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Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau
Ambiwlans Brys
Emergency Ambulance
Services Committee

Reporting Committee	Emergency Ambulance Services Committee
Chaired by	Chris Turner
Lead Executive Directors	Health Board Chief Executives
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Date of last meeting	11 May 2021

Summary of key matters including achievements and progress considered by the Committee and any related decisions made.

An electronic link to the papers considered by the EAS Joint Committee is provided via the following link: <https://easc.nhs.wales/the-committee/meetings-and-papers/may-2021/>

Chris Turner (Chair), welcomed Members to the virtual meeting (using the Microsoft Teams platform) of the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee.

CHIEF AMBULANCE SERVICES COMMISSIONER'S (CASC) REPORT

Stephen Harrhy (CASC) presented an update on the following areas:

- Ministerial Ambulance Availability Task Force – an evidence gathering session had been planned to capture the latest information on 'handover delays' which would be shared with Committee Members at a future meeting.
- Ambulance performance remained under the target of 65%; Members noted the re-setting and more normal expectations in terms of what was required and the WAST transition plan; this would be discussed in more detail, including plans for improvements to meet the target at the EASC Management Group and reported to the Joint Committee.
- Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services (NEPTS) Stephen Harrhy thanked the team at Betsi Cadwaladr (BCUHB) for their work in transferring into the service and also recognised the work of the NEPTS Team at WAST in ensuring the progress made to date. Members noted that conversations were taking place with the team at Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTMUHB) to finalise the date for the transfer as the last health board area.
- Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS) Members noted that last year no specific capital allocation has been made for the EMRT Service including equipment replacement. This had now been agreed with Welsh Government officials and would be administered through the hosting arrangements at Swansea Bay (SBUHB).

PROVIDER ISSUES

Jason Killens, Chief Executive at the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST) gave an overview of key matters including:

- Performance at 60-62% remained below target despite good solid production against the unit hours of production and rosters

- the performance team had been tasked to undertake a deep dive to begin to correct position, but activity had increased significantly
- PPE issues continue to have an impact but aiming to return to normal activity in the next couple of weeks
- Routine activity increasing e.g. last week busier than Christmas week
- 111 Service progressing well – live with BCUHB next month
- Challenges for new call handling and supply meeting and discussing with 111 Programme Board

FOCUS ON – A MODERN AMBULANCE SERVICE

The presentation 'A modernised ambulance service for the future' was received. Jason Killens, Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust introduced the session and explained the intention was to build on the conversation at the last EASC meeting in terms of modernisation and transformation of ambulance services. In particular, the aim is to change the ambulance service to move from the traditional transport organisation to provide more direct clinical care as a system partner in Wales. The ambition of the offer to the commissioners was in line with the intentions of 'A Healthier Wales' and similar to other high performing ambulance services.

The Chair thanked Jason Killens and Rachel Marsh for the interesting and thought-provoking presentation. Members agreed on the importance of the work and having some time to reflect on the discussions and held with a view to further refinement to take matters forward and provide a clear vision for the future.

FINANCE REPORT

The EASC Finance Report was received. In presenting the report Stuart Davies, the Director of Finance highlighted the following:

- Underspend of £395,000
- Challenges to show in year spend on new initiatives.

Members **RESOLVED** to: **APPROVE** and **NOTE** the report.

EASC GOVERNANCE INCLUDING THE RISK REGISTER

The EASC Governance report was received. Members received the second EASC Annual Report which captured the work undertaken by the Committee in 2020-2021. The EASC Risk Register had one additional risk added namely 'Failure by the whole system, policy makers, commissioners and providers to utilise EASC in matters which related to its areas of responsibility'. There remained two red risks which related to the failure to achieve the performance targets for red and amber calls.

The EASC Management Group Annual Report and Terms of Reference was received which had been endorsed by the EASC Management Group. Members noted that attendance and more regular membership had been achieved this year.

The discussion on the effectiveness survey had identified further issues for discussion by the EASC Management Group members particularly in relation to how the information and knowledge was shared within individual organisations.

Members also noted that an updated Model Standing Orders had been received following the last EAS Committee meeting. The Members agreed that the Chair and the Committee Secretary review the Standing Orders and take Chair's action to ensure that all health boards receive the EASC Standing Orders as they are included as part of every health board's governance arrangements. The Standing Orders would be submitted for ratification at the next EASC meeting.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- **APPROVE** the EASC Annual Report and Effectiveness Survey
- **ENDORSE** the EASC Annual Governance Statement for submission to the host body (Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board)
- **APPROVE** the risk register
- **APPROVE** the EASC Management Group Annual Report and Terms of Reference
- **APPROVE** the Chair take Chair's action and work with the Committee Secretary to review and finalise the EASC Model Standing Orders for distribution to health boards.

Key risks and issues/matters of concern and any mitigating actions

- Increasing handover delays
- Red performance not meeting the target - risk register reflected the deterioration in performance
- Decreasing Amber performance - risk register reflected the deterioration in performance

Matters requiring Board level consideration and/or approval

- EASC Model Standing Orders would be shared for inclusion with health board Standing Orders

Forward Work Programme

Considered and agreed by the Committee.

Committee minutes submitted	Yes	✓	No	
Date of next meeting	13 July 2021			