

AMBULANCE *Life*

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94 NEW VEHICLES TO HIT THE ROAD IN WALES

Fleet investment in Wales

The Welsh Ambulance Service will receive 94 new vehicles thanks to a £10.3m investment from the Welsh Government, Health and Social Services Minister Mark Drakeford announced this month.

The investment will allow the service to purchase:

35 new emergency ambu-

lances;

13 rapid response vehicles/emergency patient vehicles;

10 patient care services vehicles, capable of carrying stretchers;

32 patient care services vehicles, capable of carrying wheelchairs;

4 specialist vehicles.

The Welsh Ambu-

lance Service currently has 706 vehicles in its fleet, which cover an area of more than 8,000 square miles across Wales.

The Minister for Finance and Government Business Jane Hutt allocated £10m for the Welsh Ambulance Service as part of the Welsh Government's Final Budget for 2016-17.

Since 2011, the Welsh Government has invested almost £45m in new ambulance vehicles for the Welsh Ambulance Service.

Health and Social Services Minister, Mark Drakeford said: "The demand on the Welsh Ambulance Service is growing every year, which is why it's vital we invest in the latest vehicles so the service can deliver the best care for people in Wales.

"The £10.3m investment will enable the Welsh Ambulance Service to upgrade its existing fleet. This is on top of the £34.3m we have already invested in new vehicles since 2011.

"This will ensure the ambulance service is able to deploy the most appropriate clinician in the most appropriate vehicle, ensuring people receive the quickest response possible."

Richard Lee, the Welsh Ambulance Service's Interim Director of Operations added: "Our ambulances and response cars in Wales are some of the most modern and well equipped in the UK

and this funding will allow us to continue to replace our vehicles as they reach the end of their working life.

"Modern ambulances are essential in order that we can continue to provide the best treatment and patient experience possible. It is also key for our staff who spend the majority of their working day out and about in the community.

"We are very grateful to the Welsh Government for their continued support."



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Vol 16 Issue 4

APRIL 2016

New CFRs

North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (NWAS) has welcomed brand new recruits to its Community First Responder (CFR) teams in Cumbria that will assist in providing life-saving help to local residents.

All the new CFRs undertook the required first aid training course which was taught over two weekends in Keswick by Tony Lavelle, a NWAS Paramedic from East Lancashire, and everyone passed with flying colours.

They are now equipped with defibrillators, oxygen and

ston, Dalton, Lorton, Ambleside, Carlisle, Wigton, Morland and Gosforth.

NWAS has one of the largest and longest established Community First Responder schemes in the country, with over 1200 active CFRs shared between 134 teams throughout the region.



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Ambulance Life is published monthly and is free to all members of the UK's Ambulance Services. © Occucom Ltd 2016

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Top rates for Yorkshire

The survival rates for patients who suffer an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest are better in Yorkshire than anywhere else in England.

According to the latest figures, 106 Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust (YAS) patients whose heart stopped beating were resuscitated and discharged from hospital between January and September 2015, a 20% increase on the same period the previous year.

These figures have been steadily improving over the last few years thanks to a number of initiatives introduced by YAS to help achieve its vision of being a world leader in the management of patients in cardiac arrest.

And YAS can now boast the highest overall performance for patients in cardiac arrest who go on to survive being discharged from hospital (Utstein) compared to the other 10 English ambulance trusts. In 2014-15 YAS achieved a survival to discharge rate of 40.9% against a national average of 26.3%. For 2015-16 (the figures for which cur-

rently go as far as September 2015) YAS is again top with 41.3% (the national average is 28.2%). So in simple terms, YAS saves a greater proportion of the cardiac arrest patients that it attempts to resuscitate compared to anywhere else in England.

Dr Julian Mark, Executive Medical Director at YAS, praised the first-class efforts of ambulance clinicians and staff in the Emergency Operations Centre and appealed to the public to play a vital role in helping to improve the outcomes for cardiac arrest patients.

He said: "This is great news for the people of Yorkshire. As an ambulance trust, we are committed to becoming a world leader in the management of patients in cardiac arrest. We have implemented numerous initiatives to help us achieve this and will continue to look at new and innovative ways of working for the benefit of our patients."

"However, in order to further improve the chances of people who suffer a cardiac arrest, we need a commitment from the public to learn cardio-pulmonary

resuscitation (CPR) so bystanders can perform this life-saving procedure prior to our arrival."

YAS has introduced the following initiatives to help improve the care it provides to patients in cardiac arrest:

- Enhanced training for staff who take 999 calls so they can rapidly recognise a patient in cardiac arrest and give effective CPR instructions over the phone if necessary.
- Introduction of Red Arrest Teams across Yorkshire, made up of Clinical Supervisors to provide leadership and extended clinical skills.
- Appropriate dispatch of at least 'three pairs of hands', plus a Red Arrest Team Leader, to each patient in cardiac arrest.
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) training for all Clinical Supervisors.
- Introduction of AutoPulse which is an automated, portable, battery-powered CPR device as several studies have shown that automated CPR machines are more effective at providing circulatory support than manual CPR in a moving ambulance.

Dr Julian Mark added: "Long gone are the days when the ambulance service was purely a logistic serv-

ice to transport a patient to hospital. We are now an advanced life-support service which brings critical care to the patient."

YAS is also focusing on community-based initiatives including:

- providing award-winning CPR training to secondary schoolchildren on Restart a Heart Day (YAS trained 31,000 youngsters at 146 schools on two days in 2014 and 2015). This year's event will be held on Tuesday 18 October.
- establishing drop-in CPR training centres across the county as part of their commitment to provide CPR training to one million people in Yorkshire by 2020.
- having over 1,040 volunteers who belong to Community First Responder Schemes and are trained to provide life-saving treatment to residents in their area in the vital first minutes of an emergency until their ambulance clinicians arrive.
- utilising the resources and skills of other emergency service staff (ie police and fire service) who are trained and equipped to respond rapidly to cardiac arrest patients, particularly in remote and rural areas.
- encouraging the installation of life-saving community public access defibrillators.

Fleet success

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb) is celebrating success after winning in three categories at the Fleet News Awards.

Nominated in six categories, the Trust came out top in three categories - Fleet of the Year (251 to 1000 vehicles), Green Fleet of the Year and Fleet Manager of the Year where SECAmb's Justin Wand scooped the top award. It was also Highly

Commended in the Safe Fleet and Most Improved Fleet categories.

About 1,500 attended the ceremony in which the SECAmb fleet team, which has been on a modernisation programme in recent years, was directly competing, not with other blue light services, but with commercial organisations.

It is the third fleet awards event the Trust has been short-listed for in the last six months. Last year SECAmb won at the

Commercial Fleet Awards the Blue Light & Public Sector Fleet of the Year and was also Highly Commended at the Green Fleet Awards in a competition with 600 other applicants.

