

London Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Vehicle & Equipment Working Group
6th September 2007, 1300-1700
1st Floor Conference Room, LAS HQ

MINUTES

Chris Vale (Chair)	Head of Operational Support	Bow
Alan Payne	DSO	Hillingdon
David Selwood	Corporate Logistics Manager	Bow
Maurice Clayton	LARP	HQ
Gary Ralph	Education & Development	Ilford
Alison M^cKee	Purchasing Buyer	Pocock Street
Ian Lee	Staff Side Representative	Becontree
Pat Osliff	Staff Side Representative	Willesden
David Haylett	Staff Side Representative	Barnehurst
Colin Ashburn	Safety & Risk Adviser	Pocock Street
Nick Pope	Fleet Project Manager	Greenwich
Gordon Ballard	Logistics Manager	Deptford
Lynn Sugg	Olympic Planning Office	HQ
Dipak Chauhan	Ergonomics Adviser	Pocock Street
Dave Kennedy	LARP	HQ
Chris Reeves	Emergency Planning Unit	Pocock Street
Matthew Button	EMT	Deptford

54/07 Apologies

Dave Whitmore	Bob Fellows
David Campbell	Paul Stewart
Karen Walling	Colin Jolly
John Winnister	Eddie Brand
John Selby	

55/07 Stryker Trolley Bed Demonstration

Representatives completed a comprehensive demonstration of the Stryker Trolley Bed. The response was very favourable, and it was agreed that CV should request a trial.

CV

56/07 Previous Minutes – 24th May 2007

Agreed as a true record.

57/07 Matters Arising Outside of Standing Items

57.01 FR 300 Oxylator Resuscitation Head and Pipeline Analgesic Head (39/06)

This piece of equipment has been misplaced, until it is found the trial cannot take place. GB to pursue whereabouts, or obtain a replacement

GB

57.02 Paramedic Bag Group (71/06)

There is no funding this financial year for the Personal Paramedic Bag.

	<p><u>57/03 Disposable Mattress Covers (98/05)</u> A bulletin has been issued to all stations with EROS order codes. These covers are only for use on split mattresses and until replacement mattresses are in place. IL asked about progress with finding a cover that could be used on all mattresses in future. CV advised there was no funding. CV and IL to discuss further.</p>	<p>CV/IL</p>
	<p><u>57.04 Pre-Hospital Bloods (110/06)</u> CV to talk to FM regarding protocol. Products being used were likely to be NHS PASA approved. GR to talk to one of he ECP leads about drafting protocol.</p>	<p>CV GR</p>
	<p><u>57.05 Vehicle Defect Book (113/06)</u> These have arrived and are being distributed.</p>	
	<p><u>57.06 Hard Surface Wipes (113/06)</u> This is on hold, there is no funding available. This has been taken to the Infection Control Steering Group.</p>	<p>DS</p>
	<p><u>57.07 Vehicle Daily Inspection (133/06)</u> A Sub Group should be formed to monitor. DS to arrange.</p>	<p>DS</p>
	<p><u>57.08 Disposable Equipment Bulletin (19/07)</u> Bulletin has been issued and only disposable equipment is in use. There is seems to be an increase in usage of Size 3 Laerdal masks. AM is to monitor and increase stock levels accordingly. AM to also check with Laerdal if Non Disposable Mask stock still held can be returned and credited.</p>	<p>AM</p>
	<p><u>57.09 National Vehicle Specification Consultation (35/07)</u> This was held at the end of June. The risk of removing the bulkhead door has been assessed. It is the intention to standardise vehicles across all Trusts. IL commented that Bulk Head Access is essential and was concerned that Staff Side have not been consulted. No final decisions have been made and LAS interests would be represented at future meetings. CV advised it was likely that alternative vehicle options would be agreed including one with a bulkhead door.</p>	
	<p><u>57/10 Blankets Bulletin (37/07)</u> It was stated that there is a shortage of blankets across the service. DS and IL to pursue the reasons.</p>	<p>DS/IL</p>
<p>58/07</p>	<p><u>Alternative Response Steering Group (Standing Item)</u> No Update. Group are meeting next weeks</p>	
<p>59/07</p>	<p><u>Risk (Standing Item)</u> The Risk Register has been updated. DS will e-mail if required.</p>	<p>DS</p>
	<p><u>59.01 Overshoe Risk Assessment and Usage (24/07)</u> There are some issues regarding some of the sizes of overshoes not fitting properly. An alternative product had been sourced and checked by Health and Safety. This was acceptable and would be introduced.</p>	

60/07 Manual Handling Implementation Group (Standing Item)

A meeting is to be held next week. There should be a better idea of where we are going with this after that.

61/07 Ambulance Procurement Update (Standing Item)

Discussions on the replacement programme for the Mercedes has commenced. Options include replacing the chassis and refurbishing the existing box or obtaining completely new vehicles. There are issues regarding the lease and costs. Other equipment coming up for replacement are Trolley Beds, Chairs, Lifepak 12's and FR2's

A sub committee should be formed to look at vehicle layout, tender, and equipment. CV to set up.

