

**London Ambulance Service NHS Trust  
Vehicle and Equipment Working Group  
30<sup>th</sup> August 2006, 1300-1600  
Conference Room, HQ**

**MINUTES**

Chris Vale (Chair)	Acting Head of Operational Support	Bow
Alison Mckee	Purchasing	Pocock Street
Tug Wilson	Staff Side Representative (EC)	Islington
Karen Walling	Staff Side Representative (W)	Hillingdon
Ian Lee	Staff Side Representative (NE)	Becontree
Roy Hopkinson	Principal Project Manager	HQ
David Selwood	Acting Corporate Logistics Manager	Pocock Street
Nick Pope	Fleet Consultant	Pocock Street
Colin Jolly	Head of Fleet	Greenwich
Eddie Brand	Staff Side Chair	Romford
David Whitmore	Senior Clinical Adviser	HQ
Paul Stewart	Staff Side Representative (NW)	Pinner
Alan Payne	Duty Station Officer	Hillingdon
Bob Fellows	Education Development Manager	Fulham
Dipak Chauhan	Ergonomics Adviser	Pocock Street
John Selby	Head of Safety & Risk	Pocock Street
Scott Velleman (Minutes)	ASSD Manager	HQ

**Action**

**75/06 Apologies**

Claire Thomas  
Dave Campbell  
Mick Maynard  
Paul O'Neill

**76/06 Previous Minutes (19<sup>th</sup> July 2006)**

The previous minutes were agreed as a true record.

**77/06 Ambulance Procurement Update (Standing Item)**

RH stated that following an issue raised by IL at the last meeting regarding the height of the rear step of the Mercedes, modifications have been fitted to 7 vehicles for trial. If the trial is successful the modification will be replicated throughout the fleet.

**77.01 Macneillie Prototype Demonstration (55/06)**

RH announced that the prototype will be available for inspection at the next VEWG meeting.

**77.02 Rubber Block Location – Group Examination (55/06)**

RH stated that this matter has not progressed and will need to be carried over.

**SV**

77.03 LDV Fleet Age Concerns to Martin Flaherty (55/06)

CV reported that Martin Flaherty had accepted the concerns raised. Once discussions on the new front end model have been formulated, consultations with staff side will commence.

**78/06 RRU Procurement Update (Standing Item)**

CV told the group he has set up a scoping group and held 2 meetings. NP has been appointed as the FRU procurement manager. CV continued that he will be setting up a project group and will be asking for staff side representatives from EB.

**CV/EB**

**79/06 Specialist Vehicle Update (Standing Item)**

RH said that the specification has been updated. Subsequently costs have been increased and therefore a new SPPP has been raised. As soon as the SSG has made a decision CV will report back to the group.

**80/06 Television Trials Update (Standing Item)**

RH reported that the television amplifiers are still being fitted to vehicles, however the software is now in place.

**81/06 Matters Arising Outside of Standing Items**

81.01 Secure Infant Carriage (10/06)

DS stated he had contacted Ferno and had been told that they do make a product which DS will bring to the next meeting.

**DS**

81.02 FR300 Oxylator Resuscitation Head & Pipeline Analgesic Head (39/06)

DW said that he has not received the item from GB yet and therefore an assessment has not been carried out. GB to send to DW.

**GB**

AM added that she has not had a chance to see if the item can be purchased directly from the manufacturer.

**AM**

81.03 Siren Use at Night (44/06)

DS spoke to Gary Bassett to get an idea of the issue. Gary routinely receives a small number of complaints regarding siren use at night. In response he sends out a standard reply. Gary was asking if there are any updates he can put into his reply letter. Gary told DS that the Mayor of London imposes restrictions on the Fire Brigade and Police Service in terms of siren volume. DS asked if the LAS matches these volumes.

CJ agreed to investigate and report back.

**CJ**

81.04 FRU Cleaning (46/06)

CV met with Pat Billups who is considering a specification of how often an FRU should have the upholstery cleaned. CV has also told LRS that the LAS proposes to include FRU cleaning in the next Make Ready contract.

81.04 FRU Cleaning (46/06) continued

Staff side repeated their concerns over the current lack of infection control in FRUs.

CV accepted their concerns but stated that as there was no funding available at present AOM's could consider ad hoc local arrangements against an agreed guideline if they had sufficient funding.

81.05 Tail Lift Callouts (66/06)

CJ reported that he has investigated this matter and can confirm that RSG will attend any callouts including those to individual vehicles.

81.06 Vomit Bags (70/06)

AM stated that there is only one bag on EROS and this is the old type. She undertook to raise the matter with Paul Candler.

**AM**

81.07 Paramedic Bag Group (71/06)

BF said that he needs to finalise the representatives on the group. Richard Deakins has advised that there will have to be a tender and therefore the group will have to draw up a specification.

EB agreed to chase up rep names for BF.

**EB**

81.08 Air Conditioning Fan Speeds Bulletin (74/06)

CJ reported that he had published the bulletin on the 28/07/06 and it was available on the Pulse.

81.09 LDV Speaker Height & Volume Control (74/06)

CJ told the group he had invited someone from IM&T to the meeting in order to discuss this matter however as they had not attended he will pursue the issue outside and get someone from IM&T along to the next meeting.

**CJ**

81.10 Disposable Mattress Covers (28.01)

AM announced that Mediwrap will only guarantee prices for 3 months. This is because the product is oil based and world wide oil prices are fluctuating. This means that the Trust cannot enter into a contract unless we could get a much longer period of fixed prices.

CV asked AM to look for another supplier.

