

MEETING:	HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	29 MARCH 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	REVIEWS OF WEST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider an update on the response to the efficiency review of the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust and the response to the findings of the Committee's scrutiny review of the ambulance service in the light of the Lightfoot Review.

Recommendation(s)

THAT

- a) **the report be noted, subject to any comments the Committee wishes to make; and**
- b) **the Committee considers whether it requires any further report on this matter.**

Introduction and Background

1. In March 2009 this Committee approved the findings of its Scrutiny Review of the West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) in Herefordshire.
2. The Committee was informed that two further reviews of ambulance provision were underway. It was reported that WMAS was undertaking its own review of provision in the County. In addition the Regional Specialised Commissioning Team, responsible for commissioning the ambulance service on behalf of the 17 Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area, had commissioned an independent review looking at the operational and financial effectiveness of the ambulance service across the region.
3. The Committee agreed that the written responses to the findings of the review of the West Midlands Ambulance Service in Herefordshire be noted, on the basis that the further explanation provided in response to the concerns expressed by Members at the meeting provided reassurance that the scrutiny review findings and

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Debbie Small (WMAS), Divisional Manager on 01432268353 or Paul Ryan (PCT) Head of Contracting on Tel: 01432 344344 or Martin Woodford Chief Executive (HHT) on 01432 364000

recommendations were being given serious consideration; and that on conclusion of the two separate reviews of the ambulance service led by WMAS and the PCT respectively their findings should both be reported to the Committee, together with a report on progress in response to the recommendations in the scrutiny review, at which time consideration would then be given to the need for any further reports to be made.

4. The findings of the efficiency review undertaken by Lightfoot Solutions (the Lightfoot Review) were published on 30 September 2009. A summary and analysis by NHS Herefordshire was reported to the Committee in November 2009.
5. Representatives of WMAS presented the efficiency review's findings to the Committee on 30 November. The Committee agreed a report be made to the next meeting setting out progress in response to the findings of the Lightfoot Review, performance against targets in Herefordshire, the cost implications for the NHS as a whole of the improvements proposed in the Lightfoot review and the projected outcomes; and that the report should also include commentary on action in response to the findings of the Committee's review of the ambulance service in the light of the Lightfoot Review;
6. An update is appended.
7. WMAS performance against targets in Herefordshire is set out in the separate update report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Update on action in response to the findings of Reviews of the ambulance service.

Background Papers

- None identified.