

Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Title	Emergency services update	
Contributor	Overview and Scrutiny Manager	Item 3
Class	Part 1 (open)	24 January 2017

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide members with an overview of current matters of relevance for each of the emergency services in Lewisham, and the opportunity to ask questions of the local representatives of each service. The following officers will be present at the meeting:

- Keeley Smith, the Borough Commander for Lewisham - London Fire Brigade
- Kate Halpin, the Borough Commander – London Metropolitan Police Service
- Graham Norton, Assistant Director of Operations (South East) and Philip Powell, Stakeholder Engagement Manager- London Ambulance Service

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- note the report & presentations of the organisations in attendance
- agree any response it would like to submit (to MOPAC1 and/or the London Fire Brigade) in response to the current consultations being undertaken. A response to MOPAC can be submitted separately or collectively with the Safer Lewisham Partnerships response.

3. Policy context

3.1 The Council's overarching vision is "Together we will make Lewisham the best place in London to live, work and learn". Scrutinising the emergency service provision within Lewisham centres on the Sustainable Community Strategy's strategic priorities - 'Safer', and 'Healthy, Active and Enjoyable'. It also links to Council priorities 'Safety, security and a visible presence', and 'Caring for adults and older people'.

4. London Fire Brigade

4.1 The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority's fire safety plan is the Integrated Risk Management Plan for London. It sets out how the London Fire Brigade will manage its resources and focus its work to keep London safe.

4.2 The London Fire Brigade (LFB) is consulting on its sixth London safety plan until the end of January 2017.

¹ MOPAC – The Mayor's office for Policing and Crime

Fifth London safety plan (2013-16)

- 4.3 The (then) Mayor of London tasked the LFB with saving £29m from its budget (approx. £380m p.a.) over the course of the plan. It proposed to do this through:
- The closure of 10 fire stations
 - Reducing the number of fire engines by 14
 - Redeploying five fire engines to different fire stations
 - Reducing the number of fire rescue units (specialist vehicles) from 16 to 14
 - Reducing minimum crewing levels on fire rescue units from 5 firefighters to 4
 - Reducing the number of firefighter posts by 552 (approximately 10%)
 - Introducing alternate crewing arrangements at some stations
 - Reducing the number of station and group managers to a total of 256, and then ultimately a further reduction to 200.
- 4.4 In September 2013 London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority voted to approve the final version of the Plan. The reductions in fire stations and fire appliances went ahead in January 2014.

Proposals in the sixth London safety plan (2017-20)

- 4.5 The sixth London safety plan proposes no further reduction in the number of firefighters and a commitment to the existing response times.
- 4.6 For Lewisham, it also proposes the replacement of the fire engine at Forest Hill.
- 4.7 Other proposals within the Plan:
- Working with other 'blue light' services:
The Brigade intends to review current arrangements with a vision for a shared 'One London' call handling despatch and command and control function.
 - Working with the community:
The Brigade wants to build on its preventative work in the community. Part of its approach might include opening some fire stations for community use (as polling stations, blood donation centres or for health and fitness classes). Staffordshire fire service produced a report (2013) on the benefits of opening facilities to the community, which provides a rationale for the approach: [Engagement through Staffordshire's community fire stations](#).
- 4.8 The draft plan can be found at the following link:
http://www.londonfire.gov.uk/Documents/draft_lsp_2017.pdf
- 4.9 Borough Commander Keely Smith will be present at the meeting to give an overview of current performance and any issues within Lewisham.

5. Metropolitan Police

5.1 The London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) have launched their consultation on the Police and Crime Plan 2017- 2021, which is a statutory requirement. The consultation runs for 12 weeks - from 1st December 2016 to 23rd February 2017.

5.2 The Mayor of London has noted the following:

- He is committed to ending the '**postcode lottery**' in public safety. This means that some people and places are more vulnerable to, and fearful of crime than others - so we will be focused on tackling particular, local problems, while making sure that all Londoners receive a high standard of service.
- As well as ensuring there are clear standards of service the public can expect from the police and the criminal justice service, the Mayor has identified three new London-wide commitments:
 - keeping children and young people safe
 - tackling violence against women and girls
 - and standing together against extremism, hatred and intolerance

5.3 The draft Policing and Crime strategy includes measures to tackle these issues, as well as plans to crack down on knife crime and improve victims' services. It is proposed that every ward will have a minimum of 2 Dedicated Ward Officers (DWO) and one PCSO who are "ring fenced" from abstraction.

5.4 The draft plan can be accessed here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/mopac-consultations/your-views-policing-and-crime#anchor>

5.5 Borough Commander Kate Halpin will be present at the meeting to give an overview of current performance and any issues within Lewisham.

6. London Ambulance Service

6.1 Between January and November 2016, 62% of ambulance responses to category A incidents in Lewisham were within the target time of eight minutes. This is eight percentage points below the target of 70%, and ten percentage points below the best performing area in south-east London – Lambeth (72.7%).

