**COMMISSIONING THE LAS IN 2019-2020 Report on the Current Situation**

1. **We submitted the following question to Lizzy Bovill, Director of Delivery and Performance at the CCG regarding the current dispute between the LAS and Commissioners (26/3/19)**

“Could you give me a short briefing on the current mediation between NWL and

the LAS re ARP (Ambulance Response Programme)? I want to feedback to our

Forum meeting on April 8. Are you expecting the issue to go into more formal

arbitration? 

1. **Response from Lizzy Bovill:**

“ The feedback to the Patients’ forum is that the contract between LAS and

commissioners is currently under negotiation and is due to be signed in the

coming weeks aligned to other London NHS contracts”.

1. **Further question to Lizzy Bovill**

“Presumably that includes Pioneer services or is that a separate process? Katy

Neil said that she was expecting the LAS to submit business cases for Pioneer

services (Maternity, end of life care, mental health, falls and urgent care).

1. **Response from Katy Neal**

In response – we are continuing to have regular meetings with LAS  to secure a contract for the 2019-20 period. Whilst the concerns of the Trust  regarding the contract value is widely acknowledged the contract value offered by CCGs represents an increase above national planning guidance, and is more generous than most London provider contracts. Commissioners feel this reasonable and aligns to other national ambulance service agreements.

Service developments such as pioneering work are in pilot stages across a small number of CCGs and will be considered on an individual basis through the LAS Strategic  Commissioning Board which LAS are in agreement with and is in accordance with  governing arrangements and in line with contracting process.

It is also important to note that the national commissioning arrangements for 111 and 999 services are different. 999 provision is commissioned regionally through NHS Standard Contract, with variation  depending on population needs. 111 services operate within tight parameters under a national service specification and are procured through competitive process by STPs.

The intention across London is  to look to better integrate 111 and 999 service provision across all providers in the region to align with national recommendation across the coming months, with a view to reform historic contractual constructs to facilitate opportunities from 20120/21 onwards. We will be working with LAS and other providers as part of this process.

1. **Background to the dispute:**

The LAS are concerned that the level of funding provided by the CCG Commissioners is not adequate to fund the Ambulance Response Programme (Cat 1-4) as well as the Pioneers services.

The LAS is concerned that as a result their strategy may not be deliverable within their timeframe. They have raised this matter as Risk 55.

LAS is also concerned that the approach of the Commissioners is fragmented, i.e. 999 funding stream and the 111(IUC) funding stream are separated even though the LAS run two 111 services (in south east and north east London).

The 111/IUC services are funded locally by CCGs/STP whereas 999 services are funded by Brent CCG on behalf of all London CCG. LAS argues that joining of 111 and 999 funding will enable the development of better coordinated urgent and emergency care.

1. **Conciliation**

As a result of this dispute the commissioning of the LAS for the financial year

which began on April 1st has not been completed and conciliation may be

required. If that is not successful the matter may have to go to arbitration.

Malcolm Alexander, Chair, Patients’ Forum for the LAS

Distribution: Patients’ Forum and Healthwatch