

The Uniform Working Group Meeting
Tuesday 3rd July 2007
13:00-16:00
Loman Street Meeting Room

Present:	Chris Vale	-	Head of Operational Support
	Gadge Nijjar	-	Project Support
	John Ryder	-	Dimensions Corporate Wear
	Eddie Brand	-	Staffside Chair
	Gary Edwards	-	West Sector
	Pete Hannell	-	North Sector (for Maria Sydes)
	John Whiting	-	North East
	Daren Jobson	-	Education & Development
	Lesley Long	-	Resource Centres
	Gary Banting	-	Education & Development
	Alan Storrar	-	Emergency Operations Centre
	Tom Lynch	-	CUR/MRU/HEMS (for Graham Chalk MRU/HEMS)

1. Introductions and Apologies.

Apologies: Steve Waspe, David Selwood.

John Ryder from **Dimensions** was introduced and welcomed to the group.

CV informed the group that the new uniform contract has officially been awarded to Dimensions. The contract awarded involved two other Ambulance trusts also to be supplied by Dimensions.

2. Dimensions

JR said he was very pleased that Dimensions has been awarded the contract and is looking forward to a good working relationship with the LAS.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Page 1, item 3 line 2 was corrected to read: GB will represent only those going through training.

4. Terms of Reference

CV produced and handed out a draft 'Terms of Reference' which he read out to the group. He asked the group to ponder on the contents and return with any suggestions at a later date.

TL expressed concerns about the new contractor being able to fulfil all the needs of the LAS.

5. Uniform Wearer Trial

CV expressed that the main reason for going ahead with a trial is to highlight and discover any potential issues and also to ensure that the garments meet the required standard.

GN explained that the trial was down to eleven people and not twelve was because PTS had only put forward two names.

EB expressed concerns about the limited exposure of the trial. He thought that more people should be taking part in the trial to generate a wider response.

CV said that a reasonable compromise will be to increase the numbers slightly to reflect the various Departments who wear uniforms

6. **Squad suit Cleaning.**

CV believes that the squad suits should be able to be included in the main laundry contract with ‘**Synergy**’.

Action: CV to investigate re-use of squad suits through synergy.

7. **Blue fleece**

CV confirmed that *Estates* have a blue fleece supplied by **Alexandra**.

8. **Baseball caps and Rucksacks**

JR introduced samples of baseball caps and holdalls from **Dimensions**. The group’s overall response was that the caps would be good as a giveaway, but in the mainstream it would not be very widely used and therefore was unnecessary, except if they were Hi-Viz where they would be more visible to the public.

Action: JR will produce different samples of the cap at the next meeting which will include a reflective NHS logo. He will also investigate and produce prototypes rucksacks similar to the current one with a zip off section for review at the next meeting.

9. **Questionnaire on Uniform**

To be deferred until the wearer trial is completed.

10. **Departmental issues**

(a) **A&E**

Requests were put in for a lightweight summer fleece which was previously looked into, but the Service opted for a heavy one.

AS presented a request from Paul Webster for 20 pairs of epaulettes to be made for **DMC** (*Distribution Monitoring Centre*).

Action: AS was asked to advise on the actual job title

On the issue of squad suits, **CV** will talk to Martin Flaherty to try and get him to issue a directorate to stop just anyone wearing them.

GN said that he would like to look into why those epaulettes were needed and what purpose it would serve.

AS will also go back to Paul Webster and find out the validity of the request and tell the group at the next meeting.

(b) **Education & Development**

GB would like to see the blue epaulettes reintroduced for training staff, so that in the event of a major incident they are not mistaken as trained staff by the public.

GB will talk to training to get more clarity on what epaulettes students should wear.

GB requested for new epaulettes to be made titled Clinical Development Tutor.

Action: GN will liaise and action accordingly.

- (c) TL enquired if there was any progress with the Cycle Response Coordinator epaulettes from **Alexandra**.
GN informed TL that the artwork had been approved and Alexandra would inform us when they are ready.
LL asked why after previous requests, that the service still fails to address the issue of women's shirts.
GN advised that most women prefer the men style shirts.
TL is to streamline his attachment to the policy.
- (d) **PTS**
No representation at the meeting
- (e) **Support Departments**
CV said that fleet and Logistics would be invited to attend this meeting in the future when necessary.

11. Uniform Wearer Policy

CV asked for the final comments on the policy.
TL offered some more comments for the CRU.

12. Cycle response unit

TL informed the group that the CRU have had to source uniforms themselves through cycle shops and approving them through the CRU response group. They are actually using the Police CRU kit with the LAS badge.
TL also produced a Police kit catalogue for the group to look at.
JR expressed an interest on behalf of Dimensions in possibly being able to provide this service. He took away the catalogue to make a comparison with the other products.

13. Safety Boots

CV circulated a pamphlet about the Magnum Boots (patrol ST) from which the group has been asked to consider.e.
The boot was rejected on Health and Safety grounds

14. AOB

GN is to draft an operational bulletin on the Hi- visibility tabards advising on the legal positions concerning their design and dimensions.

Date of the next meeting

31st October.2007

