

This matter is being dealt with by:

Martin Gately

Reference: S/JH/CP/EMAS

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Mr Phil Milligan
Chief Executive
East Midlands Ambulance Service
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11th December 2012

Dear Mr Milligan

Thank you for your attendance at the Joint Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Health Scrutiny on 13th November. Further to that meeting, you will be aware that the Joint Health Committee set up a sub-committee to undertake an evidence gathering session and develop draft recommendations in relation to the change programme proposals. At today's meeting the Joint Health Committee ratified the recommendations developed by the sub-committee. The Joint Health Committee is broadly in agreement with the hub and spoke model that is the basis of the change programme, but has some concerns about the impact of the proposals on the rural areas. In addition, Members were concerned to have heard from local councillors who were not aware of EMAS Change Programme consultation events which were taking place within their electoral divisions. It is greatly in the interests of EMAS to ensure that local councillors are made aware of local consultation, since doing so will serve to both maximise attendance and further develop good relations with elected Members. The recommendations are set out below:

- There should be another hub in the North of the County – to cover the Bassetlaw and Newark areas
- There should be proper provision of maintenance resources (i.e. mechanics) once the changes have been implemented across all areas
- EMAS should carefully review all existing arrangements and protocols for cross-boundary working to ensure that the greatest possible benefits are secured for people in the North of Nottinghamshire.
- All issues relating to ambulance stocking governance and accountability should be carefully reviewed – practitioners picking up vehicles should not be held accountable for equipment and medication that is missing
- The facility to transport patients should be available all through the night
- The fines levied against Ambulance Trusts for not meeting targets are unfair and counter to the interests of the local people and health service – Members recommend that EMAS campaigns hard to have the regime of fines lifted. In addition, the Chairman of the Joint Health Committee will write to the Secretary of State for Health regarding this issue

Representatives of EMAS are invited to attend the meeting of the Joint Health Committee on 12th February 2013 to provide a response to the recommendations above and to indicate how the responses to the change programme consultation have shaped the current iteration of the proposals.

The Joint Health Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the EMAS staff who attended either the main committee or the sub-committee in order to furnish information.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Mel Shepherd MBE
Chairman of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee