

17 September 2012**Agenda Item:6****REPORT OF COUNCILLOR SUE SADDINGTON****EAST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE – CHANGE PROGRAMME
(UPDATE)****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides Members with a briefing on the change programme being undertaken by the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). EMAS is currently developing models for change and commenced consultation in September.

Information

2. The County Council's Overview and Scrutiny function has a statutory duty to receive consultations from NHS Trusts for proposals for substantial variations or developments of local health services. It provides Members the opportunity to respond to the consultation and to consider:
 - whether as a statutory body the OSC has been properly consulted within the consultation period
 - whether in developing the proposals for service change, the Trust has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation
 - whether the proposals for change are in the interests of the local health service

3. Guidance on the duty to involve and consult recommends:
 - a) discussing with patients and the public how services could be improved and resources used more effectively, to produce plans for change – this constitutes involvement in planning;
 - b) discussing ideas, experiences, and the reasons why the NHS body has Identified the need for change with patients and the public, and with key partner organisations – this constitutes involvement in the development of health services;
 - c) consultation on proposals for change, using evidence from the Involvement activities as well as clinical evidence for improvement of treatment and care – this constitutes consultation
4. The Chief Executive of EMAS, Mr Phil Milligan attended the 25 June meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee to provide Members with a full briefing on the change programme.
5. Mr Milligan emphasised that in terms of estate management, the majority of ambulance stations were often empty all day – the changes would not mean a reduction in service
6. Representatives of EMAS have been invited to attend this meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee to provide an update on progress with the consultation.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

1. The Health Scrutiny Committee comment on the information provided and ask questions of the EMAS representatives
2. Consider whether:
 - (a) the Health Scrutiny Committee has been properly consulted
 - (b) the public interest has been taken into account through appropriate consultation
 - (c) the proposals for change are in the interests of the local health service
3. Schedule further consideration of the EMAS change programme as necessary

Councillor Sue Saddington
Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Background Papers

Nil.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected All