

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
11 February 2014

From: Scrutiny Committee 1

**Subject: MINI REVIEW – EMERGENCY AND URGENT MEDICAL RESPONSE IN
HAMBLETON**

All Wards

1.0 SUMMARY:

1.1 At its meeting on 4 June 2013 the Committee agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to undertake a mini review of Emergency and Urgent Medical Response in Hambleton.

2.0 INTRODUCTION:

2.1 Seven Members of the Committee were appointed to the Task and Finish Group which undertook the review and the term of reference was:

- To consider the way in which emergency medical care was delivered within Hambleton

2.2 The Group visited both the Operations Centre in York and the Ambulance Station in Northallerton to examine the effectiveness of the Emergency Operations Centre and the operational use of emergency vehicles.

2.3 John Darley of the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group (HRWCCG) attended a meeting of the Task and Finish Group to assist with the review and provided detailed information about alternative methods of responding to emergencies.

3.0 INFORMATION

3.1 The Group gave careful consideration to statistical information regarding emergency calls; and national response targets as part of the review. It also received information about a range of new initiatives which were being implemented to improve access to urgent and emergency healthcare services in the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Area. These included the following:

GP Urgent Pathway - The use of Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) or Patient Transport Service (PTS) crews to transfer GP urgent patients to hospital instead of YAS Accident and Emergency (A&E) crews.

GP In Hours Triage - Between 8.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Friday (excluding Banks Holidays) a YAS ambulance crew once having assessed the clinical condition of a patient following a 999 emergency call and concluding that the patient could be dealt with in primary care (i.e. did not require A&E attendance), would contact the patient's GP practice directly from the scene and arrange (if the primary care clinician was in agreement) a home visit, GP appointment or would transport the patient directly to the GP surgery for immediate treatment.

Paramedic Practitioners - Additionally skilled paramedics who were embedded within GP practices and also respond to 999 red calls in their local area and receive patient referrals direct from the practice GP's.

Additional YAS Stand-by Points - Additional stand-by points agreed in Bedale (Bedale Health Centre), Catterick Village (Doctors Surgery) and Richmond (Richmond Co-op). All geographically good locations from which to deploy ambulance responses to 999 emergency calls and would be operational before the end of the year.

Co-response - Initiatives with North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue; negotiations were at an early stage.

Community 1st Responders (CFR) - Schemes and static defibrillator points located inside buildings were all work in progress for the CCG and YAS. Additional static sites at the Civic Centre, Northallerton and also Osmotherley were two new 2013 additions to the roster.

C-Pads - Version of static defibrillator, available on an external wall in a village community; Borrowby was the first village in the area to acquire one.

PTS as 1st Responders - Consideration was being given to a pilot scheme to train YAS PTS crews to use defibrillators and act as first responders for YAS to emergency 999 calls.

4.0 FINDINGS

- 4.1 Members established that with the resources available the service provided was extremely effective and were pleased with the improvement in response times. Members also recognised the achievements made with no additional funding and were impressed with the range of new initiatives being implemented.
- 4.2 Members appreciated the vast amount of work undertaken to improve the service and were hopeful that such good work could continue.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS:

- 5.1 Members considered that District Councillors would appreciate being provided with information relating to response times and updates on initiatives on a regular basis.
- 5.2 Members also suggested that in the spirit of joint working the District Council provide assistance to communicate the new initiatives being implemented to the residents of Hambleton.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 6.1 To recommend to Cabinet that:
 - the CCG be commended for the improvements made to the emergency medical service;
 - District Councillors be provided with updates on a regular basis; and
 - consideration be given to any assistance the Council could provide in communicating with Hambleton residents.

COUNCILLOR ANDY WAKE
CHAIRMAN

Background Papers: None

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