

**London Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Vehicle and Equipment Working Group
19th July 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
Ken Murphy	Team Leader	Waterloo
David Selwood	Acting Corporate Logistics Manager	Pocock Street
Nick Pope	Fleet Consultant	Pocock Street
Gordon Ballard	Acting Logistics Manager	Deptford
Paul O'Neill	Staff Side Representative (NE)	Tottenham
Claire Thomas	Safety & Risk Adviser	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
Scott Velleman (Minutes)	ASSD Manager	HQ

Action

47/06 Apologies

David Rock
Dave Campbell
John Selby
Dipak Chauhan

48/06 Zoll Autoplus & Lucas Product Evaluations

CV gave Mark Whitbread's apologies and updated the group that these items have been withdrawn from all trials throughout the NHS pending further study into their efficacy.

49/06 Previous Minutes (25th May 2006)

The previous minutes were agreed as a true record.

50/06 Matters Arising

50.01 Mattress Covers (28.01)

AM stated that she needs to clarify the terms offered by Mediwrap before any further progress can be made.

50.02 Retro Fit Control Layouts (08/06)

NP reported that two options were being examined:

50.02 Retro Fit Control Layouts (08/06) (continued)

- a) Macneillies supply kit and fitting instructions only
- b) Macneillies supply and fit the kit as well.

The cost of equipment for each vehicle is £80. Costs are currently being assessed to carry out fitting in LAS workshops. Once this has been done a recommendation can be made.

CJ confirmed that this operation would involve 209 vehicles.

CV cautioned that it was unlikely any additional funds would be released for this work and therefore other funding sources would need to be identified in order for the work to go ahead.

50.03 Secure Infant Carriage (10/06)

CV told the group that a bulletin was issued and has been published on The Pulse. The SPPP was rejected on second viewing and therefore it is unlikely that this project will receive funding during this financial year.

IL expressed concern with the Service's position and felt that the Trust should give greater financial prioritisation to this issue. He stated that he would contact the Health & Safety Executive for advice and speak to John Selby again.

BF thought that a company called AHT had made a product that was being sold by Ferno.

CV asked DS to investigate the product suggested by BF.

DS

Other matters arising missed off of the meeting agenda

Please note that these items have been assigned numbers for ease of post meeting reference.

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

AM stated that the Service has had problems with the supplier of this product in the past and wouldn't recommend being involved with them.

DW expressed an opinion that from the paper description of the product he did not see a clinical advantage over the product we are currently using. DW asked if he could see the product.

CV asked for DW and BF to examine the item, but expressed concerns about the viability of the supplier. He asked AM to investigate buying direct from the manufacturer.

DW/BF/AM

50.05 Trials Across the Service (41/06)

CV reported that he had met with the Medical Directorate to discuss equipment trials that had not progressed through the VEWG. As a result, he expected that in future all trials would be referred to this group.

50.06 Siren Use at Night (44/06)

DS said that this matter had not progressed and that he would look into it.

DS

50.07 FRU Cleaning (46/06)

CV told the group that FRU cleaning was not included in this year's Make Ready budget. He has advised AOMs that they are free to fund cleaning from their local budgets should they choose to do so.

IL asked for greater guidance to be given to AOMs regarding the required schedule for cleaning FRUs.

CV agreed to discuss the matter with Pat Billups.

CV

50.08 Oxygen Cylinders (46/06)

DS reported that BOC had informed him that the oxygen cylinder requiring an activation key discussed at the last meeting was an exceptionally old model and that it shouldn't have been delivered to the LAS. BOC asked DS to inform them of any other cylinders of the same type that may get delivered and they will swap it out immediately.

51/06 **Alternative Response Steering Group (Standing Item)**

AP stated that Richard Webber has now taken over the Chair of this meeting from John Pooley. The next date scheduled is 25/07/06.

52/06 **Risk (Standing Item)**

CT distributed the updated Risk Register and discussed the changes.

