



South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust **HOSP Portsmouth update January 2013**

There are several issues this month that have been requested specifically and the information below will hopefully be able to brief you fully.

Southsea Lifeguard Station:

As you can appreciate we are always looking for points to improve our ambulance cover across the city, and in support of your members we have always been keen to ensure active resources being based in the South of Portsea island. We have utilised the Avenue De Caen site for some time although this became unfit for purpose. Investment was not forthcoming which compromised the practicality of the point; therefore, we have been looking for serviced facilities in the area (we have always retained unserviced standby in the area).

This site has been considered as a possible standby and we have been working with the lifeguards, sharing their facilities for comfort breaks etc.

The motorcycle paramedics formed this relationship some time ago whilst on standby in the area and this has led to the consideration for this to become an improved point in the area.

As this is a trial and not a formal arrangement we do not currently subscribe to any organisation, however, as we move forward this may well be the consideration going forward. The vehicles park on the slip road leading to the rear of the building and we generally utilise the room to the left. This is generally utilised out of hours, although the relationship between crews and lifeguards has been beneficial in a clinical arena with patients benefitting from the increased knowledge.

I am unable to provide the hours on standby at this location as this is not something we record formally; however, I have provided the call numbers from that location below.

We will be evaluating its success and the other options available to us in the area over the coming weeks.

Gosport Station

We are continuing to work with several stakeholders in establishing options within the Gosport area, including Hampshire Fire and Rescue, who we are working with at several sites across Hampshire. This will be a consideration as we progress; however, the Gosport Ambulance site will not be disposed of until we have a replacement as previously mentioned.

Other Standby Points

We have a small team continually looking in the key areas and we have some sites pencilled in for further review and I will update as we progress these them within the project.

New South East Hampshire Resource Centre

We continue to progress and have formally completed the lease agreement. Contractors have been visiting the site on a regular basis to enable them to place tender. This process closed last week and we are expecting an interview process to be undertaken with the shortlist over the next two weeks at which point a contractor will be selected (I will provide any update at the meeting).

All of our ambulance staff in the South East have visited the site and we have been developing the work-streams as part of the Operational project plan. These cover the logistics from moving into the site to utilising the site once operational.

General Information

The Service has had a difficult period with demand across the area at between 4-7% on last year. This has been difficult to reconcile with no specific change in operations to facilitate the rise. Some individual days have seen rises of 20% against last year.

We have continued to work hard with our commissioners and our stakeholders within the local Health Economy to maintain services to an acceptable level and whilst we continue to provide a service well above national standards in the Portsmouth area, we have experienced some occasions where this has dropped below our expected levels.

The acuity of patients has increased over recent weeks with medical conditions being at the forefront of the problems encountered.