

# Chair's Report – May 2012

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We find ourselves back at our home base for this month's meeting, after an absence of five months. I apologise for the change of days to a Tuesday evening but the LAS board room was unfortunately booked for the previous night and the previous Monday was a bank holiday. We are hearing that Command Point has been successfully introduced, having been in action now since late March but there are concerns about the new 101 non-emergency number.

I have had a fairly busy month since the last Forum meeting, which I was unable to attend. I include a report on our meeting with Richard Hunt, LAS Chair and also correspondence concerning the follow up on this from Margaret Vander, Head of Public and Patient Involvement and Public Education. I have placed an item on the agenda about our attendance at board meetings etc. I attended the Public and Patient Involvement Committee in place of Malcolm Alexander, and this issue arose briefly there also. I have included a report on the meeting with tonight's papers and I must say that I heard about a lot of very good work being done by the Public and Patient Involvement Team around issues such as preventing knife crime with young people. The team will be presenting their regular report on their work at tonight's meeting.

The issue of the Olympics and Paralympics featured in the discussion at the PPI committee meeting and we are all aware that they are approaching fast. Malcolm Alexander and I attended an exercise called '**Operation Amber**' on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May at the invitation of the LAS at the Olympic Deployment Centre in the Docklands. This was an all day event and was attended by representatives of the LAS board, the LAS Chair, Chief Executive and Medical Director of the LAS and other managers, along with representatives of the Dept of Health, PCTs, St John's Ambulance and even a representative from the Buenos Aires ambulance service. We witnessed a number of displays organised by the LAS in conjunction with West Midlands Ambulance Service and other ambulance services from England, as well as the London Fire Service, the Metropolitan Police and the RNLI. On the following day the media attended and the event was well covered by both BBC and ITV. There are reports on the exercise here

<http://www.itv.com/news/london/update/2012-05-06/huge-emergency-services-training-exercise-ahead-of-games/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-17974760>

I will be attending the LAS Board meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>. The Board is now including regular spots on patient experience and heard from the mother of a patient at its last meeting. I think that this is a positive development and if any member of the Forum wishes to come forward with a personal experience or knows of anyone who has been a patient recently, I would be grateful if they could contact me for possible inclusion in these firsthand accounts to the LAS board.

Finally, it was announced last week that Peter Bradley, Chief Executive of the LAS, will be leaving the LAS after the Olympic/Paralympic Games to take up a new post in New Zealand as head of St John's Ambulance Service. Peter has worked closely with the Forum for the last 9 years and we wish him success in his new post and thank him for his support for the Forum.

**Dr Joseph Healy**

**Patients Forum Chair**