53/06 **Manual Handling Sub Group (Standing Item)**

CT told the group that she had not received any updates from DC.

CV asked CT to get DC to set a date for the next Manual Handling meeting.

CT

54/06 **MRU Working Group (Standing Item)**

KM said there was no information to report.

55/06 **Ambulance Procurement Update (Standing Item)**

RH said that the cycle of the last 65 vehicles was now complete.

IL asked that a redesign of the height of the rear step be looked at.

RH responded that Macneillies were in the process of building a prototype body onto a chassis-cab. Once it is completed RH will ask them to bring it to headquarters for the VEWG to examine.

RH

IL stated that he had received an enquiry into the necessity of the rubber block situated behind the drivers seat on the Mercedes vehicles, and asked if

it would be possible to leave it off of any new designs.

RH replied that the block was there in order to prevent the positioning of the seat stopping the door between the cab and the body from closing properly. The door must be able to close in order for the vehicle to be CEN compliant. We would need to look at all the issues if we were to leave it off of a new vehicle.

CV asked RH to convene a small group to look at this.

RH

IL asked if there would be any further vehicles delivered during this financial year.

CV confirmed that there wouldn't be.

IL raised concerns about the age of the LDV fleet and their age/condition by the time they are replaced in approximately late 2007.

CV agreed to relay these concerns to Martin Flaherty

CV

56/06 RRU Procurement Update (Standing Item)

RH reported that all 29 Zafiras are now in service.

CV said that a project group needs to be set up to look at RRU procurement. He asked EB to nominate Staff Side representatives.

EB

EB asked CV to email him with the dates of scheduled meetings.

CV

57/06 Specialist Vehicle Update (Standing Item)

RH stated that he was ready to submit the business case with all quotations.

58/06 Carry Chair Update (Standing Item)

CV told the group that a paper had been submitted to the Senior Management Group last month. They have agreed that if necessary non-CEN compliant products can be considered.

IL said that he had looked at the C-Max Stair Climber at AMBEX and that he would like to see a trial of this product carried out as soon as possible. He will raise this at the Carry Chair Sub Group.

CV replied that DS will be setting a new date for the sub group imminently.

DS

59/06 Trolley Bed Update (Standing Item)

CV announced that the majority of Pegasus trolley beds had now been upgraded.

CJ continued that the remainder – which was as few as 6 – would be dealt with in the near future.

60/06 **PTS Issues (Standing Item)**

NP reported that PTS have been given clearance to replace the R-reg Renaults. There is a group convening at Fulham next week to begin preliminary discussions. It has also been decided to bring the PTS breakdown policy into alignment with A&E and therefore all future breakdowns will be reported via the Fleet desk in EOC. Finally NP stated that there has been a request to equip PTS vehicles with wheelchairs. Therefore an evaluation process needed to be commenced.

DS undertook to incorporate this into the Carry Chair group.

DS

61/06 **Equipment Suppliers**

IL told the group that he had a conversation at AMBEX with the Managing Director of a British company called Intersurgical, who had expressed some dissatisfaction that they were not supplying the LAS. IL stated that in the spirit of supporting British companies why was the Service not using them.

AM stated that she was aware of Intersurgical. She elucidated that similar products are sourced more cheaply from other British suppliers via NHS Supplies.

62/06 **New Mercedes/Macneillies' Rear Step**

This issue was covered in item 55/06

63/06 **Televisions**

IL asked for an update on the MDT-based televisions

RH told the group that the blue light issue reported at the last meeting had been resolved. Further trials had been successful and the work to incorporate them into vehicles would start shortly. RH asked SV to put this as a standing item for subsequent meetings.

SV

64/06 **Fault Book**

IL stated that he would be dealing with this outside of the meeting.

65/06 **C-Max**

This issue was covered in item 58/06

66/06 **Tail Lift Callouts**

TW had received reports that EOC had been informed that the company that attend tail-lift callouts will only attend when there are several vehicles to be repaired at the same time.