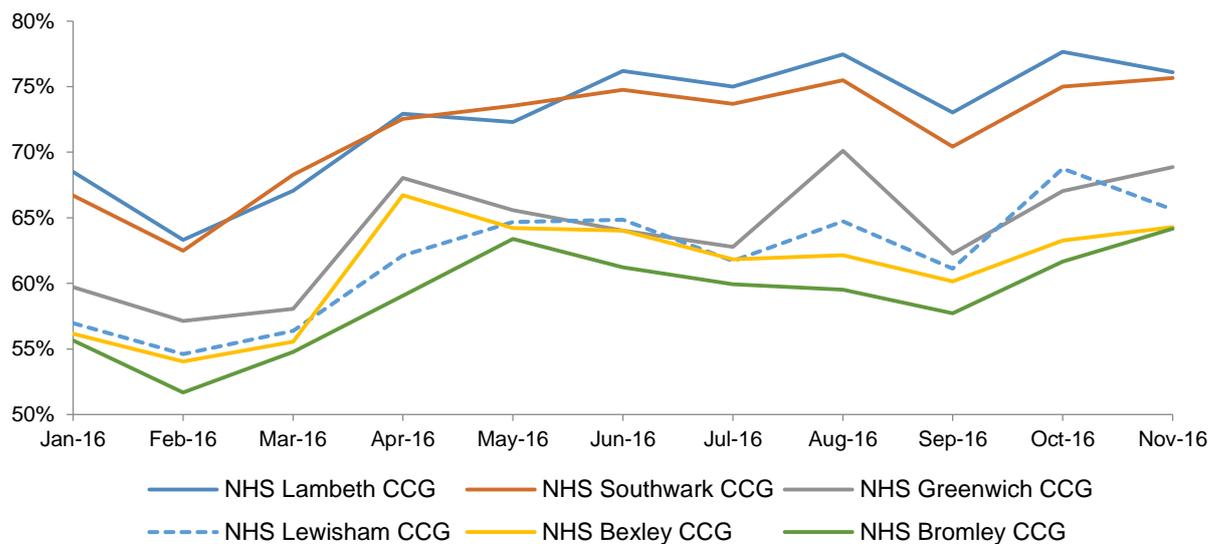
Category A (immediately life-threatening) response times: target 70% within eight minutes

	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Average
NHS Lambeth CCG	68.5%	63.3%	67.1%	72.9%	72.3%	76.2%	75.0%	77.5%	73.0%	77.7%	76.1%	72.7%
NHS Southwark CCG	66.7%	62.5%	68.3%	72.5%	73.6%	74.8%	73.7%	75.5%	70.4%	75.0%	75.7%	71.7%
NHS Greenwich CCG	59.7%	57.1%	58.1%	68.0%	65.6%	64.0%	62.8%	70.1%	62.3%	67.0%	68.9%	64.0%
NHS Lewisham CCG	57.0%	54.6%	56.4%	62.1%	64.7%	64.8%	61.7%	64.7%	61.1%	68.8%	65.6%	62.0%
NHS Bexley CCG	56.2%	54.0%	55.5%	66.7%	64.2%	64.0%	61.8%	62.1%	60.2%	63.3%	64.3%	61.1%
NHS Bromley CCG	55.7%	51.7%	54.8%	59.1%	63.4%	61.2%	59.9%	59.5%	57.7%	61.7%	64.2%	59.0%
LAS Total	61.1%	56.6%	58.2%	64.8%	65.3%	65.2%	65.2%	64.1%	68.0%	64.3%	67.4%	

Source: London Ambulance Service NHS Trust

- 6.2 As the table shows, like most other areas across London, response times in Lewisham have improved over the course of the year. In January 57% of ambulance responses to category A incidents were within eight minutes – by November this figure was 65.6%. The average across London for January was 61.1% – by November this was 67.4%.
- 6.3 As the chart below highlights, Lewisham also had the highest average in south-east London in October. However, in November, the gap between Lewisham and second-placed Southwark widened to nearly 10%.

% of ambulance responses with eight minutes, 2016



- 6.4 Across London, between January and November 2016, the highest proportion of ambulance response times within the target time was in Merton – 77.7%. This is over 15 percentage points higher than Lewisham. From January to November, the number of on-target response times in Merton increased by nearly eight percentage points. Over the same period, the number of on-target response times in Lewisham increased by nearly nine percentage points.

Category A (immediately life-threatening) response times: target 70% within eight minutes

	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Average
NHS Merton CCG	73.6%	69.7%	73.2%	78.0%	79.5%	77.9%	79.3%	82.2%	79.2%	80.5%	81.4%	77.7%
NHS Lewisham CCG	57.0%	54.6%	56.4%	62.1%	64.7%	64.8%	61.7%	64.7%	61.1%	68.8%	65.6%	62.0%
NHS Barnet CCG	50.6%	43.8%	48.0%	52.7%	54.1%	54.4%	50.7%	58.2%	55.8%	55.1%	53.5%	52.4%
LAS Total	61.1%	56.6%	58.2%	64.8%	65.3%	65.2%	65.2%	64.1%	68.0%	64.3%	67.4%	

Source: London Ambulance Service NHS Trust

- 6.5 Between January and November, Barnet remains the area with the lowest proportion of ambulance response times within the target time – with 52.4%. This is more than nine percentage points lower than Lewisham.

6.6 Graham Norton and Pete Powell from the London Ambulance Service will be present at the meeting to give an overview of current performance and any issues within Lewisham.

7. Current local performance

7.1 Lead officers from each emergency service locally will be in attendance at the meeting to provide an overview of current service within the borough and answer questions from members.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

9. Legal implications

9.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

For further information please contact Salena Mulhere 0208 314 3380