SECAmb's Head of Fleet and Logistics Justin Wand said: "This recognition is a great achievement for the Trust and demonstrates the hard work the team has put in in recent years. The Fleet team plays a crucial role in ensuring the service is able to respond reliably and sustainably to our patients. I am immensely proud of all the team whose hard work is delivered day in day out and which contributes di-

rectly to patient care. I would also like to add that my personal recognition is only possible because of my own team and wider Trust support."



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These Emergency Services Are Driving Forward

Road Safety - Are You?

By Megan Stealey from How's My Driving?

Following an article published last year in *Ambulance Life* featuring a challenge to see if any of the emergency services would have the confidence to ask the public "How's My Driving?" we can confirm that two private ambulance services joined the sticker scheme operated by social enterprise company, How's My Driving?

This is all the more significant because the Ambulance Emergency Services are just

one of the organisations who are constantly in the public spotlight, often being criticised for long response times, whilst simultaneously being condemned for driving too fast. How's My Driving? Has an innovative management system that offers real-time incident reporting, allowing members to respond quickly and efficiently to target additional continual professional development requirements for their drivers.

Ambulance Scotland decided to join the sticker scheme



Ambulance Scotland decided to join the sticker scheme back in October 2015

back in October 2015 and their Director, Robert Wilson had this to say: "We feel that our staff are trained to be some of the most skilled drivers on the road and are seen as ambassadors for our company. Being part of the scheme highlights to the public that we are prepared to monitor and address any issues that may arise." As the largest private ambulance service in Scotland, Ambulance Scot-

land manage a fleet of twenty-three state of the art rapid response vehicles, covering all types of public and private events, as well as delivering tailored health and safety and specialist first aid training.

Also keen to improve their management of occupational road risk, the All Wales Ambulance Services Ltd introduced the How's My Driving? safety sticker scheme to their fleet of seventeen rapid response vehicles. In an interview, the Director Dean Llewellyn said "Occupational driving is one of the most significant risks to our business and we feel that How's My Driving? along with other occupational driving control measures, will set a benchmark for safety standards in the private ambulance sector. Since the introduction of the scheme in January, we have already seen a significant improvement in the driving culture at the

company." The All Wales Ambulance Services Ltd are an established company with over 20 years' operational experience of providing the highest levels of medical service whilst supporting the NHS Trust. Their widely celebrated first aid training service is offered throughout Wales and the UK, providing Ofqual courses to thousands of individuals and companies.

Ambulance Scotland and All Wales Ambulance Services Ltd join over 20,000 other commercial vehicles displaying the distinct black and yellow sticker, which not only represents a safe driving code, it also demonstrates to the public that the company cares about their drivers and wider community. Ian McKay, Managing Director commented "Here at How's My Driving? we commend and applaud both emergency



service operators, who provide some of the very best drivers in the country, in their decision to join us and in doing so raise awareness of the importance of safe driving as well as reinforcing the belief that the How's My Driving? sticker is the 'ultimate driver's badge'."

The response from both leading private Ambulance Services evidences that the How's My Driving? scheme offers an accurate, cost-effective solution to support the management of occupational road risk. Will you be the next Ambulance Service to confidently ask... "How's My Driving?"



All Wales Ambulance Services Ltd introduced the How's My Driving? safety sticker scheme to their fleet of seventeen rapid response vehicles.

Resource Centre completed

Construction of Wrexham's brand new Ambulance and Fire Services Resource Centre (AFSRC) has been completed.

The Welsh Ambulance Service and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service have jointly invested more than

£15 million in the purpose-built facility, which includes an eight-bay fire station, a six-bay ambulance station and top-of-the-range training facilities.

The centre on Croesnewydd Road will replace the existing fire station on Bradley Road in

Wrexham, and the existing ambulance stations in Chirk and Wrexham.

Staff will begin to operate out of the AFSRC in April once kit and furniture has been moved in.

Sonia Thompson, the Welsh Ambulance Service's Head of Operations in North Wales, said: "This project has been years in the pipeline, so we're thrilled that the building is now complete.

"The AFSRC means crews finally get the facilities they deserve and ultimately it will mean a better service for

the people of Wrexham and Chirk.

"There's also the bonus of being co-located with emergency service colleagues with whom we already have a close working relationship and attend many incidents together."

Gary Brandrick, Senior Professional and Service Standards Manager for North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, added: "We're delighted that this exciting facility has been completed - the AFSRC will deliver both improved facilities

for our staff and a better service for the public in the area."

The ambulance accommodation incorporates a fleet workshop, make ready facility, a six bay garage, offices for fleet staff and management, debrief room and a deployment base for response staff.

Crews will start their shift at the AFSRC then will move to strategically located deployment points across Wrexham and Chirk, where the Trust data predicts the next 999 call will come from.

Newly-recruited fleet assis-

ants will clean vehicles after use, enabling clinicians to spend more time face-to-face with patients delivering better care for the area.

The fire accommodation includes a local community safety office, an eight bay garage, gymnasium, state-of-the-art training house and drill tower with a road traffic collision training area.

Facilities like the rest room, dining room, communal kitchen, main office, locker room, meeting and training rooms will be shared by both services.

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Life-saving trio

Three volunteers have been recognised for their long-running commitment to saving lives in Norfolk.

Pete Davis, Rachel Hillier and Kevin Webster have a combined total of almost 30 years' service as community first responders (CFR).

The life-saving trio were presented with chief officer commendations by East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) Locality Director Matt Broad at a volunteer engagement event in March.

Pete started volunteering in 2004 in North Pickenham, near Swaffham. But after attending almost 1,200 emergencies, he had to stop last year as a result of ill health.

The retired milkman said: "I'm proud to have served the community after answering an advert in a

newsletter. I have met some great friends over the years."

Kevin co-ordinates the Wroxham and Hoveton CFR group that aims to provide cover 24/7. The group has attended more than 4,000 calls, including 100 cardiac arrests since 2007.

Rachel is co-ordinator of the Diss group, which was formed in 2009, and is also a volunteer administration assistant at Diss ambulance station.

Community first responders are trained to perform basic life support and attend 999 calls such as cardiac arrests, where every second is vital when a patient is not breathing and does not have a pulse. They also attend diabetes emergencies and people who are choking, having a seizure or suffering from breathing problems and chest pain.



Kevin Webster receives his award



Rachel Hillier receives her award



Pete Davis receives his award

Lifesaving challenge

Two trainee Emergency Care Technicians from North East Ambulance Service are raising money for a charity close to their hearts by doing a zip wire from the Tyne Bridge in Newcastle.

Luke Hopper and Stacey Fox will be taking to the air on Sunday, 17 April, to raise money for North East Hearts with Goals, which places life-saving defibrillators into communities across the region.

Luke and Stacey work with emergency care colleagues from Pallion Station and Ryhope Station in Sunderland, clocking up more than 24,000 miles every year to respond to hundreds of patients who need their help.

The pair are hoping to raise £777, the price of one defibrillator, through the challenge.

Stacey, aged 28, of South Shields, has worked for the service for three years, having

previously worked as a care worker.

"My dad has an extensive cardiac history, having had seven heart attacks and a cardiac arrest. Because of my dad, everywhere I go, I want there to be one available."

