



meeting      **EMAS SELECT COMMITTEE**

date            **14 May 2007**

agenda item number

## **Joint report of the Chair of the EMAS Select Committee and the Head of Scrutiny**

### **East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To provide the EMAS Select Committee with the opportunity to consider evidence from the East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

#### **Background**

2. This scrutiny review was triggered by the weak performance of the East Midlands Ambulance Service Trust in its Annual Health Check for 2005-06.
3. The Healthcare Commission is the inspectorate and improvement agency for the NHS. The Healthcare Commission manages the Annual Health Checks process and awards ratings to NHS Trusts. In 2005-06 the Healthcare Commission stated: “East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust was given a score of not met for existing national targets. This means that it automatically received a score of weak for quality of services.”

#### **Issues**

4. At the meeting on 19 March 2007 Members agreed to invite the East Midlands Ambulance Service Trust and the Healthcare Commission to attend the next meeting of the Select Committee on 14 May 2007.
5. The Ambulance Trust has been invited to attend the meeting on 14 May 2007 and has been asked to provide a presentation on how the Trust has responded to the star rating for 2005-06 focusing on:
  - What measures has the Trust put in place to improve performance during 2006-07
  - How has this improved performance during 2006-07
  - How will the Trust improve further in 2007-08.

6. The Select Committee has expressed particular concern around rural response times and difficulties that the Trust faces providing a service to rural communities.
7. The Select Committee may also wish the Trust to provide background information as to how it operates. Members may be interested in some of the following areas:
  - The function and use of ambulances – including criteria for responding to emergency calls and how priorities are placed
  - How the Trust has responded to the restructure of ambulance trusts and whether this has been used as an opportunity to drive improvement
  - What difficulties the Trust faces in the future
  - How local authorities and other partners can work with the Trust to improve services.
8. The Select Committee is reminded that at the time of the last Annual Health Check, EMAS operated across
  - Nottinghamshire,
  - Leicestershire (inc Rutland) and
  - Derbyshire.
9. Since the Health Check was undertaken EMAS has been disestablished and a new Trust created. The new Trust is also called EMAS and now covers:
  - Nottinghamshire,
  - Derbyshire,
  - Leicestershire (inc Rutland)
  - Lincolnshire,
  - North Lincolnshire,
  - North East Lincolnshire and
  - Northamptonshire.
10. In undertaking this review the Select Committee should note that EMAS is a new organisation.

### **Recommendations**

11. It is recommended that the EMAS Select Committee consider the information provided by the East Midlands Ambulance Service and
  - a. identify any further evidence required from the Trust
  - b. invite the Trust to attend a Select Committee meeting in September 2007 after Members have collected further evidence.

**Councillor EDW Llewellyn-Jones**  
**Chair of the EMAS Select Committee**

**Lynn Senior**  
**Head of Scrutiny**

## Background Papers:

Agenda papers and minutes of the Nottinghamshire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting – 30 October 2006 and 8 January 2007.

## Publications:

- The Annual Health Check: Guidance on the Assessment of Core Standards - The Healthcare Commission  
<http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/assetRoot/04/01/84/98/04018498.pdf>
- Assessment for Improvement: The Annual Health Check. Criteria for Assessing the Core Standards - The Healthcare Commission  
<http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/assetRoot/04/01/74/27/04017427.pdf>
- How's your local NHS doing? – The Healthcare Commission
- The Annual Health Check in 2006/2007, Assessing and rating the NHS – The Healthcare Commission, September 2006