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VOL 16 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2016

FORMATION OF NAA TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND PATIENT CARE

Northern Ambulance Alliance

Three ambulance trusts have teamed up to work better together to improve efficiency of ambulance services in the North of England.

North East, North West and Yorkshire Ambulance Service Trusts have launched the Northern Ambulance Alliance.

The aim of the alliance is to improve efficiency through joint procurement exercises, major changes to IT, access-

ing specialist expertise and learning from each other.

With increasing operability between bluelight services the leadership of the three northern ambulance services also believe there are great benefits to be

achieved working with other ambulance organisations.

Yvonne Ormston, Chief Executive of North East Ambulance Service, said: "Sharing borders as we do, the three Ambulance Trusts have always worked together for the benefit of patients and the communities we respectively serve. The NAA will allow us to work even closer as clinicians, sharing best practice and innovation at a scale that has not previously been possible.

"This is not a merger of organisations, but it is the creation of a body that will facilitate greater collaboration and realise benefits individual Trusts are unlikely to be able to achieve on their own."

Derek Cartwright, Chief Executive of North West Ambulance Service, added: "The NAA will work within the existing structure of organisations and their legal frameworks. The Boards of all three Trusts will still have responsibility for their individual service but will also consider the work and objectives of the NAA when making decisions."

The aim of the NAA will be to continue to improve quality and service delivery for all patients in the North of England, cross border working for clinicians for the benefit of all patients in the North of England.

Rod Barnes, Chief Executive of Yorkshire Ambulance Ser-

vice, concludes: "This is a great opportunity to explore how we can deliver the improvements expected from the ambulance service within existing resources and for the benefit of patients.

"This might mean the procurement of a single agreed vehicle specification for all three services, identifying savings through the standardisation of maintenance and equipment contracts, which is something that has proved elusive at a national level."

Last night a DJ saved my life!

A radio break show host in Bedfordshire has signed up to become a community first responder (CFR).

DJ Steve, a presenter on Bedford's local community radio station In2beats (106.5FM), decided to sign up after a discussion about CFR takeover last month with Barton

Le Clay CFR co-ordinator Simon Osborne and Community Training Partnership Officer (CP-TO) Simon Marshall.

Listeners to the show text in to ask questions about how to become a CFR and host Steve himself announced live on-air that he was signing up.

CPTO for Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Simon Marshall



Radio DJ Steve becomes a CFR

said: "It was amazing to see Steve announce live to all his listeners that he was signing up, hopefully it encourages more people to volunteer."

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Dementia research pledge

A quarter of a billion pounds has been pledged towards the UK's first ever Dementia Research Institute (DRI), as 2 major UK charities announced on 1 May 2016 £100 million of new investment.

Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's Research UK have both pledged £50 million each towards the work of the Institute, led by the Medical Research Council (MRC), in one of the single biggest financial commitments to dementia research in the history of both charities.

Announced by the Prime Minister in his Challenge on Dementia 2020 last year, the Institute has been backed by £150 million of government investment. It will bring to-

gether scientists and experts from across the globe to transform the landscape of dementia research and firmly secure the UK's reputation as a world leader in research and development against these devastating diseases.

Set to be fully up and running by 2020, the Institute will have a central UK hub with a network of regional centres and is expected to engage hundreds of scientists. It will focus on the innovative, discovery science needed to unlock our understanding of the mechanisms underlying the development and progression of the dementias. This research will help to drive new approaches to diagnosis, treatment, care provision and ultimately prevention of the disease.

The involvement of the country's two leading dementia charities will be essential in drawing together the work of scientists and medical professionals with experience of people living with dementia across the country, helping to create the link between research findings and delivering real changes for the treatment, care and prevention of dementia.

Jeremy Hughes CBE, Chief Executive of the Alzheimer's Society said: "The UK Dementia Research Institute heralds an exciting era for global dementia research as it launches an unprecedented collaboration of world-leading dementia expertise and provides the largest single investment in dementia research to date."