"On top of this, my work out on the road gives me first-hand experience of how important it can be for patients to have a defibrillator on scene."

"If we can raise enough money to put even one defibrillator more in our region, we could make a difference to someone's life."

Luke, aged 23, of Fulwell, has worked for the service for seven years in total, four years of which he spent in Control, dispatching ambulances before going on the road as an Emergency Care Assistant and progressing onto the Emergency Care Technician course.

North East Ambulance

Service already works closely with North East Hearts with Goals, supporting them in the placement of around 150 defibrillators since 2003.

The charity was started by sisters-in-law Kelly Best and Christine Stephenson following the death of Kelly's husband and Christine's brother, Neil, and the subsequent discovery that Kelly's son Will has a hereditary heart muscle disease.

Christine said: "We've encouraged them to aim high and place a defibrillator somewhere of their choice in NEAS name."

"We have just over 80 people taking part in the zipwire and we're confident that we can make a big difference in the North East with this push."

• To support Luke and Stacey in their fundraising, please visit:
<http://www.goldengiving.co.uk/fundraising/staceyandlukezipwire>

Royal invitation

A life-saver has spoken of her delight after receiving a Royal Garden Party invitation in recognition of more than 10 years volunteer work.

Linda Darby, 49, became a community first responder in 2005 and has been co-ordinator of the Stalham and Smallburgh Community First Responder (CFR) group in Norfolk for the last seven years.

Linda, who received a 10 years' volunteer service

award from the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) last year, will attend the Royal event in May. Her partner Mervyn Hardingham has also volunteered for the group for more than 10 years.

She said: "I used to belong to St John Ambulance and I saw a sign about CFRs in 2005 and it started from there. I've lost count the number of hours I have volunteered! The best bit is helping people in the community where you live. There are people living today be-



EEAST CFR Linda Darby received Royal Garden Party invitation

cause of what we have done for them."

"I was a bit apprehensive when I got the garden party invitation, but I'm looking forward to it. It is a once in a lifetime thing to go to."

John and Louise are Masters

Two members of West Midlands Ambulance Service staff are celebrating the completion of a specialist course at the university where their Chief Executive is a Pro-Chancellor.

Hazardous Area Response Team Support Manager John Woodhall and Director of Services Lead Louise Brierley spent three years of their

spare time studying at the University of Wolverhampton for their Masters in Emergency Planning Resilience and Response.

The course which covers areas such as business continuity and disaster management and recovery was also attended by staff members from other ambulance services, fire services and NHS England.

John said: "We did it to in-



John and Louise are pictured with Chief Executive Anthony Marsh who is also a Pro-Chancellor of the University.

Picture credit: West Midlands Ambulance Service

crease our knowledge of resilience and command and control within the emergency service and the wider NHS. It will improve our strategic overview and general knowledge of emergency planning across all services and interoperability with other agencies."

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BASICS North East



BASICS team launch with support from NEAS Medical Director Kyee Han (far right) to left - Nurse Tony Kyle, consultant Rob Anderson, Chair of BASICS Andy Thomas and junior doctor Dora Perkin



BASICS team and NEAS consultant paramedic launch joint working

A North East charity through which doctors volunteer to work more closely with North East Ambulance Service has re-launched after being dormant for six years.

In the run up to Easter, one of the busiest weekends of the year for North East Ambulance Service, regional charity BASICS Ambulance North East (BANE) deployed volunteer doctors who teamed up with ambulance paramedics to help poorly patients ringing 999.

Formed in 1997, the charity is one of many schemes around the county associated with the British Association for Immediate Care, which provides skilled medical help at the site of an accident, medical emergency, or in transit. Immediate Care Schemes draw on a wide variety of different individuals and groups who have organised themselves to provide immediate medical care.

Instrumental in reforming BANE to improve response to cardiac arrests, trauma and admission prevention work, the new chair of the charity, Andy Thomas, works as a senior paramedic at North East Ambulance Service, having left the RAF after 18 years of service in the UK and overseas.

He said: "This scheme provides development opportunities for junior doctors, nurses and paramedics, as well as give patients better outcomes. However, to enable us to continue with our registered charity status, we need to raise the profile of what we do to raise funds that will help us to sustain it."

With over 70 doctors volunteering as part of the scheme, BASICS Ambulance North East will support North East Ambulance Service by providing both pre-hospital emergency care and medicine for patients suffering cardiac arrest, trauma, and severe medical emergencies.

Consultant paramedic at North East Ambulance Service, Paul Aitken-Fell, said: "Having the right skills at the scene of an emergency can make all the difference to patients. In some situations it might save

their life and in others it might mean that they can be treated at home and avoid having to go to hospital.

North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS) covers 3,200

square miles across the North East region, serving a population of 2.7 million by answering over a million emergency 999 and NHS 111 calls every year, responding to 300,000 incidents that result in a patient being taken to hospital, treating and discharging thousands of patients with telephone advice or at home and reaching over 130,000 incidents within the national target of 8 minutes.

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Dramatic home birth

A Norfolk mum has been reunited with the ambulance staff who delivered her daughter during a dramatic home birth.

Hannah Olive-Jones and her husband Si, from Norwich, had planned their first child to be born in hospital. However, baby Jupiter had other ideas and arrived into the world three and a half hours after her mum went into labour.

Paramedic Kevin Rudd and Emergency Medical Technician James Tuddenham had to act quickly when they were called to Waterloo Road in the early hours of 17th July.

Within minutes of getting Hannah out of the bath, Jupiter was delivered on an

ambulance stretcher in the kitchen at 3.37am.

The family, who have since moved to Brightwell Road, Norwich, met and thanked the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) staff on 9th March.

Hannah, who lost five litres of blood and spent five days in hospital following the birth, said: "Jupiter was two days overdue. I knew contractions did not happen that quickly and my first two contractions were only a couple of minutes apart. She was very eager to make her entrance into the world. She did not cry, she just made a noise and fell asleep on my chest."

"I can't thank Kevin and James enough. I felt a huge sense of relief when they



Kevin and James are reunited with baby Jupiter

turned up and I knew it was going to be okay. They were so nice and made me laugh and put me at ease. I was glad that they were there to catch her."

Kevin, who has worked for the ambulance service for 30 years, said: "We were half prepared with gas and air and the maternity pack and when we arrived we realised quite quickly that the baby was going to be born at home."

Jupiter was James' first baby delivery after four years working on the front-line. He added: "I remember giving Hannah gas and air and once we got her on the stretcher, the head was out. I was relieved that it was the head and not legs first. It is amazing and I feel honoured I was there."

Help from football greats

Coventry based Christ the King FC is celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year and has put the safety of players and visitors at its two facilities at the 'heart' of its thoughts.

The club, formed in 1946, has 29 junior teams ranging from under 6's to Under 18's, with over 400 players and 78 coaches which all use its two home grounds in Coventry. There are also three senior teams which use the facilities.

