

Overview and Scrutiny Committee			
Title	Emergency Services Review Update	Item No	4
Contributor	Overview and Scrutiny Manager		
Class	Part 1	Date	30 April 2013

1. Purpose of paper

To update the Committee on the progress of the Emergency Services Review and outline a proposed timescale for completion of the review.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- note the report
- agree to receive a draft report and all select Committee recommendations in the Autumn

3. Background

- 3.1 Significant changes are impacting on local public services affected by policy changes and financial constraints. This includes the three local emergency services: Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade and the London Ambulance Service; and also the provision of accident and emergency services across South-East London.
- 3.2 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) to produce a Police and Crime Plan that sets out a strategy for policing and crime reduction for London over four years. The plan identifies key goals for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and other criminal justice agencies, and sets out strategies around crime prevention, police resources and performance, and justice and resettlement.
- 3.3 The Mayor of London is required to consult Londoners about his proposals, so a consultation process was undertaken on the Draft Police and Crime Plan 2013-2016 between January and March 2013 to inform the development of the final plan. The proposals consulted on in relation to Lewisham specifically included closing two front counter access points (at Sydenham and Brockley Police stations) and reducing the opening hours of the front desk access from 24/7 to a reduced availability at two more police stations in the borough, Catford and Deptford.
- 3.4 The consultation included a public meeting in each London borough; in Lewisham a public consultation meeting took place in the Civic Suite on Monday the 28th of January. At the consultation meeting in the Civic Suite, Simon Byrne, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan police, advised that, in Lewisham, the proposals would mean an extra 54 police officers by 2015, than those in place in October 2011, and an increase of 109 more officers in Safer Neighbourhood teams over the same period.

- 3.5 Following the consultation process the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) has published a final Police and Crime Plan for London for 2013-2016¹. When publishing the plan, MOPAC also published updated public access and deployment maps for the estate of each of the London boroughs: a copy is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.6 On the 11th January 2013 the Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade published proposals for the Draft Fifth London Safety Plan². The plan detailed proposals to make savings worth £28.8m over the next two years. The plans included closing 12 fire stations, seven fire stations that currently have two fire engines moving to one fire engine, and four stations gaining a fire engine. Two of the stations proposed for closure are in Lewisham: New Cross and Downham. The Commissioner stated that if implemented, the Brigade would maintain its existing average target response time of getting its first fire engine to an emergency within six minutes and the second fire engine, if needed, within eight minutes.
- 3.7 After a delay in formal agreement to its commencement³, consultation on the proposals within the plan began on the 4th of March 2013 and will close on the 17th of June 2013. As part of the consultation process a public meeting has been arranged for the residents of Lewisham. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, 22 May 7-9pm at Sydenham School, Dartmouth Road, SE26 4RD. Information about the London Fire Brigade in Lewisham is attached at Appendix B
- 3.8 The London Ambulance Service (LAS) is a NHS Trust which provides service across London. It currently employs 4500-5000 people based at 70 ambulance stations and support offices across London. The Accident and Emergency service provided by the London Ambulance Service is divided into three operational areas, West, East and South. Lewisham is covered by the South operational area. Currently there are 28 ambulance stations in the South area, three of which are in Lewisham.
- 3.9 The Health and Social Care Act abolishes NHS Trusts that are not Foundation Trusts, so from April 2013, the NHS Trust Development Authority (NHS TDA) will provide governance and accountability for NHS Trusts in England that are not yet Foundation Trusts, and will support them in the appropriate delivery of the foundation trust status. The London Ambulance Service and Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust are two of the 22 NHS Trusts in London who are currently working towards foundation trust status. It is anticipated that the NHS TDA will help each NHS Trust secure sustainable, high quality services for the patients and communities they serve.
- 3.10 On the 25th of January 2013, The London Ambulance Service issued a statement, jointly with the lead commissioner of the service, at that time NHS North West London on behalf of all London PCTs, advising:
- "The London Ambulance Service is facing increasing levels of demand, with ambulance crews responding to 14 per cent more patients with life-threatening illnesses and injuries this year. Although a rise in demand was planned for, the increase is 3.2 per cent more than expected."

¹ Police and Crime Plan for London 2013-2016

<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Police%26CrimePlan%20UPLOAD.pdf>

² London Fire Brigade Draft fifth London Safety Plan

<http://www.london.gov.uk/LFEPA/mgAi.aspx?ID=1016#mgDocuments>

³ http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/LatestNewsReleases_Sayonfirebrigadeproposals.asp#.UWvWh6JO92A

- “Despite this, the service is providing good levels of care to these patients, and is currently exceeding the national target of reaching 75 per cent of patients in life-threatening conditions in eight minutes.”
- “We have been working together to establish what capacity the Service needs to meet future increases in demand and maintain patient care. It is clear that the Service must work differently and more efficiently to make best use of the funding it receives; however, it has also been identified that more investment is needed to increase staffing levels.”
- “We are currently considering what changes and investment are required for the next financial year to ensure more staff are available to respond to patients who need an emergency ambulance.”

