

Ambulance Working Group 19.11.21.

Chair: Rhonda Stanger ( NWS). Present: Alison Clegg ( Head of Commissioning, CCG), Kerry Prescott (Healthwatch, Cumbria), Madeleine Edgar ( NWS Communications), NWS: Steve Cremin, Mark Evans, Jenny Turk. Alston EMTs: Terry Curry, Hazel Hanley, Alston PC: Elaine Grew, Michael Hanley.

Report by Michael Hanley.

#### 1. Discussed the action log.

Rhonda Stanger (RS): Ambulance canopy: no further action due to recent developments. EMTs to specialise in certain areas: this has not happened. Terry Curry (TC) discussed this and said he would take this on. Use of salbutamol/GTN on the ambulance: There has been no report that these medicines have been used. There has been contact with BEEP doctors (emergency response voluntary GP scheme based in Penrith). They are not interested in covering Alston Moor. The release of the ambulance to North Cumbria has been paused. HR process: recommended to stand down EMTs, this has been closed due to recent developments. EMT training to become ECFRs: Mark Evans ( ME): Waiting for guidance. It will probably be in January/February. Parish Council meeting attendance: achieved. Promotion of CFR scheme: Sixth form children. Communication with the public: Messages have been put on the internet. Elaine Grew (EG): Asked how local people without internet access would see this.

Madeleine Edgar (ME2): Information will be published in a local newsletter. EG: The local newsletter is only published four times per year. Suggested sending information to the parish council so it can be printed and put on the noticeboards.

ME2: Setting up email address for direct access for people of Alston Moor to NWS. We could give out the information monthly and you can distribute this as you like.

EG: Will you put information on Facebook? ME2: It cant go on the NWS Facebook page.

Kerry Prescott ( KP): Healthwatch has an internet site and we could put the information on there.

RS: We will continue with training of CFRs and ECFRs.

#### 2. Length and Frequency of Meetings

Hazel Hanley (HH): When we look at meetings we have to ask whether we have achieved what we have set out to do. Previous meetings have felt rushed without discussion of items on the agenda. Having an independent chair might be a way forward. The people of Alston want to stick to the original model that was proposed in 2014. If things aren't productive then they need to be changed. It's good to have Kerry and Madeleine here today.

Terry Curry (TC): When we started these meetings, they were about whether the ambulance could transport patients to hospital. We looked at enhancing the service with CFRs, but subsequently it moved to changing it to a CFR service only. What are we going to do with EMTs in the future?

RS: We lost a lot of the EMTs. Some EMTs never did a single shift. ( Started with 18 EMTs, now 6).

Regarding an independent chair, Maddy can you advise?

ME2: Maybe Healthwatch could help. It would be good to have someone outside NWS. I am looking to Kerry.

KP: I am happy to give some consideration to this, whether we are the right people. We had an independent forum and we had an arch deacon leading it. I will come back with some suggestions.

ME2: This is a perfectly good proposal and a really good idea.

Steve Cremin (SC): You need someone who knows what is happening. I think it would be a

mistake.

ME2: The chair is just coordinating. We need to make sure that governance is being carried out.

SC: They wouldn't know what was being discussed and we would have to spend half an hour explaining. It would just muddy the process.

EG: We need to focus on things that are important to Alston Moor. They want the ambulance and EMTs to stay.

Alison Clegg: I need to know what happened at the previous parish council meetings.

EG: Explained what had happened at the first PC meeting. At the last PC meeting there had been a positive response to the idea of a rapid response vehicle ( in exchange for the ambulance) and the move to ECFRs. No decisions were made. We did ask for a public meeting, they need to be informed. A new group called SAMS (Save Alston Moor Services) has been formed, which is appalled that the ambulance will be removed and replaced with a rapid response vehicle. We need to discuss the ambulance at our next PC meeting. Only four of the CFRs are doing shifts. A lot of the CFRs dont want to be left on their own. EMTs are now saying they are not happy with the car ( rapid response vehicle).

ME: I take exception with the CFRs being slated.

EG: I have not talked about the CFRs being slated. The CFRs need support when they go to call outs. We need at least 35 CFRs. It's NWS who provide the emergency care, why should we not have the same service that is provided in other areas. We need what we want and what we need.

Michael Hanley: Asked about the recent NWS visit to the PC. NWS presented their ongoing plans . The PC noted the change of approach.

HH: It is not a lost cause to replace the ambulance with a rapid response vehicle, but this is contingent on long term training and adequate remuneration ( of ECFRs). Some ECFRs might want to go on to train as paramedics.

ME: Some of the models can be matched across and we recognise that some will progress to other levels.

RS: Meetings should be monthly. We need to think about Alston specific equipment.

HH: Went through an update from SAMS which demonstrated community concerns. People are still pragmatic and want an ambulance that can transport patients to hospital. We need to progress with training and adequate remuneration. We need the commitment from NWS. Any paramedics who are doing online training could spend a day in Alston (point six of SAMS essential requirements).

RS: Went through the six essential requirements of SAMS. Point six would not work. Its not something we could support.

EG: ECFRs will need some remuneration. Its a 16 week course.How can they leave work?

ME: There are six classroom days, the rest is on line for the ECFR.

EG: There will have to be some form of payment. You wont have people coming forward, what will you do then?

AC: NWS has 800 CFRs. If some were paid, all would expect to be paid, that would bankrupt NWS. That is not feasible.

Next meeting: ? December.