In collaboration with West Midlands Ambulance Service and the Coventry Schools Foundation, the club has purchased two lifesaving defibrillators to be situated at the grounds and always be available in the event of someone suffering a cardiac arrest.

Players and members held a celebratory evening on Saturday 4th March and were joined by two footballing greats who have 76 international caps and over 500 premier league appearances between them.



Christ King FC held a celebratory evening with some football legends

Liverpool FC legends Robbie Fowler and Jason McAteer talked about their life and experiences as professional footballers and also supported the official launch of the lifesaving equipment.

Christ the King FC Welfare Officer and Coach, Kieran Kennedy, said: "So far, in conjunction with West Midlands Ambulance Service, we have trained nearly 50 coaches, officials and volunteers in how to use the defibrillators and what to do should someone go into cardiac arrest."

"We are a community club with hundreds of players and

supporters using the facilities each week. We are fully committed to ensuring that should the worst happen, there will be someone trained to use the defib and give them the best chance of saving someone's life. It could literally be the difference between life and death."

West Midlands Ambulance Service Community Response Manager, Bobby Qayum, said: "With so many players and visitors each week using the facilities we are delighted to be able to get involved in this community club and help people to try and save lives."

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Praise for delivery team

Ambulance crews have been hailed as 'fantastic and professional' after delivering a baby following a sudden home birth.

On the 20th January, Natalie Pells was at her family home in Great Bentley, Essex when she unexpectedly went into labour. In a matter of hours, the events that unfolded were described by her sister Emma as 'all hell breaking loose'.

Emma was initially alerted by Natalie's four year old son, William, who very calmly and bravely called her and explained what was happening. Emma said: "William was absolutely fantastic; he called

me and said that his mummy needed help."

However after Emma's arrival it became apparent that her sister wasn't going to make it to hospital so called 999, and within six minutes paramedic Dawn Howlett and emergency care practitioner David Evans from the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) were on scene.

Unfortunately complications arose in labour and back-up was required, which arrived in the form of station supervisor Jan Boreham, paramedic Scott Dyer, and emergency medical technician Sue McCloud.

Speaking of the birth Jan

said: "When Natalie gave birth, her baby wasn't breathing so we had to act quickly."

Dawn added: "The atmosphere had changed and there was unusual tension which left us all sensing something wasn't quite right."

Fortunately, effective cardio pulmonary resuscitation from both Jan and a district midwife on scene was enough to get little Lucas breathing.

He was then conveyed to Colchester General Hospital before Natalie as she had lost a significant amount of blood after the birth and needed to go in a separate ambulance.

She was also taken to Colchester General Hospital and stayed there for three days with Lucas where both of them fortunately made full recoveries.

On Wednesday, 9th March, Natalie's family were able to meet crews under much happier circumstances and thank them for that day. Natalie said: "It has been great to meet the crews again and thank them, they do an amazing job and we are very grateful to them."

She added: "It was a surreal couple of days and was strange to comprehend what had happened but fortunately these guys were on hand to do such an amazing job."

Bursary scheme Wales

Welsh Ambulance Service staff looking to further their education can get help to pay course fees under a brand new scheme.

The Trust's new bursary scheme, which launched on Wednesday 9 March, invites staff

to apply for funding to help them on their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) journey.

The scheme has been designed for those seeking to undertake development outside of the programmes already provided by the Trust.

Claire Vaughan, the Trust's

Executive Director of Workforce and Organisational Development, said: "We pride ourselves on a workforce which is eager to learn, but recognise that the education that staff want is not always accessible or affordable."

"Providing support for the development of staff is not just an

investment in the individual, but an investment in the entire organisation, and we're delighted to be able launch this scheme."

The onus is on the member of staff to identify a programme of learning that they wish to partake in, but it must be appropriate to their job role and/or an identified

future job role.

Staff can apply for a bursary less than £500 or above £500.

The scheme isn't just for front-line clinicians - all staff are welcome to apply.

The scheme is being piloted for one year, and its impact will be evaluated in 2017.

Praised for saving mum



From top left: Matt Calderbank, Jonathan Jackson, Chief Executive of Wigan Athletic, Carl Finch, Nicola Finch, Lily Finch, Chris White and Andy Black

North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) has awarded a Junior Life-Saver Award to a young boy from Wigan who 'bravely' phoned for an ambulance when his Mother collapsed.

Harry Finch, who was four years old at the time, was commended by NWAS at Wigan Athletic Football Club before their recent home game. The Trust's match day crew, which included Matt Calderbank, Operations Manager for Wigan, NWAS paramedic Chris White and NWAS paramedic Andy Black, presented Harry with his Junior Lifesaver Award to thank him for his bravery. The crew used the event as an opportunity to highlight the importance of teaching children what to do in the event of an emergency.

On 10 January Nicola Rigby, Harry's Mother, collapsed as a result of a dizzy spell which led to her falling unconscious. When the incident occurred Harry was at home with his Mum and two year old sister. Harry phoned 999, giving the call taker all the details they needed to get an ambulance to out to his Mum and also made sure his sister was safe.

Commenting at the event the match day crew for NWAS said: "Harry showed great maturity when he phoned 999 - our call taker was very impressed. It is so vital that children are taught by their parents and at school on how to call for help in an emergency, and that they can tell our 999 call handlers their address."

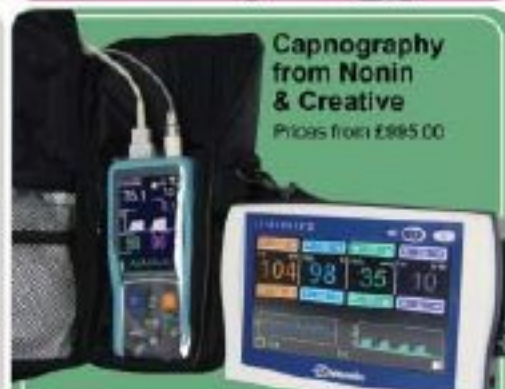
"It's fantastic that someone of his age acted so bravely in an emergency, especially when he knew to look after his sister when his Mum was unconscious. A big well done and thank you to Harry, he's a real hero and a credit to his family."

Nicola Rigby said, "Harry was such a star and so brave. While I was unconscious he looked after his sister and remained so calm - I'm really proud of him. It's great for him to receive the Junior Lifesaver Award from NWAS. I'm so happy we got the opportunity to let everyone know what Harry did."

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Bespoke medical bags by SP Services



Richard McManus - Jigsaw Medical Director of Clinical Services

Having established a long term relationship with Jigsaw Medical since their inception, SP Services were keen to discuss the idea of designing some new medical bags with them.

Extensive discussions between senior Jigsaw Medical clinicians and the SP Parabag development team regarding the content and design of the

bags resulted in a range of brand new, fully bespoke bags, made specifically for Jigsaw Medical for use on their NHS contracted ambulances and RRVs.

By streamlining the equipment to only the essential items needed to provide the very best in medical care, two existing SP bags were amalgamated into one, thereby reducing the weight and load required to carry the

bag by the ambulance crews. This made both the bag and Jigsaw staff more responsive in emergency situations.