SECAMB firefighter trial

The trial of a potentially life-saving scheme in which Surrey firefighters attend certain medical emergencies with South East Coast Ambulance Service has been expanded.

Following early success of the trial, which began at the end of September last year, trained firefighters will now not only attend cardiac arrest calls but also other serious calls such as someone fitting or falling unconscious.

All firefighters involved in the trial have volunteered to undertake Immediate Emergency Care Responder training developed by SECAMB. The training enables firefighters to provide treatment to patients in the moments before ambulance crews arrive much in the same way as SECAMB's Community First Responders (CFRs). Ambulance clinicians are always assigned to

attend a call at the same time as a fire co-responder or CFR.

The trial, which is part of SECAMB's wider ongoing work of emergency service collaboration across its region, is similar to a number of trials taking place elsewhere in the country with SECAMB also working with its three other fire services in its region to improve patient care. The trial officially runs until the end of June and it is hoped that following analysis it will be made permanent.

To date, more than 190 firefighters have signed up and in total co-responded to more than 370 incidents.

SECAMB Clinical Quality Manager and co-responding lead Matt England said: "This collaboration is about ensuring our most seriously ill patients are seen as quickly as possible. We'll also always assign an ambulance response to the call at the same time

but if firefighters reach the scene of an emergency before ambulance crews, they will be able to begin vital life-saving treatment.

"We're very pleased with the early feedback from the trial and that we've been able to expand the trial to include other potentially serious emergencies."

Kay Hammond, Surrey County Council's Cabinet Associate for Community Safety Services, said: "This initiative is progressing well and I'm pleased we're able to expand it so that firefighters can respond to a wider range of incidents."

"Fire and rescue emergencies of course come first for firefighters but when there are trained crews and vehicles available they will do all they can as part of this pilot scheme to improve a patient's chances of survival while an ambulance is on its way."



Karen Pointer Assistant Group Commander for Operational Development at Surrey Fire and Rescue who worked alongside SECAMB's Dave Wells (also pictured) in developing the scheme.



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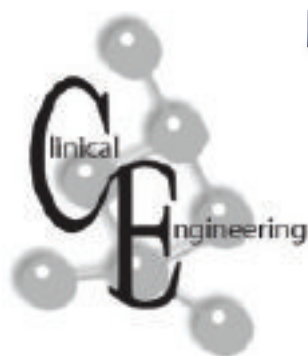
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NEAS dementia support



Sam McSorley, Barbara Wells, Helen Laybourne and Maureen Morien show their support for the Dementia Friends campaign

The North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) is training its entire 2,500 workforce to become Dementia Friends in a bid to help staff understand the condition and how best to help those who have it and their careers.

Currently more than 34,000 people across the North East have dementia and this figure is predicted to double over the next 30 years according to government statistics. Frontline staff at NEAS regularly come into contact with people living with dementia and this initia-

tive will help ensure these patients are identified early on and receive the most appropriate care.

As well as giving an insight into what it's like living with dementia and the associated behaviours and medical problems, the training includes communication techniques.

The Dementia Friends training programme will be rolled out across NEAS over the next 12 months through training sessions with the Alzheimer's Society, Dementia Friends Champions' information sessions and e-learning. NEAS has also produced a number of information booklets for staff to support this training.

One of the first to be trained to become a

Dementia Friend is NEAS Chief Executive, Yvonne Ormston. She said: "Ambulance crews are so often on the frontline when it comes to helping people living with dementia. That's why it is so important that all NEAS staff are fully informed and educated in how to spot the tell-tale signs and the best way to deal with someone living with dementia. By making this commitment that all our staff will become Dementia Friends we are hoping to lead the way in creating a dementia-caring community where those living with the condition can feel included and supported."

Last month 15-21 May was Dementia Awareness Week. As well as the Dementia Friends' programme, NEAS

held a 'dress down Friday' event to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.

Frances Child, Dementia Action Alliance Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Society, said: "This proactive approach to dementia taken by NEAS should be applauded."

"We are thrilled that they have made such a firm commitment to better understand the needs of people living with the condition."

