

minutes



Meeting EAST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday 29th October 2007 (commencing at 10.30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Chris Winterton (Chair)

Councillor Joe Lonergan MBE (Vice-Chair)

	Mrs Kay Cutts		Susan Saddington
A	Andy Freeman		Parry Tsimbiridis
A	Edward Llewellyn-Jones	A	Brian Wombwell
	Ellie Lodziak		

Co-opted Members:-

- A Councillor Barry Fppard – Member of the Health Scrutiny Committee at Lincolnshire County Council
- Mr John Rose – Lincolnshire County Council - Public & Patient Information Forum (PPIF)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Ahmed Belim - General Manager, Nottinghamshire)
Chris Boyce – Director of Business Development) East Midlands
Robert Walker – General Manager, Community Relations) Ambulance Service
Karen Lawrence)
Lynn Rutland)
Richard Smith - EMAS PPIF
Paul Glazebrook – Scrutiny Officer, Lincolnshire County Council

MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 10th September 2007, having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andy Freeman, Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones and Councillor Barry Fppard.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

EMAS – Further Information

Matthew Garrard, Scrutiny Officer, reported that the annual assessment for 2006/7 carried out by the Health Care Commission, which monitors and measures achievements by Health Trusts in relation to national targets and standards of service, had rated EMAS as 'Good' for Quality of Services and 'Fair' for Use of Resources.

Chris Boyce, EMAS - Director of Business Development, said that EMAS welcomed the improvements in the ratings but stated that some areas still required additional input to reach the required standard. In reply to a question from Councillor Lonergan, regarding the failure to achieve the 95% target on Cat B calls, she explained that the assessment had been based on the results from 3 counties and that whilst EMAS had only scored 91% overall, Nottinghamshire had achieved 95% and Lincolnshire 93%. Extra investment had been allocated and recruitment was on schedule to provide additional manpower in rural areas, particularly Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire, where the road infrastructure was poor and the volume of traffic at peak times affected the ability to achieve national response targets. She pointed out that the asset register for the new Trust had not been in place when the assessment had been conducted and that this had affected the rating for resources, and this has since been resolved.

John Rose – Lincs PPIF, referred to a previous suggestion that EMAS should provide the finance to subsidise specific routes for Lives, the charity that supports volunteer Community First Responders (CFR) in Lincolnshire, and whether this could increase the number of responders available. Ms Boyce confirmed that during discussions, representatives of 'Lives' had made it clear that funding was not required at present, and that the training provision and technical support was sufficient to their needs.

Councillor Tsimbiridis expressed concern about the condition and road worthiness of the ambulance fleet with reference to a particular incident. Ahmed Belim, EMAS – General Manager Nottinghamshire, promised to investigate and provide information. He explained that ambulances were serviced regularly at the depot in Alfreton, and that the strategic plan included the upgrading of vehicles every 7 years.

Councillor Mrs Cutts enquired about arrangements for the relocation to the new control centre and how much disruption this would cause to the service provision. Ahmed Belim indicated that this would begin early in 2008, and would take place in stages, with some staff remaining at the current centre.

Councillor Winterton hoped that the phased provision of digital radios would lead to increased efficiency between the emergency services to ensure that, where necessary, patients could be moved to trauma centres or hospitals from wherever they live within the national target times. Mr Belim explained that a Police representative was involved with the digital radio project, that EMAS crews already have access to Divisional briefings, and share radio frequencies with the other services. Links are currently being developed with the Highways Agency to access their website and provide crews with up to the minute travel information that would be updated hourly.

Chris Boyce reported that CFRs had been able to treat 60% of patients in their own homes or at a local Primary Care centre, and 40% needed to be transferred by ambulance to specialist units or hospital for further treatment.

Councillor Lonergan congratulated everyone at EMAS on the improvements achieved, thanked them for all the information they had provided, and the support they had given to this review. He noted that Members had arranged to travel with ambulance crews in the near future, to provide additional insight into the service.

REVIEW CONCLUSIONS

The Committee agreed the areas of investigation to be included in the final report. It was also agreed that the meeting scheduled for Monday 19th November should commence at 2pm instead of 10.30 am.

The meeting closed at 11.10 am.

CHAIR