Additionally, with Jigsaw experiencing a sustained period of unrivalled growth in the industry, the bags have also been designed to custom fit their brand new ambulances that have been recently added to the Jigsaw medical fleet. SP, Jigsaw and the vehicle builder have worked together to ensure that all the bags fit the new cupboard spaces thus making everything more efficient and safer.

Jigsaw Medical Director of Clinical Services, Richard McManus stated: "We are pleased to have worked so closely with a company as reputable as SP Services and we are really happy with the results. We have received nothing but positive feedback from the ambulance teams out around the country, and look forward to growing and developing our relationship with SP and Parabag in the future."

Pro Medicus finds the solution to conveying patients at slow speeds



Service Show in 2015 that a solution came to light. Whilst visiting the Premier Hazard stand and perusing their latest products one such product caught his eye. The M5 Matrix Display was the ideal size, brightness and design to be mounted on to the rear of an Ambulance and programmed to display messages such as 'Slow Moving Patient On Board Pass with care'. After two months of discussions, three signs were purchased and arrangements made to install them.

Stephen said: "Our latest vehicle was the first to receive the new display and is controlled via a remote control in the back of the vehicle. It can be programmed by a simple desktop application with messages transferred by MicroSD card when ready. It may have only been installed recently but has already been heavily used around the Luton area where it has been advising patience to pass the stationary vehicle whilst loading and unloading, to pass slowly whilst our vehicle is moving slowly and in one instance advising of an accident ahead and to slow down."

"We are proud to be the first service to implement such a feature on our vehicles, and believe that the increased levels of safety will have other services following suit."

The team at Pro Medicus Ltd were called to Patient A's property with the request to transfer him to a local private hospital. The partner had been concerned that their health had deteriorated drastically due to a terminal diagnosis made a few weeks prior.

On arrival it was readily noticeable the discomfort Patient A was in and the journey needed to be as smooth as possible, the only issue being the 20 odd speed bumps leading out of their street. Anybody that has travelled in the back of an Ambulance will understand how much a speed bump can affect you whether lying down or sitting up; it was decided that a slow and steady speed would be best and seeing that the patient wasn't immediately life threatening, no lights and sirens would be needed.

No more than two minutes in to the journey the team

experienced their first high speed, close encounter of the over-taking kind. The driver had been on the tail of the ambulance since the very outset and had been busy swerving back and forward whilst gesticulating madly for the ambulance to speed up. Eventually he saw his spot and shot past narrowly avoiding hitting the front of the ambulance the actions of which forced the ambulance to brake hard.

Despite all of this the patient was safely conveyed to hospital and the partner thanked the Pro Medicus team for the care provided. This particular incident stayed fresh in the mind of Stephen Burton, Director of Pro Medicus Ltd who decided it was about time that something must be done to make transporting non-emergency and emergency patients safely at low speeds.

Stephen researched a number of products and it was at the Emergency

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Legal high calls down



A crackdown on so-called 'legal highs' in Newcastle has led to a reduction in the number of emergency call-outs for North East Ambulance Service.

The service saw a massive spike in call-outs to patients who had become seriously unwell as a result of taking New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) - otherwise known as legal highs - at the start of this year.

A majority of the calls were for patients in the west end area of Newcastle and on each occasion callers have reported the patients having had a legal high.

Their symptoms ranged from seizures, unconsciousness, shortness of breath, vomiting, aggression, palpitations, agitation and foaming at the mouth.

An ambulance was sent to each incident to convey the patients to hospital. Many of the patients absconded or re-

fused treatment.

Since then, NEAS has worked with Northumbria Police and Newcastle City Council to educate the public about the dangers of using NPS.

This work has now led to a 63% reduction in the number of incidents. In February (2016) the North East Ambulance Service received 97 calls involving legal highs compared to the 263 they got in January. The police received 85 calls compared to the 176 in January.

Although positive that the numbers have fallen, and the message is getting across to some people, police in Newcastle say they are not being complacent and will continue to work with partners to keep on top of the issue.

Simon Swallow, Head of Resilience and Special Operations at North East Ambulance Service, said: "These so-called legal highs are not safe to use and carry a

serious health risk and are putting people's lives at risk.

"We raised our operational status to 'Severe Pressure' in December as result of growing demand on the service during winter and these call-outs are putting an additional burden on our service by pre-

venting us from being available to attend other life-threatening emergencies such as heart attacks and strokes.

"We are urging people NOT to take these so-called legal highs as they are putting their own lives in danger and also endangering the lives of oth-

ers because these calls are potentially delaying our response to someone else who is suffering a heart attack or other life-threatening condition."

Northumbria Police has issued CCTV footage which shows the effect legal highs can have.

New vehicles for St John

Le Mont Saint Garage in Guernsey has sponsored two vehicles which will be used by St John Community First Responders (CFR).

The Fiat 500 Abarth cars will be used by the volunteers in their daily life over the next 12 months and each vehicle will carry a defibrillator (AED) and other life-saving equip-

ment. The cars, which have been branded with CFR for maximum awareness, are small with good performance making them ideal for the island's roads.

The CFR scheme, which St John Guernsey set up in 2012, sees volunteers in the community make themselves available to be dispatched by the Joint Emergency Services

Control Centre (JESCC) to attend a potentially life-threatening emergency.

Deputy chief officer of St John Emergency Ambulance Service in Guernsey, Alison Marquis said; "Le Mont Saint Garage's donation is extremely generous and this practical support is invaluable to St John."

Sales director of Le Mont Saint Garage, Peter Beausire said; "As a local garage we saw this as a hugely worthwhile cause that will aid those in our community who need immediate medical help. We hope these vehicles help the St John volunteers provide lifesaving care and support."

In Guernsey last year 260 patients benefitted from CFR responses.



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Are you looking for a new challenge?

There are currently 65,000 children in local authority care across England and Wales and 75% live with foster carers. Patrick Clarke from select fostercare offers some insight into the facts behind the figures.

Patrick Clarke writes...

All children have a right to live and grow up in a safe, loving family environment. But some children and young people must live away from their birth families for various reasons, including health, bereave-

ment and inadequate care.

These children will come under the care of local authorities and are very different in terms of their individual experiences, ethnicity, religion and culture. There is no 'typical' child, but they all need

love, care, stability and support to thrive and experience good outcomes. Caring for these children is often challenging and demanding, requiring patience, energy, understanding and resilience. The make-up of these groups reflects the diversity in ethnicities and cultures we find in our society, with a fairly even mix of boys and girls across an age range from birth to 16 years and over.

Foster care provides a home for a child in need, but being a foster carer involves so much more. Fostering has many forms. Foster carers can provide care in emergencies, caring for a child for just a few days - or perhaps over a weekend to give the main foster carer a break, known as respite foster care - or it can be for longer periods, sometimes it's overnight or for a number of years, foster carers can provide the support, stability and care a fostered child needs. They play an important role in the team of professionals, including social workers, working with the child to make sure they get the care and support they need. From attending school and health



appointments to taking part in extracurricular activities, foster carers look after the children in their care on a day-to-day basis.