**AM**

81.11 Vehicle-Based Fault Book (94/05)

CJ handed out an example layout of the pages in the book. The group suggested an amendment notice to be added to inform crews to leave the book on the vehicle dashboard as a means of notifying workshop staff when the vehicle needs repair.

**82/06 Alternative Response Steering Group (ARSG) (Standing Item)**  
AP reported that the ARSG met at the end of July and will meet bi-monthly from now on.

CJ added that NP has agreed to join ARSG for Fleet.

AP then told the group that the issue of using ring magnets to deactivate pacemakers had been raised at ARSG.

DW replied that this should not sit with either ARSG or the VEWG. He agreed to take the matter to Fiona Moore saying that there should be much greater discussion on this subject before any actions are progressed.

DW

**83/06 Risk (Standing Item)**  
JS distributed the latest risk register and discussed amendments to various risk ratings.

**84/06 Manual Handling Sub Group (Standing Item)**  
DC stated that the name of the group is now the Manual Handling Implementation Group (MHIG) (SV to change for next agenda). DC demonstrated the new design of the patient lifting sheet handles which should help reduce manual handling risk. DC also asked that any reports on LA52s pertaining to this lifting sheet should specify whether the old or new design was being used.

SV

DS discussed the locations of mangar elks and stated that he should know the final locations within 2 weeks. He will report back at the next meeting and will also email a report to DSOs.

DS

83.01 Date Setting (53/06)

The next meeting of the MHIG will be 04/10/06.

**85/06 MRU Working Group (Standing Item)**  
CJ stated in KM's absence that he was not aware of any meetings taking place recently.

CV stated that he would look into merging the MRU Working Group into the ARSG.

CV

**86/06 Carry Chair Update (Standing Item)**  
CV said that the carry chair group is meeting on 12/09/06.

**87/06 Trolley Bed Update (Standing Item)**  
CJ told the group there is one more Pegasus to be upgraded.

CV and others had met with Ferno to discuss the IV stand holder and an oxy clip. Ferno will provide prototypes.

**Trolley Bed Update (Standing Item) continued**

The group then discussed bio-safe straps. CV asked AM to identify alternative suppliers; CJ to cost replacing all straps on trolley beds and carry chairs; and JS to revise the risk rating for infection from the current straps.

AM  
CJ  
JS

DC suggested implementing a phased evaluation of new trolley bed products in the near future.

CV decided it would be better to wait until discussions had been completed on the front end model.

**88/06 PTS Issues (Standing Item)**

NP stated that a survey had been undertaken to discover staff concerns and opinions of the current PTS vehicles. There will be a meeting on 20/09/06 to collate data and NP will obtain an automatic Movano for evaluation.

**89/06 Zafira Tailgate**

TW reported an incident of a central locking failure which highlighted the fact that there is no mechanical means of opening the tailgate of the car when the central locking fails to operate. Additionally the RAC diagnostic software was unable to detect what was causing the problem with the central locking.

NP agreed to speak to Vauxhall for their advice.

NP

CJ said he would speak to the RAC about their diagnostic software.

CJ

**90/06 Siren Testing Feature**

CJ announced that Woodway have developed a device that runs the siren in a softened mode when the vehicle handbrake is applied. CJ will introduce the device to the 60 new Zafiras. If it is successful he will install it to the rest of the fleet (subject to funding)

**91/06 Ampoule Breakers**

IL has discovered there are several unauthorised types of ampoule breaker being used around the Service.

DS said he has checked EROS with AM and the items are not listed so they are not sure where the breakers are being obtained from.

CV asked AM to check that no orders have been put through on free format. He also stated he will contact station management teams to remind them they should only order approved items.

AM  
CV

**92/06 Latex-Free Gloves**

DS notified the group that Kimberley Clarke are replacing their latex-free glove with a different product. He will take it to the Equipment Approval Group.

**93/06 Blankets**

DS informed the group that blanket stocks in Barnehurst/Bromley have dropped significantly. Logistics are investigating.

**94/06 Agenda Layout Feedback**

SV stated that he had introduced a modified layout/order of the agenda to make the flow of subject matter more coherent and asked the group for their comments/approval.

The group agreed that it appeared to be an improvement and CV asked SV to use the new version for future agendas.

**SV**

**95/06 Any Other Business**

Hot Zone Working Vehicles

RH told the group that the Service will be receiving 3 vehicles from the Department of Health for use in Hot Zones. One of them will be a forward command and control vehicle. One will be used for reconnaissance and the third will be an equipment carrying vehicle. Each one is a 6.5 tonne lorry. The LAS has had no say in the design of the vehicles. Adding these three to the two current Zafiras, we will have 5 vehicles for CBRN/hot zone use. RH asked SV to make the update of this subject a standing item on future agendas.

**SV**

IL asked if CV could find out why the LAS was not asked to participate in the design process of the vehicles.

**CV**

Defibrillators

CV stated that he is looking at a timetable for replacing the FR2s and Lifepak 12s. CV will be putting together a small group including IL from staff side. Any conclusions made will be brought back to the VEWG.

One Touch Ultra

BF announced that the One Touch Ultra 2 has just come out. He demonstrated the product to the group and explained the benefits from and differences to the previous product.

The group discussed whether the item should be made personal issue.

CV asked AM to look into ordering patterns and potential costs.

**AM**

Stab Vests

IL asked what the shelf life of a stab vest is.

JS replied that it is determined on a risk assessment basis. He believes that after 5 years a sample will be sent to the manufacturer for evaluation.

DS agreed to investigate this and report back.

**DS**

**Date of next meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006, 1300-1600  
Conference Room, HQ**

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