the staff of West Midlands Fire Service who will continue to serve the communities of the West Midlands.”

One Birmingham firefighter, who did not wish to be named, said: “We had no idea this was coming, it’s as much a surprise to us as it is to everybody else.

“There has been no talk of this.”

He was awarded a CBE earlier this year and is also a holder of the Queen’s Fire Service Medal (QFSM) for services to community fire safety.