Fostering is different from adoption because the local authority in which the child lives remains responsible for them as their 'corporate parent'. In many cases, it is also important to maintain links with the child's birth family through regular contact meetings, which foster carers will help facilitate.

Placements are grouped to broadly identify the assessed needs of the children and the

local authority's plans for their care, including children who have:

- * *Been neglected and abused.*
- * *Become non-responsive to parental control.*
- * *Disabilities and are unable to live with their birth parents.*
- * *Been remanded into care by the Youth Court.*
- * *Parents needing guidance and support to develop good parenting skills.*

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SEC Amb celebrations

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SEC Amb) staff and volunteers celebrated long service and special achievements at the second of the Trust's annual awards ceremonies.

The ceremony, for the west of SEC Amb's region, was held on Thursday 10 March.

The event saw attendees recognised for long service and also receive Chief Executive Commendations across a range of categories including clinical excellence, patient care and for actions above and beyond the call of duty.

Volunteers were recognised for their long service with volunteer car drivers Shelia Strachan from Chichester and Jean Briant from Brighton picking up awards for 30 and 10 years' service respectively.

The Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux, attended as the Queen's representative to present Queen's Medals for 20 years' Long Service and Good Conduct to those in a frontline A&E role, while staff also picked up awards for 20, 30 and 40 years' NHS service.

Commendations included Emergency Care Support Worker Dave Wakeford from Tongham, Surrey, being recognised for going above and beyond the call of duty when he prevented a police officer from being seriously harmed when a patient attempted to stab him.

Meanwhile the team of Ambulance Technician Robin Page, Paramedic Andy Tyler, both from Burgess Hill and Critical Care Paramedic Paul Winsor, from Brighton, were honoured for their clinical excellence and crucial early interventions in saving the life of an Australian man who suffered a serious head injury on a night out in Brighton last year.

Trust Employee of the Year went to Paramedic and Clinical Operations Manager for Chertsey, Steve Haire. Steve, who received more nomina-

tions than anyone else, was recognised for his continual support to staff and his leadership and management style.

SEC Amb Team of the Year was awarded to all staff involved in responding to the devastating Shoreham Airshow tragedy while the Trust's soon to step down lead chaplain, Francis Pole, also picked up a special award for his 12-year dedication to the service.



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The cost of theft

Over the past five years, theft of vital medical equipment from London Ambulance Service cars and ambulances has cost over £85,000.

Thieves have stolen numerous items from vehicles including: medical gases, paramedic kit bags, drug packs, stab vests, defibrillators, radio handsets, satellite navigation units, personal bags, infection kits, mobile phones and uniforms.

In March a 44-year-old man pleaded guilty to stealing a mobile data terminal (MDT) from an ambulance attending to an elderly patient in Southall.

Jeeta Pankhania, of Homerton Road, was sentenced to four months in prison and ordered to pay £80 in costs at Isleworth Crown Court.

Director of Operations Paul Woodrow said: "We are working closely with the Metropolitan Police to ensure anyone who is caught stealing or vandalising will be prosecuted."

200 SAS paramedics

The Scottish Ambulance Service will invest £5 million this year to train an additional 200 Paramedics for frontline line care in Scotland.

The programme will include 50 Specialist Paramedics with enhanced clinical skills to allow them to work more autonomously with an extended range of medicines, offering more treatments in communities alongside GPs and other health professionals.

The initiative will also recruit and train more than 60 new staff for deployment in Ambulance Control Centres.

The new Paramedics will be trained from the current cohort of around 1,100 qualified Ambulance Technicians, supported by a recruitment drive to backfill those who are moving into the Paramedic roles with over 200 new Technicians.

The Higher Education Diploma in Paramedic Practice is a 12 month

course undertaken at the Scottish Ambulance Service Academy at Glasgow Caledonian University and includes 750 hours of practice placement as well as 5 weeks placement in hospital.

New Ambulance Technicians undertake an initial nine weeks of clinical and driver training, followed by 12 months of operational mentored practice placement before completing a further six weeks of classroom based clinical study to become fully qualified. Once

qualified as an Ambulance Technician, they can then continue their clinical skills development further by applying to train as a Paramedic.

The recruitment and training initiative is in line with the Service's strategy to continue to improve outcomes for patients by enhancing the clinical skills and resources.

Health Secretary, Shona Robison said: "Our ambulance workers provide a first class service, often under

challenging circumstance and we value their dedication extremely highly. This recruitment drive will enhance the service on offer, and ensure that staff are equipped with the appropriate skills, training and clinical support to be able to deliver even more care in the community.

"Through the 2016/17 budget we are investing an additional £11.4 million in the Scottish Ambulance Service, which will assist with the recruitment and training of more staff over the next five years. This will allow the ambulance service to be better prepared to meet future needs and demands."

Pauline Howie, Chief Exec-

utive, Scottish Ambulance Service, said: "The continued investment in more frontline resources is fundamental to delivering our 'Towards 2020' strategy which aims to provide the most appropriate care to every patient, whether at home or in the hospital. This year's recruitment plan is the first phase of a 5 year programme that will enhance the clinical skills mix of our staff and introduce new ways of working to best meet the needs of patients in all of our communities."

The Service currently employs around 1300 Paramedics, 1100 Ambulance Technicians and 350 control room staff on frontline emergency operations.

Migrant Access Project

Last month several members of Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust (YAS) visited the Migrant Access Project based in Leeds to deliver free first aid awareness training

and discuss the services the Trust provides.

The Migrant Access Project is made up of volunteers known as Migrant Community Networkers who collectively speak over 30 different languages and aim to re-

duce pressure on public services where migration has impacted the most.

Kez Hayat, Head of Diversity and Inclusion at YAS, said of the event: "This was our first time working with the Migration Partner-

ship and I am very pleased with how many Migrant Community Networkers came along to the event. It was such an interesting morning, hearing about individuals' personal journeys and was encouraging to see their interest in the ambulance service. I am excited to see where this partnership will take us in the future and

I look forward to holding more of these events across Yorkshire."

Over 15 Migrant Community Networkers attended the event to learn about the Trust's services, volunteering opportunities and took part in the free first aid awareness session led by Community and Commercial Education Trainer Don Buxton.

Pria Bhabra, Commissioning Officer (Migrant Access) from Leeds City Council, said: "This partnership work is crucial to ensure that communities understand the role of Yorkshire Ambulance Service and how their approach of working with communities can overcome barriers to accessing the service appropriately."



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Student recognition



The year-long course, which Dermot completed at the Rhos-on-Sea campus, is for those who have management responsibilities but no formal training, and are serious about developing their abilities.

Sonia Thompson, the Trust's Head of Operations in North Wales, said: "We're delighted that Dermot's commitment has been recognised in such a distinguished way."

Dermot joined the Welsh Ambulance Service in 2001 as an Emergency Medical Technician, and qualified as a Paramedic two years later.