"It is vitally important that frontline services can spot signs of dementia and understand how to engage effectively with people who have it."

"The Dementia Friends sessions the workforce has signed up for mark an important first step towards achieving that goal."



The group of healthcare professionals prepare to set off on their trek to Annapurna Base Camp.

Picture credit: West Midlands Ambulance Service

he worked tirelessly to raise funds to support Kaule, giving talks and holding a Summer Ball, all of which helped to raise £8,000.

On his return to Nepal in March, Phil took eight healthcare professionals with him and because Kaule relies heavily on tourist income generated by the trekking and climbing industry, they set off

on an expedition to Annapurna Base Camp at an altitude of 4250m.

During the visit Phil handed over the £8000, enough money to rebuild four houses, and the group were afforded a heart-warming reception by the people of Kaule.

Reflecting on the trip, Phil said: "Kathmandu looks a lot better since the

earthquake, but the remote villages, such as Kaule, look pretty much the same."

"For almost 12 months these people have lived under tin sheets and tarpaulin and it is really sad to see."

"The Nepalese people are so loving and genuine and are full of smiles no matter what, but people should not be distracted by the smiles

Phil Llewellyn talks to the villagers at a presentation to hand over the £8,000.

Picture credit: West Midlands Ambulance Service

- they are desperate people that have been forgotten."

Now back in the UK, Phil plans to start fund-raising again in a bid to raise more money to purchase materials needed to rebuild more houses.



• If you would like to help fund-raise, or would be interested in arranging Phil to give a talk, visit www.gofundme.com/RebuildInNepal or email pmllewellyn@hotmail.com.

An advanced paramedic from Worcestershire who is determined to help 'Rebuild Nepal' has returned from a second visit to the earthquake hit country.

Phil Llewellyn, who is based in Pershore, first visited the country to offer aid in the wake of the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck on April 25th, 2015. A second earthquake with a magnitude of 7.4 was to hit the region on May 12th.

Phil was so touched by the damage and devastation caused, particularly in the village of Kaule, where he has friends, that he decided he wanted to help further. The vil-

lage had been completely decimated with homes and schools having been destroyed, as well as people losing their lives.

As a result, Phil set up the charity 'Rebuild Nepal'. In the months that followed,



Living conditions in the village of Kaule.

Picture credit: West Midlands Ambulance Service

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Cancer increase in Scotland

The Scottish Government's £100 million Cancer Strategy will be crucial in supporting the increasing number of people diagnosed with cancer in Scotland, the Chief Medical Officer said last month.

Catherine Calderwood was speaking as official ISD

Scotland figures show that in 2014, 31,711 people were diagnosed with cancer in Scotland, up from 27,820 in 2004.

In March the Scottish Government launched its Cancer Strategy for the next 10 to 15 years which aims to reduce health inequalities

and improve the experience of and outcomes for people with cancer across Scotland.

Cancer is more common as people get older, with 75 per cent of cancer diagnoses in 2014 being in people aged over 60.

After accounting for the ageing population, the cancer

incidence rate has decreased by three per cent for men, while for women it has increased by six per cent.

Dr Calderwood said: "Like the rest of the UK, the number of people being diagnosed with cancer is increasing in Scotland due to people living longer. However it's important to note that more and more people are also surviving cancer for longer -

with cancer mortality rates down 11 per cent over the past decade."

Across Scotland lung cancer remains the most common cancer overall in Scotland for both sexes, accounting for 17 per cent of all cancers in Scotland.

For females, the most common cancers are breast, lung and bowel cancers, accounting for 55 per cent of all can-

cers. For men, prostate, lung and bowel are the most common, accounting for 51 per cent of all cancers.

Also published, for the first time, are performance indicators for melanoma skin cancer which show that between July 2014 and June 2015, 1,275 people were diagnosed with melanoma in Scotland.

Prime time LAS

London Ambulance Service is to feature in its own prime time documentary series, the BBC announced in May.

The series, due to be

broadcast in the Autumn, will follow ambulance crews and control room staff as they respond to up to 3,500 incidents a day across the capital.

