

Media release

Wednesday 3rd September 2008

NEW INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AT GREAT WESTERN AMBULANCE SERVICE

Tony FitzSimons, Chairman of the Great Western Ambulance Service, today announced a new interim chief executive for the Great Western Ambulance Service (GWAS). The change follows the decision of current Chief Executive Tim Lynch, to take up a new executive position with the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust at the end of the month.

Mr Anthony Marsh, Chief Executive of West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust, will take up the chief executive post on an interim basis from 29th September. He will be supported by Tamar Thompson, an experienced chief executive of an ambulance trust, as interim chief operating officer for GWAS. Together they will form a very strong and experienced team to help ensure that Great Western Ambulance Service consistently meets and goes beyond national performance standards.

On behalf of the Board at GWAS, Mr FitzSimons welcomed Mr Marsh and said:

“This is a great opportunity for Great Western Ambulance Service. Anthony Marsh has extensive experience in the NHS. West Midlands Ambulance Trust is one of the highest performing ambulance trusts in the country, and Anthony is cognisant of the challenges that ambulance trusts are facing nationally as we transform the way we deliver emergency and urgent care.

“The Board and I are confident that Anthony’s appointment gives us the strongest leadership possible to take on the challenges that we are *facing*, and provides us with a strong interim arrangement to allow us to undertake a robust process to appoint a permanent Chief Executive.”

Anthony Marsh added:

“I am delighted to be given this opportunity to join Great Western Ambulance Service.

“Great Western has come a long way over the last few months and I am hopeful that I can help continue that progress and ensure that patients in the three counties get an even better service.

“I am looking forward to meeting the staff and managers across the Trust and learning what more can be done to improve patient care.”

Mr FitzSimons also congratulated Tim Lynch on his new appointment and said:

“Tim has made a great contribution to Great Western Ambulance Service in his 2 ½ years as its first chief executive. He has significantly improved performance across the Trust and successfully managed the complexity of merging three organisations into one. As a result we are well-placed to meet the opportunities and challenges ahead.

“I would like to thank Tim for his contribution and wish him the very best for the future.”

For further information please contact:

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Out of Hours urgent media enquiries - 07824626312

Notes to editors

1. Anthony Marsh started his career in the Ambulance Service in 1987. Although he is currently Chief Executive of West Midlands Ambulance Service, he began working as an ambulanceman with the non-urgent Patient Transport Service in Essex. Over the last 20 years he has worked his way up to become one of the leading ambulance service Chief Executives in the country.

Prior to moving to the West Midlands, he was Chief Executive of Essex Ambulance Service where he led the organisation from being zero rated to a top performing three star Trust in just three years. Anthony was also in charge of organising and running the ambulance cover for the 2002 Commonwealth Games while the Director of Operations at Greater Manchester Ambulance Service. Other top positions he has held include roles within Lancashire and Hampshire Ambulance Services.

Anthony holds an MBA and an MSc in Strategic Leadership and is currently studying for a Doctorate. Anthony places great emphasis on the staff within the Trust and is a firm believer in leadership development for all. West Midlands Ambulance Service is currently the independent Ambulance Service Institute Ambulance Service of the Year.

2. Tamar Thompson began her career as a Nurse becoming a Ward Sister in 1974. In 1996 she was appointed Director of Quality and Service Improvement at the Worcester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust. This has been followed by key roles as Assistant Regional Director/Director

of Corporate Affairs at the NHS Executive, West Midlands Regional Office, Director of External & Corporate Affairs for the successor West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority, Chief Executive for Hereford & Worcester Ambulance Service NHS Trust and Chief Operating Officer/Director of Nursing & Workforce and Modernisation for West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority. She was also seconded to Herefordshire PCT to bring together the PCT & Council into the 1st Public Service "Trust" – with single, cross organisation, CEO and integrated management Team. She is now working with Chair and CEO colleagues at the NHS Institute as Senior Adviser - External Affairs/Lead Nurse.

She is Visiting Professor, UCE, and Birmingham and is also Senior Fellow at Health Services Management Centre, Birmingham. In November 2004 Tamar received an Honorary MA for services to Nursing and the NHS from University Worcester.

Joining the Board of Governors of University of Worcester in August 2005 as an independent governor and a member of the Finance & Development Committee – she is now Vice Chair of the Board.

Tamar was appointed Interim Chief Operating Officer at Great Western Ambulance Service on 22 July 2008.

3. Tim Lynch became Chief Executive of Great Western Ambulance Service on April 2006. Previously Tim was Chief Executive of Cumbria Ambulance Service NHS Trust. He joined the ambulance service in 1982 and held a number of operational and training roles before moving to another part of the NHS in 1993. In 1997, he moved back to the ambulance service at Board level, and took up his role as Chief Executive in 2004. Tim will be joining the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust as their Director of Operational Services.