PATIENTS' FORUM

FOR THE LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE

ACTION LOG – OCTOBER 9th 2017

OBJECTIVE	PLAN	PROGRESS
TETHERING	How will tethering deal with situation	Meet Paul Woodrow to discuss
Could the 'tethering trial' potentially	where demand is clearly rising, but a	Tethering project and issues raised by
put patients at risk because	2% reduction in demand is sought and	Forum members.
ambulance queuing would not allow	that should EDs close in west London,	
the release of vehicles in some	that ambulance would have to travel	
areas, causing even longer delays	even greater distance, for example to	
for patients?	Northwick Park, Hillingdon and West	
	Middlesex Hospitals.	
LEARNING FROM STAFF	Members suggested that a feedback	Issue raised with Trisha Bain.
	group was needed so that all staff	Discussion at our meeting with her on
	could feedback their ideas and concerns to the LAS, to promote	October 26 th
	service development and receive	
	feedback on how their ideas have	
	changed services.	
COMMAND POINT OUTAGE	Update requested on progress with	Ros Fullerton to Board on October 2 nd .
Jan 1 st Outage. Single death	recommendations from the IT report. Risk register associated with these	Paper available on request.
identified. Inquest on September	recommendations requested. Ross	Inquest attended by Beulah East –
19th	unwilling to share outcome till Board	report in papers for October meeting.
	meeting on October 2 nd .	
COMPLAINTS CHARTER	Discussions continue on appropriate	Final draft Charter to be represented to
A Complaints Charter being	wording and presentation. All LAS	Gary Bassett and Trisha Bain. Will be
developed in Hackney was offered	amendments from Gary Bassett	put to LAS Board on October 31 st

to the LAS as a potential signatory.	accepted.	
MENTAL HEALTH	a) Promote employment of LAS	Meeting with the Healthy London
a)Police and Crime Act 2017 –	Advanced MH paramedics.	Partnership August 29 th attended by 16
Noted that this Act requires the police when detaining a person under the s136 of the Mental Health Act to seek advice and support from mental health professionals. b) Campaign for parity of esteem for	b) 'Parity of esteem' between mental and physical health raised consistently by Forum with LAS and Commissioners	members and LHW. Many issues raised including classifying long waits for patients requiring mental health care as Never Events. Case to be made to NHS Improvement.
patients in mental health crisis.		
Cat C RESPONSES – DOWNGRADING OF TARGET.	LAS and Commissioners have changed the Cat C targets in a way that substantially reduces response time for patients and falsely shows the LAS as achieving much higher levels of response against Cat C Targets, whereas in practice performance is much worse. The Forum is concerned that the lower targets will cause harm to patients by delaying patient care.	Meeting held with Chair of CQRG Dr Johal and Elizabeth Ogunoye, Deputy Director for LAS Commissioning and NWL Provider Performance on August 15. No explanation for downgrading of targets. Overtaken by ARP. Meeting on ARP to be held at LAS Forum meeting on October 9 th 2017
DEFIBRILLATOR CAMPAIGN		

 a) Campaign to encourage Boots to install defibs in their stores. b)Campaign for all schools and colleges to install a defib and train students and staff 	 a) Boots refused to install unless 3rd parties pay. Will pay for installation only b) Arrange for installation and training at Westminster Cathedral. c) Encourage Council in London to install defibs in schools and colleges. Every council in London written to. 	 a) Boots position is changing slowly. Correspondence with Lord Toby Harris in papers for October Forum meeting. b) Invite Vice President of Boots to December meeting of the Forum. c) Now running pan London campaign on defibs in schools and colleges. Every Council Leader, CE, Chair of OSC and HWBB, PH Director and local Councillor contacted on July 6/7. FOIs sent to non-responders. Data collected for most councils. d) Meeting arranged by Dave Payne with MP for Southwark on October 5th
DIABETIC CARE Joint meeting held with Diabetes UK and LAS in November and public meeting with high turnout. Objective to improve emergency care for patients with type one diabetes agreed	 a) Detailed report produced on outcome of joint DUK+LAS+Forum meeting. b) Issue re ketone measurement included in LAS clinical strategy. c) Other recommendations being implemented to be discussed. 	Presentation to LAS AGM included details of this co-production work between the LAS and Forum.

AMBULANCE QUEUING a)Ambulance queues outside of A&E continue to grow b) Forum committed to abolition of all ambulance queues. c) Campaign needs to be extended and expanded during 2017 to achieve Forum's objective.	a)Data shows significant deterioration at 14 A&E across London cause potential harm to patients who are queuing in ambulances or waiting for ambulances after road accidents or at home with serious health problems. b)Daily dataset obtained showing daily breaches. c)Commissioners trying to conceal information produced by the LAS about ambulance waits from Forum.	 a) Issue raised with Mayor of London – Followed up by assembly Member Emily Pidgeon. Mayor agreed to meet Forum and LAS b) Compile a data set of local information on breaches c)Ask Assembly Members for their support and to refer to the Mayor's Health and Wellbeing duty and raise the issue with: Local Healthwatch AGMs of London's CCGs GLA Health Committee London Councils (pan London representative body) Overview and Scrutiny Committee of most affected boroughs and with joint OSCs Jeremy Hunt
		c) CCG has withdrawn access to data about long handover waits. No validated data available for public

		scrutiny.
EQUALITY AND INCLUSION (E&I) IN THE LAS		
a) Equality and Inclusion is a priority in the LAS/CQC Quality Improvement Plan. Long history of failure re equality and diversity with regard to race equality and most other protected characteristics.	 a) Concerns that progress will slip back when they leave LAS. New HR director appointed and Melissa will extend employment with the LAS. c) Forum proposal for Race Equality VIP award not acted on in 2017 but LAS claims it will be in 2018 	 a) New Equality and Diversity committee to meeting on October 9th. Forum unable to attend. Kathy West stepped down. b) New head of HR Patricia Grealish and Melissa Berry spoke at September Forum meeting.
REVIEW OF COMPAINTS SYSTEM		
Comments received from the Forum suggest that complaints leaflet is too complicated and needed to be presented in much simpler language. The amount of time taken for LAS to deal with complaints needs to appear much earlier in the documentation. It is anyway a very lengthy process.	Meeting arranged with complaints team, Trisha and Briony re complaints investigation.	Confidentiality document to be completed and then arrange new dates for visits. Long delay. Want the Forum to have access for only two members. We have disputed this. Trisha Bain putting pressure on for resolution.