- 3.11 Lewisham Council has issued an application for a judicial review of the decisions, of the Secretary of State for Health and the Trust Special Administrator, to downgrade the Maternity and Accident & Emergency services at Lewisham Hospital. The Council is asking the court to review the recommendations of the Trust Special Administrator (TSA) affecting Lewisham hospital and the subsequent decision to accept those recommendations by the Secretary of State for Health.
- 3.12 In setting out its grounds for review the Council states: “Both decisions are ultra vires. The TSA (trust special administrator) was appointed to South London Healthcare Trust only. He was not appointed to Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust. The Unsustainable Provider Regime (UPR) confers powers on a TSA and on the Secretary of State respectively to make recommendations, and to take action, about the NHS Trust to which the TSA has been appointed. But they are limited to that NHS Trust. The UPR confers no powers either on the TSA to make recommendations or on the Secretary of State to take action, about an NHS Trust, such as Lewisham Healthcare, to which a TSA has not been appointed.”
- 3.13 The Council has asked the court to expedite the matter so that it is heard as soon as possible, and has also secured an undertaking that no service changes affecting Lewisham hospital as a result of the Secretary of State’s decision will be implemented before the matter has been dealt with by the court. The case is due to be heard over a three day hearing between late May and mid July.

4. Progress of the Review to date

- 4.1 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 11 February 2013, the Committee agreed that a review of Emergency Services in Lewisham be carried out in 2013/2014. The key focus of the review was agreed as:
- Clarifying the key policy initiatives and financial constraints impacting locally
 - Identifying the local implications for services
 - Considering the potential impact of any service changes

- 4.2 The Committee agreed that each select committee would consider the following relevant areas of the review:

Safer Stronger - Police and Fire Services

- To clarify the policy initiatives and financial circumstances impacting on the Metropolitan Police Service and the London Fire Brigade
- Identify the related impact on services and performance locally
- Consider the potential impact of any service changes

Healthier Communities Select Committee – Ambulance Service and A&E

- To clarify the policy initiatives and financial circumstances impacting on the London Ambulance Service and A&E provision in Lewisham
- Identify the related impact on services and performance locally
- Consider the potential impact of any service changes

Sustainable Development Select Committee – All services: Estate and Asset implications

- Consider the potential impact of any service changes as they impact on estate and assets

Housing Select Committee – Landlord and Tenant specific implications

- Identify the related impact on services and performance locally, particularly in relation to tenants and housing providers (Lift call outs, fire safety checking responsibilities etc)
- Consider the potential impact of any service changes specifically in relation to tenants and housing providers

Public Accounts Select Committee – Financial Implications

- Consider the potential financial impact, of any service changes, and how they may impact financially on the Council and its partners

- 4.3 Following the Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 12 February 2013, each select committee was informed of the decision to undertake the review and offered a scoping report to facilitate a discussion as to how they might most appropriately contribute to the review as part of their work programme planning for 2013/14.
- 4.4 At its meeting on the 5th of March, after a discussion about a potential focus on preventative work undertaken by the Police and Fire Services with children and young people, CYP Select Committee decided that it did not wish to receive a scoping report or add any specific item to its work programme as part of the review at this time.
- 4.5 Housing Select Committee considered a scoping report on 3 April 2013 and decided to consider relevant information at its May meeting and, potentially, hold an evidence session at its June meeting.
- 4.6 Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee considered a scoping report on 10 April 2013 and agreed to hold two evidence sessions as part of the review, in May and July.
- 4.7 Healthier Communities Select Committee considered a scoping report on 16 April 2013 and agreed to hold two evidence sessions as part of the review, in May and July.
- 4.8 The Public Accounts Select Committee considered a scoping report on 17 April 2013. The Committee resolved that, as other Select Committees would be receiving financial information as part of their evidence sessions, consideration of the financial situation of the emergency service providers by the Public Accounts Select Committee would lead to duplication. Therefore the Committee decided not to add the Emergency Services Review to the work programme for 2013/14 at this time. However if as part of their evidence sessions, other Select Committees raise concerns that specific financial concerns require further scrutiny, the Public Accounts Select Committee agreed it will take up these concerns and consider these issues at a future point.

4.9 Sustainable Development Select Committee is due to consider a scoping report at its meeting on the 1st of May.

5. Completion of the review

5.1 As the work is currently scheduled by the Select Committees, all agreed evidence sessions will be completed by the end of July 2013. Select Committees may choose to consider the evidence they have taken, and agree any recommendations they may wish to make, at their next round of meetings in September.

5.2 It is suggested therefore that the earliest point a draft report could be completed incorporating all of the evidence taken as part of the review would be late September, with consideration and agreement of the draft report and all recommendations agreed to date, potentially taking place at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2013.

6. Further implications

At this stage there are no specific financial, legal, environmental or equalities implications to consider. However, each will be addressed as part of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A Local Police Estate and Public Access: Lewisham Borough

Appendix B London Fire Brigade in your Borough: Lewisham 2012-13 and LFB Statistics pack for Lewisham

Appendix C Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust update for HCSC 16.04.13