CJ responded that this was incorrect. Fleet first assess if they can fix each tail lift themselves and if not they will call out the contractor.

CV asked CJ to email John Hopson and Ian Todd to reinforce this message to

CJ

their staff.

67/06 Safety Canulas

68/06 Disposable Laryngoscope Blades

69/06 Disposable Bag and Mask

TW asked for updates on each of these items.

DS replied that the canulas and the blades should be on EROS by the end of this week. There is an issue to be resolved with the bag and mask whereby the Make Ready packing lists need to be amended to contain the paediatric, infant and adult sized masks. There is an additional issue in that Pat Billups believes that the Service does not need to use all three sizes. Once Pat has resolved this issue the bag and mask will also be placed onto EROS.

KM asked where the bag and mask will be stored.

DS responded that the adult size will be located in the oxygen kit, and the other sizes will be stored separately on the vehicle.

70/06 Vomit Bags

TW reported that some stations were ordering the new vomit bags containing the gel at the bottom but were receiving the old plain bags.

DS stated that the new bags showed as available on EROS. He asked AM to remove the old bags from EROS.

AM

71/06 K1 RRU Equipment

TW alerted the group that staff were looking at the equipment that is carried on an RRU with the aim of scaling it down. TW told the staff that they would need to bring any findings to the VEWG.

IL stated that this matter should sit with the Alternative Response Steering Group, however it would be desirable for all RRUs to carry standardised equipment.

KM asked for an update on the paramedic bag.

BF replied that there are two options:

- A personal issue bag, whereby development and purchase costs would require a tender through the European Journal.
- A vehicle-based generic bag that appeared to be unpopular with Paramedics when canvassed over a year ago.

DS said that the matter was further complicated because 5 new drugs had been introduced and the drug pack will now barely fit into a paramedic bag.

DW pointed out that he thought the LAS was the only service in the UK still using personal paramedic issue. Most services now use vehicle-based bags. This costs the LAS a huge amount of money every year.

CV stated that he was unsure if it was for this group to solely decide whether paramedics should use personal or vehicle-based bags, however he asked BF to reconvene a small group to probe the matter.

BF

K1 RRU Equipment (continued)

EB asked BF to tell him which operational areas he would need Staff Side representatives from.

BF replied that would email EB and report back at the next meeting.

BF

74/06 Any Other Business

Emergency Services Show

BF told the group about an emergency services exhibition between 19th-20th October at the Royal Horticultural Halls. The show is free entry.

Sharps Boxes

DS said he had received complaints that snapped disposable forceps would not fit into sharps boxes.

The group agreed that they should be placed into clinical waste bags.

Sphygmomanometers

DS updated the group that arrangements need to be made to get this equipment serviced. If this proves too expensive then they will be replaced as required.

Major Haemorrhage Kit

DW stated that he had discussed putting together a major haemorrhage kit following 7/7 with the Medical Director. This may involve replacing all the standard dressings.

CV asked DW to refer this to the Equipment Approval Group.

DW

Blood Lances

AM alerted the group that the current blood lances will be replaced as the manufacturer has ceased production.

Zafira Electrics

TW stated that there had been incidents of Zafira electrics failing recently.

CJ replied that if all vehicle electrics were on, and the air conditioning fan speed was set above level 2, then when a vehicle is idling, power will be drawn from the battery. CJ continued that Fleet has taken all the measures possible to preserve battery life including using the most powerful alternators available, however there is such a huge electrical demand on the vehicles that there is little else that can be done at present.

CV asked CJ to publish a bulletin stating that RRU air conditioning fan speeds should be set no higher than level 2 when vehicles are at idle.

CJ

LDV Speaker Height

IL asked for a progress report on what was being done to move the speakers in LDVs.

CV asked CJ to look into it and report back at the next meeting.

CJ

**Date of next meeting: 30th August 2006, 1300-1600
Conference Room
HQ**