Suppliers are keen to demonstrate equipment so another day should be arranged to look at new products. Staff side to nominate attendees.

LDV's – The plan is to have more cars and reduce the ambulance fleet. LDV's will be reduced over a period of time.

CV
EB/IL

62/07 RRU Procurement Update (Standing Item)

83 Vauxhall RRU's have been ordered. The Tender for the conversion closes on 22/10/07. There has been an issue with radios, the VHS capacity we have will not be enough to add another 83 vehicles. Work still required resolving this problem.

63/07 Specialist Vehicle Update

Funding that was withdrawn for these vehicles is now available. There will be a small number of basic vehicles equipped for bariatric use.

64/07 Hot Zone Working Vehicles (Standing Item)

No update

65/07 Carry Chair (Standing Item)

This will require a tender exercise. Funding is on hold at present.

66/07 Trolley Bed Update (Standing Item)

The specification for trolley beds needs to be revised. A tender exercise will then follow.

66.01 Costing of Strap Replacement – SP Services (87/06)

Paul Candler to source from elsewhere. AM to discuss with him.

AM

66.02 Upgrade of Falcon Six Trolleys (31/07)

10 new mattresses have been sourced from another provider for trails and durability. Ferno have agreed to upgrade trolleys, there is a cost in this upgrade, although this is significantly reduced. 130 will be refurbished which will provide new mattresses. Most issues with Ferno have now been resolved.

67/07 PTS Issues (Standing Item)

A & E have issues with conveying patients in their own wheelchairs due to size. Because of the limited width there are problems getting them on the vehicles. There is a meeting of PTS Stretcher & Vehicle Group next week to discuss the possibility of dual role vehicles. The Risk Assessment has now been completed. NP to report at next meeting.

NP

68/07 Equipment Approval Group (Standing Item)

68.01 Ampoule Breakers (91/06)

A final decision has yet to be made. GR to supply AM with samples.

GR

68.02 One Touch Ultra (95/06)

Bayer, AM and Mark Whitbread to meet.

AM

68.03 Res-Q-Vac (112/06)

This has been used by PTS but was not considered suitable for A & E use. Item to be removed.

68.04 Femoral Leg Traction Splint (113/06)

Item to be removed as this was not suitable.

68.05 Ferno re-worked IV poles (13/07)

DS to report at next meeting

DS

68.06 Paediatric Finger Probe Tapes (19/07)

The probe was liked but the tapes were not suitable. AM to discuss with Medtronics for a price.

AM

68.07 Latex Free Glove Suppliers (17/07)

There is another Latex free glove with the accelerant removed available on EROS. This should solve the problem with the majority of allergies. AM to get samples for trials on those who have a problem.

AM

69/07 LDV Vehicles

This was covered in 61/07.

70/07 Any Other Business

Events Bags

CR & MB showed examples of the new Events Bags to be used at events such as Notting Hill Carnival, New Years Eve, Tour De France and the future Olympics, There are 2 types of ruck sack style bags 1 for Paramedics and 1 for Technicians. 1 contains Oxygen and the other an FR2. Both contain the appropriate drugs packs and other items needed. Each bag has a side back which can be carried separately. The bags weigh about 12 lbs which is quite heavy to carry around for long periods at a time. There is a possibility that weight can be reduced by lighter drugs packs and Oxygen cylinders. DC to investigate the weight factor.

DC

LARP

MC updated the Group on the Airwave Radio Project. Installation will progress throughout the next 12 months. The projected completion date is October 2008.

BOC Infected Cylinder Bags

AP enquired about clear plastic bags delivered from BOC. DS stated that there are incidents when contaminated empty cylinders have been returned to BOC. Contaminated cylinders should be placed in the bags and BOC will then collect.

Carry Sheets

GR enquired about Canvas Sheets and Patients Carry sheets. Both can still be ordered. AP commented that they are buying a lot more carry sheets. GB advised these are not returned to LAS by the laundry as they are unmarked. GB to take up with Synergy.

GB

AM to enquire whether they can be stamped by the manufacturer to solve this problem.

AM

Stab Vests

AP enquired about the shelf life of Stab Vests as current vests are looking worn. The outer part is available to re-order using the code that can be found inside. There is funding for testing which should take place at the end of next year.

Manger Elks

The fitting of Manger Elks to 130 Mercedes vehicles is going ahead providing space is still available where they are to be fitted. JS to assess

JS

Entonox Demand Unit

4 year servicing us due on these units. This is going to the Equipment Approval Group for consideration. DS to follow up.

DS

Lifepak 12's on RRU's

Battery chargers on vehicles have been upgraded.

PTS

A ParAid Parensi Stretcher demo was to be made for the PTS Vehicle and Equipment Sub-Group

Date of Next Meeting:

**1st November 2007 - 1300-1700
Conference Room, HQ**