

Ambulance Meeting held via Microsoft Teams Thursday 8th October

From Action Log — Further work to be done re transportation costs of transferring patients off the Moor. / ID eligibility .

Canopy — Alison Clegg from CCG was not aware this was required due to people having left or reassigned and message not passed on, therefore will look into matter and report next meeting.

Blue Light Training — No further information.

Specialisms — A member of the Crew nominated for individual specialist training eg. In Radios who then could train remainder participants — No further forward.

Rostering — Hazel Hanley carrying out filling in rota schedule , however people are finding it difficult to do one month at a time , as things crop up in life.

Place for Crew to sit and relax and get changed — Elaine informed everyone that the bungalow at the hospital had been made available by actions of Kerry Harper , acting for Christine Stewart from ICC. Now they will also be able to use building for training and recharging batteries from pieces of equipment from the Ambulance 24/7.

24/7 contact number re Nenthead Snowplough — agreed to be 101 phone number.

Other items for discussion — vehicle checks — Crew will not be paid extra for carrying out this procedure as it's classed as part of their remit .

Defibrillators — Extra defibs . for the Moor discussed as at the PC on Monday's meeting. Mark Evens to forward types suitable for adults and children and cabinets. Once a decision is made at the Council then , the Council should contact NWAS who could possibly arrange for purchases at a reduced rate.

Equipment for training , money needed — ( raised by EMT Terry Curry) — advised to contact Clerk at PC . There is money available for the Ambulance that was raised by the Public.

Community First Responders and eCFRs — — — There are 6 people having signed up to begin training in November and 2 eCFRs from the Ambulance Crew. There will be one kit provided for the team with more needed by fund raising . Each kit costs £2000 with eCFR kit at a cost of £2500. More people needed to sign up . Courses are held throughout Cumbria, including Alston , 5/6 per year at 4 days of training. Extra training will be given to all for wearing and disposal of PPE and Testing. CFRs will be highly trained people in the Community. Training is exactly the same wherever people live and wherever the Course is held.

Now, only people over the age of 18 can apply, with the upper age limit being abolished and a COVID Risk Questionnaire assessment added. This is :- age plus health conditions = Covid age = high risk . In that case a person cannot work as a CFR or eCFR, or an EMT.

CFRs will not attend RTCs. But are essential in reaching someone in Cardiac Arrest eg. Avg. arrival time of CFR to administer CPR and use Defibrillator is 7 minutes compared to 17 minutes for Alston EMTs arrival. No doubt that CFRs save lives.

Alston Ambulance viability — — — Staffing levels have depleted since February, (12), to March (11), to June (10), to August (9), to October (6). Two people have left the area and Four have resigned for various reasons . Now Three people have to undergo the COVID Risk Assessment and if the outcome is high then they will not be able to work further as EMTs or CFRs or eCFRs. Leaving the Ambulance with only Three trained people and therefore not sustainable .

( This was quite a shock as you all can imagine ! No warning of staff depletion. And with COVID there were no meetings from February where this could have been picked up earlier. Training for EMTs is now a full time course equivalent to a University course. And no guarantees that they would work in Alston afterwards.)

I asked for Rhonda Stanger (NWAS) to attend the next PC meeting along with a colleague to explain what and why this is happening and a way forward.

Meeting ended with everyone downhearted. , especially yours truly who had been on the fight to keep are Ambulance since the start . A very sad day.

Elaine