He is also one of the Trust's road safety champions and spends much of his own time visiting schools and colleges delivering hard-hitting lessons in road safety.

Justine Grew, Work-Based Learning Manager at Coleg Llandrillo, said: "Dermot is an exemplary student, going far beyond what is required."

"He has demonstrated innovation and dedication to his role."

A long-serving paramedic has picked up a prestigious award for the lengths he has gone to further his education.

Dermot O'Leary, who is based in Rhyl Ambulance Station, won the Management Apprentice of the Year Award at Coleg Llandrillo's Apprenticeships Awards Ceremony.

The father-of-two, who has worked for the Welsh

Ambulance Service for 15 years, was recognised for the work he produced while studying for his ILM Level 3 Diploma in Leadership Management.

Dermot, who is also a Clinical Team Leader, and supervises a team of 14 colleagues, said: "The diploma was tough because you're trying to juggle your studies with a full time job, but it was so worth it and I'm glad I did it."

Save humans from extinction!



Left to right: Paramedic Lee Farley, Andy Jaynes, Zoo Curator Rich Brown with Kubwa the giraffe, Nina Tromans, Mrs Tromans, Dean Banks

A zoo in the Black Country is helping to keep humans alive thanks to two new additions which arrived last month.

Dudley Zoological Gardens have installed not one but two automated external defibrillators on site.

West Midlands Ambulance Service provided one defibrillator whilst the other was kindly donated by Mytyl Tromans in memory of her late husband who sadly passed away last year.

Mrs Tromans, from

Wollaston in Stourbridge, lost her husband Roy in November last year. The couple were married for 47 years and Mrs Tromans wanted to ensure the memory of her husband lived on. On Tuesday 8th March, Mrs Tromans officially handed over the device to Dudley Zoological Gardens. She said: "At Roy's funeral I asked for donations so that I could buy a defibrillator in his memory. I got in touch with the ambulance service and, as Roy had worked in Dudley all of his life as a Financial Advisor, I de-

cided to donate the defibrillator to the Zoo as they hadn't got a defibrillator. I wanted it to go somewhere to benefit the general public. In Roy's memory I've achieved something and I hope that the device will help to save a life."

Mrs Tromans visited the zoo with her daughter Nina and Nina's partner Dean to officially hand over the defibrillator. The Trust's Community Response Manager Andy Jaynes and paramedic Lee Farley handed over the second device and also trained eight members of staff in basic life support and how to use the defibrillator.

Andy Jaynes said: "With more than 80 staff and thou-

sands of members of the public on site each year it makes perfect sense to have live saving devices on hand to help in times of an emergency."

Zoo Manager Matt Lewis said: "By installing these defibrillators at the top and bottom of the zoo site means our trained first-aiders will have access to the necessary equipment at all times. We're thankful to the family of Roy Tromans and West Midlands Ambulance Service for donating two defibrillators and additional training and pleased we can help protect the wellbeing of zoo visitors and staff - although we hope no-one will need to use them."

Nepal gift

A West Midlands Ambulance Service paramedic flew back to Nepal last month to hand over more than £8,000 raised to help victims of last year's earthquakes.

Phil Llewellyn, based in

Pershore visited the country in May 2015 following its first earthquake 80km north-west of the capital Kathmandu. While he was there, a second earthquake struck near the Chinese border. He also visited a longstanding friend whose village and family

were wiped out.

Since his visit, Phil has given talks and presentations about his experiences in Nepal and helped organise a Summer Ball last year to raise money which he will give to his friend's community in order for them to rebuild their village.

Phil was joined by eight other people; among them doctors, nurses and colleagues from West Midlands Ambulance Service who

took with them clothes, stationary, medical supplies and toiletries for the villagers.

Phil said: "Tourism has fallen significantly in the country. Nepal needs tourism to survive, for that is their income. So, as well as donating the money and supplies, the group planned to go on an organised trek organised by my friend because that is how he earns his living. We need to be encouraging tourists to return to the area."



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Professor Douglas Chamberlain

Special speaker

Professor Douglas Chamberlain 'father of the paramedic profession' took centre stage at EHAAT's Clinical Governance Day.

The founder of the first paramedic unit in Europe, Prof. Douglas Chamberlain, spoke to an 85-strong audience of doctors, paramedics, nurses, students and other emergency services personnel at the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust's (EHAAT)

monthly Clinical Governance Day held at North Weald Airfield on Tuesday 15 March.

Prof. Chamberlain, who has dedicated his career to pioneering the resuscitation techniques that are now common place amongst the emergency services and save lives every day, was invited to speak at the event hosted at North Weald Airfield - home of the Herts Air Ambulance.

After giving his presentation about optimising

Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation he remarked: "It was a real privilege to have come and met so many wonderful dedicated people, thank you so very much, an inspiring day for us".

EHAAT opens its doors to the wider healthcare and emergency services community on the third Tuesday of each month. All those with an interest in pre-hospital critical care are invited to share its governance meetings. Every event is themed around an element of emergency care and, as well as case presentations, audits and journal reviews, include presentations from expert speakers from a variety of clinical backgrounds.

Laurie Phillipson, EHAAT Clinical Manager said: "Every paramedic across the country has heard of Prof. Chamberlain; in many ways he is the father of the paramedic profession and responsible for saving thousands of lives; to have him speak at one of our governance days was a real honour."

Other speakers on the day included David and Kaz

Fletcher, who spoke of the influence that data downloaded from defibrillators can have on improving resuscitation, and Dr Ben Singer who presented forward-thinking presentation on Extra-Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation and its role in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

Dr Alex Rosenberg, Consultant in Critical Care at the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, and some of his colleagues attended the Governance Day. He said: "We all thought it was a really great day and thoroughly enjoyed it. I think the real take home message for me was the chaos that your team deal with day to day and how this impacts upon resuscitation."

The next Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Clinical Governance Day will be held on the 19th April 2016 at North Weald Airfield.

• Any clinicians or emergency services personnel interested in attending should contact Geraldine.wash@ehaat.uk.com

NAAW 2016

The Association of Air Ambulances (AAA) is delighted to announce that the new date of National Air Ambulance Week (NAAW) 2016 is Monday 19th to Sunday 25th September.

NAAW is an initiative created by the AAA and celebrates the work of local air ambulances, giving them a national voice and an opportunity to promote the work they do at a local level. This annual event is a regular feature on event calendars across the UK, with many air ambulance charities organising their own fundraising and awareness campaigns during this time.

The move, from the last week of September is strategic and forms part of a broader plan which culminates moving the date forward a further week in 2017 to its new permanent home.

Clive Dickin, National Director of the Association said: "NAAW is the annual

event when all 20 charities across the UK celebrate and encourage

support for air ambulances which are mainly funded by donations. With many investing funds to expand their operations to provide night HEMS missions, upgrading their aircraft or placing investment into the advanced education and training of their paramedics and doctors, there is no better way to show them your support.

