

Agenda Item 5

The Views of the Great Western Ambulance Unison Branch

Great Western Ambulance Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

23rd May 2008

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Purpose

To provide the Committee with an opportunity to discuss issues in relation to the support provided to staff by the Great Western Ambulance NHS Trust with representatives from the Great Western Ambulance Unison Branch.

Recommendation

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

- Put questions to the Branch Secretary and Branch Chairman of the Great Western Ambulance Unison Branch
- Identify any issues that require further discussion with the Great Western Ambulance NHS Trust

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The Great Western Ambulance Joint Health Scrutiny Committee agreed as part of its work programme to meet with representatives from Trade Unions that represent employees of the Great Western Ambulance NHS Trust.

2. Detail

- 2.1 Members were keen to meet with Trade Union representatives to discuss the following issues:
- Any practical issues for staff in relation to service delivery such as handovers at Accident and Emergency departments
 - Staff learning and development
 - Effectiveness of consultation with staff & keeping them informed
 - Recruitment and retention of staff
 - Staff sickness
 - Impact of the new clinical teams
 - Staff morale

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- 2.2 The following representatives from the Great Western Ambulance Unison Branch will be attending the meeting to answer any queries that Members may have:
- Steve Smart, Branch Secretary who is a paramedic based at Keynsham
 - Ian Whittern, Branch Chairman, who is a paramedic based at Bristol have been invited to attend the meeting.
- 2.3 Members are reminded that it is not the role of the Committee to intervene in the way staff are managed by the Trust and the guidance for Health Overview & Scrutiny advises scrutiny members of this. Members are advised to focus on operational issues and to tease out any areas that may require further research or discussion with Trust officers.
- 2.4 Several documents produced by Unison have been circulated to Members of the Committee outside of Committee meetings. These are reproduced in the Appendices attached to this report.

3. Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – UNISON Briefing on Call Connect, 1 April 2008
- Appendix 2 – UNISON, Great Western Ambulance Branch Press Release 2nd May 2008
- Appendix 3 – Joint statement issued by Avon and Somerset Police Federation, Avon Fire Brigades Union and UNISON Great Western Ambulance Branch, 1st May 2008