

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE –**

**NOVEMBER 4th** 2019

**Lynn Strother, Sister Josephine, Joseph Healy, Malcolm Alexander**

**Apologies: Dora Dixon-Fyle, Rashid Ali, Audrey Lucas, Angela Cross-Durrant.**

1. **Minutes of the October EC – Agreed correct.**
2. **November 11 meeting –**
3. **Will be AGM** and focus achievements and plans for 2020. Agreed to use table format (5 or 6) from 6pm and ask members to discuss specific areas of service development that the Forum can seek to achieve. EC members will facilitate each table – Lynn, Joseph, Sister J and MA. Ask other EC members to participate as table leads. Notes will be taken by EC leads (post-its). Ensure copies of Annual Report are available at the meeting and by email as well as the Forum publicity leaflet. Subject might be for example: should the Mayor run the LAS?
4. **There will be no formal elections until 2020**, but Joseph Healy as president will confirm that EC members wish to remain as EC members and other will be invited to contribute and decide when the election should be held.
5. **February Meeting – Southwark Town Hall**

* Ambulance queuing
* Performance
* Care Pathways
* 4-hour target

1. **Working with the LAS**

LAS has a new policy to prevent the Forum communicating with staff and has established an email address for all questions that the Forum has for the LAS. This process obstructs the highly effective patient and public involvement established between the Forum and LAS over a number of years. Answers to questions submitted to the LAS are now of very poor quality and the Forum will therefore submit questions via the FOI process to ensure proper governance. Agreed that if necessary, the obstruction of our formerly excellent relationship with the LAS can be reported to the CQC, NHSI and CCG/STP commissioners. Agreed to invited Mark Spencer and Fergus Cass to a future Forum meeting – the are both Non-Executive Directors.

1. **CQC Well-Led Review**

Noted that the CQC report is now complete and has been sent to the LAS for accuracy checking. CQC will notify the Forum when the report goes public – probably on November 20th 2019. Agreed to invite the CQC to the Forums December meeting – although as a result of the election this meeting may have to be moved to December 17th. The Forum will offer support to the LAS if weaknesses are found by the CQC in their Well Ledstatus.

1. **Problems with the FOI System**

The Forum has been very concerned that the LAS FOI system does not produce 3-day acknowledgements and produces answers to questions in excess of 20 working days. The matter has been raised with Garrett Emmerson as a formal complaint, but he failed to reply. The ICO advised that there is no legal duty to acknowledge FOIs, but their good practice guidelines advised that this is good practice. The LAS complaints department refused to accept a complaint on this issue, because they claimed it was not within their remit. If the LAS do not respond it was agreed to raise this matter with the [Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman. MA is due to talk to ICO lead on November 7](https://www.ombudsman.org.uk/)[th](https://www.ombudsman.org.uk/)[.](https://www.ombudsman.org.uk/)

1. **Annual Report**

The report is now in the final draft stage and will be presented to the Forum meeting and sent out on Friday, November 8th to members and supporters. Two sections will be added on end of life care and defibrillator campaigns.

1. **Paul Woodrow, Director of Operations**

Noted that Paul is leaving at the end of November. In view of his outstanding contribution to the LAS he has been invited to attend the Forum meeting on November 11th to receive praise for his work with the LAS. The Forum has requested members of staff who know Paul to let the Forum have a few words about him.

1. **LAS AGM**

The Forum’s questions for the AGM have still not been answered in writing, despite numbers requests.

1. **Boots Defibrillators**

The Forum has written to a Director of Boots asking for a progress report on the installation of defibrillators in their stores. The letter was copied to several members of the House of Lords.

1. **Prison Meeting**

Forum has been invited to visit High Down Prison on November 15th. Jan Marriott, Lynn Strother and MA to meet Louise Roberts to discuss access to prison for ambulances. Thanks to Jan for arranging.

1. **EOC and 111 report Recommendations**

The EOC recommendations have been submitted to the LAS who are preparing their response. The 111 reports are being discussed with the 111 team and a meeting is due to take place shortly. Recommendations will be included in the Forum’s statement to the LAS Quality Account in January.

Issue press release in January to publicise the recommendations and

Joseph will publicise on Twitter. EOC recommendations to be publicised

immediately.