"The change is a strategic decision allowing for a number of factors to be accommodated in our member's plans; be it better weather, longer days and a less cluttered program of other national events.

"The move also coincides with a review and the identification of further improvements which will be announced later in 2016 and 2017. This is being driven by the Communications Subcommittee of the AAA before being approved by the Board."

Glasgow ambulance air base launch

The Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health & Well-being, Shona Robison, formally opened a new, purpose built base for air ambulance and clinical retrieval teams at Glasgow Airport in March.

The new facility brings Scottish Ambulance Service Air Ambulance helicopter and fixed wing operations from the West into a single location.

Scotland's national specialists retrieval service for critically ill children and adults, SCOTSTAR, now operates from the base, with immediate access to specialist vehicles and aircraft as part of a £9.5 million investment in patient care. It is the first time anywhere in the UK that multi disciplinary clinical retrieval teams operate from a single base.

SCOTSTAR is managed by the Scottish Ambulance Service and brings together the Scottish Neonatal

Service, the Specialist Paediatric Retrieval Service and the Emergency Medical Retrieval Service, which retrieves critically ill adults and responds to serious emergencies.

The new £4.5 million building is owned and operated by Gama Aviation for the Scottish Ambulance Service as part of the national air ambulance contract.

The facility is home to around 85 staff, including air ambulance and SCOTSTAR

teams, as well as management and administration. Clinical teams respond to patients using an Airbus H145 helicopter, a King Air 200c plane, specialist neo-natal and paediatric ambulances and a fast response car.

Health Secretary, Shona Robison, said: "I am delighted to be a part of the opening of the new SCOTSTAR and Air Ambulance base. This new facility brings together many lifesaving services which should help to give those in need the

care and urgent response required from our ambulance service."

David Garbutt, Chairman, Scottish Ambulance Service, said: "The new base is the only one of its kind in the UK, aligning air ambulance services with the specialist clinical retrieval teams in a single location. Working closely together, the teams bring high quality specialist care to patients by road and air, that best meets their needs."

"Our air ambulance and SCOTSTAR teams provide vital lifesaving clinical care to patients across the whole of Scotland. The new purpose

built facility is integral to our long term strategy to deliver the most appropriate clinical care to patients, wherever they may be," added Pauline Howie, Chief Executive, Scottish Ambulance Service.

Last year, air ambulance teams undertook 3,559 missions across the country. SCOTSTAR teams responded to 2,654 cases, of which 491 were by air, where specialist, highly skilled, clinical teams were required to manage the care of patients during transport. These specialised retrievals are clinically complex and take much longer than a normal emergency response.

New AAA appointment

Hanna Sebright has been duly appointed as the new Chairman of the Association of Air Ambulances (AAA) at their Annual General Meeting held on Monday 7 March 2016.

A large gathering of representatives from across the European HEMS sector, attended the AGM which saw former Chairman Bill

Sivewright hand over his reign to Hanna after a three year period in charge.

Before signing off, Bill highlighted some of the Association's achievements and explained how 2015 had been a great year for patients due to amazing developments in pre-hospital care, the procurement of more advanced equipment, better governance and the sharing of knowledge of members. He

subsequently described how the Association had become a conduit in representing the sector and listed the numerous successes, making it the most successful year yet.

Bill said: "Over the past four years, it has been my privilege to hold the position of Vice Chair and then Chair. We have seen our Association truly come of age and the recognition by key Government departments has

helped us secure funding and significant influence with both national and international regulatory bodies."

Steve Wheaton, Assistant Chief of West Midlands Ambulance Service was also appointed Vice Chair, with Paula Martin, CEO of Cornwall Air Ambulance and Andy Moir, Head of Air Ambulance Service of Scottish Ambulance Service being appointed to the Board of Directors of the AAA. Following the AGM, the Association held its quarterly Members' Forum and provid-

ed attendees with important updates on a range of key topics.

Nigel Hare, Vice Chair of the AAA Operational Subcommittee gave a thorough and detailed review of the scheduled roll-out of the ESMC / Ambulance Radio Programme and explained the importance of member's engagement with all parties involved. Nick Campion, Independent Secretary to the Judges, provided some really informative hints and tips on how to submit a good entry into the AAA Awards of

Excellence and encouraged people to think about their entries now.

Clive Dickin, AAA National Director talked about the All Party Parliamentary Group for Air Ambulances (APP-GAA), giving key dates for 2016 and providing an update on the lobbying of Government. Other topics were covered including the benefit of membership affinities, structure and personnel changes within the AAA Subcommittees and future plans for National Air Ambulance Week.

TVAA starts night flying



Thames Valley Air Ambulance (TVAA) Airbus H135 helicopter is flown by highly-trained and experienced Bond pilots operating with the latest-generation of night-vision goggles. The aircraft is fully equipped and optimised for night operations, meaning the Charity's specialist doctor and paramedic HEMS crews can bring their life-saving care to the most seriously ill or injured people by night as well as by day, saving more lives. Bond operates an identical helicopter on behalf of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA).

The two air ambulances, in partnership with South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) and the Isle of Wight NHS Trust, will work together to provide an additional seven hours of coverage every night until 2am across the counties of Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Both helicopter services will remain operational in their respective counties for 12 hours every day and then take it in turn for a period of 16 consecutive nights to cover the seven hour night-service for the whole of the South Central region and the Isle of Wight.

Sir Tim Jenner, TVAA Chairman, says: "Our unique partnership with HIOWAA ensures there is a dedicated HEMS crew operational for an additional seven hours every night until 2am covering the whole of the South Central region and the Isle of Wight."

"Working in close partnership with SCAS to man and deploy the service, our doctor-led crews deliver an advanced level of critical care to stabilise patients at the scene, identify their medical needs and get them to the most appropriate hospital for specialist care in the quickest time possible."

TVAA, alongside HIOWAA and SCAS, is committed to developing and enhancing its helicopter emergency medical service in the region to provide the highest level of emergency care outside of a hospital environment. A full range of life-saving equipment is carried on board, including two state of the art ultrasound devices, a blood transfusion kit and an immediate blood analyser, helping to shave off valuable seconds in the golden hour.

The 'paramedic physician partnership' of doctors and paramedics found on board is essential for a truly gold standard delivery of pre-hospital emergency medicine, all of which is made possible through the Charity's close working partnership with South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

TVAA and HIOWAA's aviation partner Bond Air Services Ltd and their highly skilled Helimed pilots are central to the service, ensuring the most effective coverage for the entire region with the newest version of the Airbus helicopter, as well as the speed, safety and precision of the op-

eration.

Sir Tim concludes: "We are extremely proud of our air ambulance and its crew and the high standard of expertise and capability which is a result

of the very close partnerships we have with South Central Ambulance Service, the NHS and Bond.

"Our teams work tirelessly each day and night;

not only to deliver a unique life-saving service but to develop their knowledge and training to ensure we continue to advance on-scene patient care.

"It is also important to remember that our ambition of delivering a gold standard service is dependent on the generosity of the people, companies and organisations who support us, to whom we are very grateful."

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