

**Great Western Ambulance Trust – Further Meeting Arranged
For Information**

Purpose of Report

1. To inform members about correspondence received from the Great Western Ambulance Trust since the last meeting.
2. To outline plans for a special meeting to deal with issues raised by the Great Western Ambulance Trust and to enable discussion about how that meeting may be managed.

Background

3. The Great Western Ambulance Trust was formed on 1 April 2006, following a merger of the Wiltshire, Avon and Gloucestershire Trusts.
4. This merger was intended to facilitate better joined up working across the three counties and to enable the Trust to make financial savings in procurement, distribution of staff and, eventually, reconfiguration of services.
5. Prior to this merger the Wiltshire Overview & Scrutiny Committee had carried out a review of Wiltshire Ambulance Trust, following publicity around the Trust's inability to attend emergency calls in the time required by Department of Health targets.

Current Situation

6. In October the Great Western Ambulance Trust wrote to the Chairman of the Committee. This letter highlighted a number of areas which the Trust has been looking at as part of a comprehensive review of how ambulance services are commissioned and delivered.
7. These areas are workforce, estate, communications rooms and value for money. Greater detail for each of these is given in the letter attached at Appendix 1. The Trust states that each of these areas needs to be given careful consideration if it is to be able to meet its targets within its financial boundaries.

Special Meeting

8. Members will be aware that a special meeting with the Trust has been discussed for some time. Dates now being considered are 15 and 26 February or 5 March. The Health Scrutiny Officer will confirm the date of the meeting as soon as possible.
9. The Trust has been asked to consider a number of issues when putting together its presentation to the OSC, including:
 - Details of any changes to services, both proposed or implemented
 - The financial position of the Trust
 - Details of any planned engagement or consultation
 - Problems with existing services – achieving targets, etc
 - Where the Trust needs to be – service delivery and finance
 - Possible innovative approaches to service delivery and the national agenda
 - How the OSC might be involved in an ongoing process

Conclusions

10. The Great Western Ambulance Trust clearly needs to begin to engage with the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in order to take forward any plans it has for changes in the way it delivers services.
11. Members have previously demonstrated their interest in and commitment to improvements to ambulance services by carrying out a dedicated review about the problems experienced by the old Wiltshire Ambulance Trust.
12. A meeting should be arranged at the earliest possible opportunity, to include stakeholders and other interested groups, including LINK, and the passenger transport section of the County Council.

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications for the County Council in this report.

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