London Ambulance Service NHS Trust
A&E Sub Committee
11th May 2006, 1400-1600
Conference Room

MINUTES

Chair:	Steve Sale	ACAO	HQ
Present:	Eddie Brand	Staff Side Chair	Romford
	Peter Hanell	Staff Side Rep (NW)	Kenton
	Mark Lione	Staff Side Rep (EC)	City & Hackney
	Andy Zucconi	Staff Side Rep (C)	Deptford
	Julie Cook	HR Manager A&E	HQ
	Dave Smith	Staff Side Rep (NE)	Becontree
	Gary Edwards	Staff Side Rep (W)	Isleworth
	Jez Walters	Staff Side Rep (SE)	Greenwich
	Joe Easterbrook	Staff Side Rep (EOC)	HQ
	Scott Velleman (Minutes)	ASSD Manager	HQ
In Attendance:	Ralph Morris	ACAO	Bow

Action

08/06 **Apologies**

Ann Ball
Martin Flaherty
Russell Smith
John O'Grady
Dave Lamey

09/06 **Previous Minutes – 03/11/2005**

Agreed

10/06 **Matters Arising**

10.01 Transfer Register Paper Copy (13/04)

SS stated that the matter is still ongoing. Unfortunately JO'G was not in attendance and therefore it will have to be carried over.

EB asked SS to find out when the transfer register will be available on the Pulse or at stations. **SS**

10.02 Drug Packs & Overtime (03.04)

SS stated that the matter was due to be resolved at the Joint Secretaries meeting, however this has not taken place yet. SS asked SV to leave this on the agenda for the next meeting. **SV**

EMT1&2 First Responding (30.04)

SS reported that he has spoken to Fionna Moore and Ian Todd on the subject. They pointed

out that although an EMT 1 is a lower grade they are fully qualified. SS suggested that a robust protocol is agreed with EOC to cover backup and no transportation situations.

JE pointed out that EOC staff are not aware of the grades of the crews that are manning vehicles.

EB stated that there are already guidelines in place for first responding. Staff Side feel that this situation makes a mockery of the policy of not allowing 2 EMT2's to work together.

SS said he understood Staff Side's argument but these types of response was very much a last resort and would be used to benefit the most seriously ill or injured patients. He stated however that he would ask Fionna Moore to meet with EB. A request was made for MF to attend the meeting as well. **SS**

EB asked SS to arrange the meeting.

10.04 London Underground Guidance (29/05)
SS said that he had taken up the matter with Bill O'Neill. He reported that training will now take place at London Underground facilities. There will also be a trackside safety aide memoir issued to operational staff. Additionally John Selby is looking into appropriate health and safety videos.

10.05 Television on MDT's (04/06)
SS stated that he had spoken to Peter Suter and Russell Smith. Peter said that he was not aware of the project and therefore it would not be possible to undertake it during this financial year due to the amount of outstanding commitments IM&T already have.

EB reminded SS that this was a promise originally made by Peter Bradley several years ago. **SS**

SS agreed to pass on EB's concerns to Peter Bradley via Martin Flaherty and Peter Suter.

10.06 New Relief Rota (05/06) **SV**
EB stated that as JO'G was not present he would speak to him outside of the meeting and asked SV to leave this on the agenda.

11/06 Current Performance
SS stated that on behalf of all of A&E Management he would like to thank all A&E staff for their efforts since November last year. He reported that performance hit 76% for April. For May the figure currently stands at 72.6%.

12/06 PDR
SS announced that PDR interviews are now commencing across A&E Ops. The first round of interviews will be conducted by line managers with Team Leaders in attendance. SS asked Staff Side to consider agreeing to Team Leaders conducting PDR interviews after the initial round is complete as this will speed up the process.

EB stated that Staff Side will respond at the next meeting. He also enquired if refresher training in PDR would be given as he had spoken informally to some DSO's who had expressed a lack of confidence in carrying out the process. **EB**

SS replied that refresher training would be given if requested.

13/06 Operational Command Unit

SS reported that a decision had been taken not to continue with a dedicated Gold Command Suite on a permanent basis. The AOM designated as the 'on call Silver' now works in EOC looking at performance issues as part of the new OCU.

14/06 PSU Review

Ralph Morris gave the group an update on the PSU review. An executive summary will be given to staff side in due course.

15/06 Changes to 'Clock Start' Time

SS announced that the Department of Health (DoH) have stated that as of April 2007 the clock start time for category A calls will commence when the emergency operator connects the 999 call to the ambulance service. This could mean losing up to 60 seconds. Management Information have been monitoring the effect this would have on our performance and it appears we would experience a 32% drop in performance on category A calls. The DoH are considering delaying the go live date as many Trusts would feel the same impact. SS agreed to keep the group up to date.

16/06 Urgent Care Service (UCS)

GE was concerned that the Service does not have the correct manning levels for UCS vehicles as many staff have progressed into A&E. GE pointed out that he had previously suggested that UCS could be the perfect option for older members of staff that were close to retirement.

SS replied that he did not have the answer to GE's concerns. He will invite Ian Todd or his nominee to the next meeting to discuss this issue. **SS**

DS asked if the UCS Working Group could be resurrected.

SS stated that he would ask Ian Todd to do this. **SS**

17/06 Paramedic Assessment

JW said that he was disappointed with the content of the recent bulletin on Paramedic Assessments and felt that by giving training places to those with the highest examination marks this was creating an atmosphere of elitism.

SS replied that he understood JW's sentiments however SS pointed out the unprecedented levels of applications and that there had to be a way of choosing which of the 400 applicants would receive the 100 training places. Furthermore SS said that Eric Roberts had been involved in the discussions with Bill O'Neill and that this system had been deemed to be the most fair.

EB recognised that this had been an extraordinary year and stated that there was a need to look to the future. **SS**

SS suggested that the committee approached Bill O'Neill to discuss future action

18/06 Police Statements

ML raised concerns that staff were not being stood down when required to give police witness statements, and that they are expected to do this in their own time.

SS accepted the concern but also stated that the Service needs to work with the police to ensure that they are more flexible as to when they can record the statements. SS agreed to issue a reminder to AOMs to stand crews down when necessary and would also raise this issue with the Assistant Directors (Ops). **SS**

19/06 **Diabetes Update**

Following discussions with Ann Ball, PH gave Staff Side's response to the LAS' current position on drivers affected by type 1 diabetes. Essentially they have asked the Unison solicitors to conduct a case review. The outcome of this review will determine future action. PH also stated that Staff Side will continue to work with Human Resources on this issue.

20/06 **New Drugs and EMT3s**

JW stated that there was confusion over which drugs EMT3s could administer due to the new job description created for Agenda for Change.

SS replied that EMT3s could administer any drug that they had been trained to administer.

EB said that EMT3s would not be happy to take on training for any extra drugs.

SS agreed to discuss these concerns with MF. **SS**

21/06 **Any Other Business**

There were no items to raise.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 22nd June 2006
1400-1600, Conference room, HQ