1. **Mental Health Place of Safety s135/136 Queues**

Waits outside Mental Health Act places of safety are sometimes extended to several hours and the Forum has given a pledge to challenge this situation.

FOIs have been sent out across the country as a trial to test the wording. The next step will be to send to all MH Trust with a Place of Safety three questions asking about the annual number of admissions and length of time spent waiting outside the place of safety for the patient. The person may wait in either a police car or an ambulance. Data attached.

Agreed to investigate Human Rights Act approaches, e.g. the right to a family life.

1. **Review of LAS Complaints - meeting Heather Lawrence**

Jan Marriott, Jos Bell, Elaina Arkeool and MA have examined a number of complaints to the LAS and will meet Heather on November 4th, 2019 to discuss outcomes and services improvements as a result of the audit and discussion.

1. **Ride Outs**

Noted that for the first time the LAS were preventing Forum ride-outs from taking place, thus preventing the LAS from monitoring the effective, quality and safety of LAS services. Agreed that members should ask their Healthwatch to assign them the role of E&V Champion for the LAS. MA has already done this. Plan for EC members:

Sister Josephine - Lewisham HW

Lynn – City HW

Jan – Richmond HW

Audrey – Enfield HW

Rashid – Kingston HW

Dora – Southwark HW

1. **CPR Certificates**

Sister Josephine described problems is accessing certificates following training following church services. She will discuss with Chris Hartley-Sharpe.

1. **Funding for Forum**

Lynn and Joseph agreed to investigate the possibility of getting grants from Awards for All to fund the activities of the Forum.

1. **Safeguarding Poster**

Noted that this poster was found to have an inappropriate image. MA has contacted Alan Taylor and Melissa Berry asking for poster to be removed. EC members wanted this matter to go public. MA agreed to negotiate with LAS first to seek removal of the poster. This has been agreed with Alan and Melissa.

1. **Meeting with the LGBT Forum at the LAS**

Joseph described very successful training meeting with the LGBT Forum on the issue of care for people who are trans. Joseph has been invited back by Jules and Alex and will report in more detail to the Patients’ Forum.

1. **Future meeting of the Forum**

**Book City Hall prior to election of Assembly. Also questions to the**

**Mayor re the LAS**

**December – CQC or Mark Belkin -Unison Branch (Education and**

**Training)**

**January 2020 - Trisha Bain - Quality Account**

**February – Emergency ambulances still queuing at A&E. Invited Royal**

**College of Emergency Medicine.**

[**Police MHA stats for 2018-19**](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales-year-ending-31-march-2019)**in England and Wales out last week, the first full year since the changes in the law came into force. Some key info on s136:**

* ·S136 use is up 12%
* Use of police stations down to 0.4% of detentions
* Method of transport unchanged

More detail:

* Use of **section 136 is** **up by 12 per cent** - 33,238 uses compared with 29,662 in the previous year.
* Demographics where known - 55% were detentions of males, 96% of cases were adults aged 18 or over and 85% were White.
* Place of safety where known – 81% health-based; 17% A&E, 0.5% police station (136 people), the latter down from 471 people in the previous year (a reduction of 71%).
* Under 18s - 1,438 detentions, a police station used 4 times (0.3%). Compared with 0.4% of those aged 18 years or over who were held in a police station
* Reason for using police station (where known) - 62% were arrested for a substantive offence, 16% were because conditions in Regulations were met, 22% were for another reason
* Method of transport (where known) – similar proportion to last year, ie 53% in police vehicle, 43% in ambulance
* Reason for using police vehicle (where known) – 40% ambulance not available in reasonable time, 35% risk assessment of behaviour, 22% ambulance not requested

**Section 135**

* This is the power that allows an officers to enter private premises so that a person can be assessed under the Act (they can take the person to a place of safety or the person can be assessed in their home). They need to have a warrant that a mental health professional has applied for. This is used much less than section 136, which applies in public places.

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Experimental statistics, based on 40 of the 43 police forces show:

o   2,643 detentions (of which about 40% in the Met)

o   Where known, 60% were detentions of males, 99% were 18 or over

o   Where known, 64% of detentions were of White people, 23% were of Black people, 9% were Asian, 4% were Chinese/Japanese/South East Asian, or of another ethnicity. (Clearly high BAME representation, don’t know that we can comment on it, but should look at it, Met area demographics likely to be a factor.)