Using cutting-edge graph-

ics, data will also be used to illustrate the wide-ranging challenges the Service handles every day, and to create a heat map of London's health issues.

London Ambulance Service's Director of Communications, Charlotte Gawne, said: "We're very proud of our caring and

compassionate staff who work hard in often difficult circumstances.

"From our emergency medical dispatchers who make critical decisions every minute to our front line ambulance crews who provide compassionate care to the most critically ill and injured patients in London around

the clock. We hope the series will offer viewers an insight into how we work, at a time of unprecedented demand."

The series is produced by Dragonfly, part of Endemol Shine Group, for BBC One.

Emma Loach, Executive Producer at Dragonfly comments: "The London Ambu-

lance Service is the largest and busiest in the UK, serving more than eight million people, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This series will offer a unique portrait of a city of extremes and give an unprecedented bird's eye view of the ambulance service as you've never seen before."

Help from TV doctor

Paediatric and TV doctor, Dr Ranj, is urging all teachers to sign up to St John Ambulance (SJA) Big First Aid Lesson Live with the aim of helping 250,000 students learn vital life saving skills in one hour.

The Big First Aid Lesson Live is a free, interactive hour-long programme streamed directly to classrooms and filmed in front of a live audience of students on Friday 17 June.

Dr Ranj will be following in the footsteps of last year's host Claudia Winkleman, who presented the lesson to over 189,000 pupils. This year the ambition is even bigger, and there's two different lessons - one for primary and one for secondary schools.

Dr Ranj said: "As a doctor, I

know only too well how important first aid can be in an emergency. Being able to immediately help someone - a family member, school mate, a neighbour, or even a stranger - can be life saving

"I'm excited to be hosting this year, as I know the Big First Aid Lesson Live will help enrich the next generation with the confidence and knowledge to save a life. We know schools are time-pressed but the Big First Aid Lesson Live is free, easy to join, and memorable, so we hope teachers everywhere sign their classes up and get involved."

This year, the live lesson will cover a whole range of topics including choking, chest pains, seizures and insect bites. There will also be live demos, incredible real life stories, chances for student



to ask questions, and other interactive elements.

The lesson is for pupils aged between seven and 16-years-old and the only equipment schools need to take part is an internet connection and a screen (such as an interactive whiteboard) for their pupils to watch in the classroom or during assembly.

Volunteer celebrations

This month East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) highlighted and celebrated the work of its legion of volunteer life-savers during national volunteers' week.

Volunteer life-savers - trained by the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) - attended more than 24,000 medical emergencies across the East in 2015/2016. The most common type of call CFRs attended was to patients with chest pain, 4,264 incidents in total.

There are almost 300 CFR groups across the region with around 1,500 volunteers.

Here are some of their stories.

Kate Williams, from Mannintree Community First Responders, a volunteer for 10 years, said: "Highlights include the incredible other responders I've met and become good friends with, our amazing paramedics who give up so much of their time to train us, the change of outlook on life to appreciating things so much more than before, and being able to be there for people at the hardest times of their lives."

Sharon Smith, of Newgate Street CFRs in Hertfordshire, said: "Being a CFR has given me a real sense of achievement in helping people in my community at a very stressful moment in their lives. It's a wonderful role."

Claire Taylor, of Ely CFRs, said: "There are more rewards than you think and the skills you will learn are amazing. It's more of a hobby than volunteering."

Jim Whiteside, of Waveney Valley CFRs, said: "You get back out 100 fold what you put in. The training and support from EEAST and other responders is superb; it is not difficult and you really do make a difference."

David Halsey, of Haverhill, Kedington & Hundon Community First Responders, said: "There have been so many highlights, but it has to be when you get stopped in the street or supermarket and thanked for what you have done."

International Nurses Day

On International Nurses Day the London Ambulance Service (LAS) thanked their team of 94 dedicated nurses who work across the organisation.

Last year, the Service was the first ambulance trust in the country to employ specialist mental health nurses to help their ambulance crews respond to incidents involving patients with mental health problems. The Service also employs midwives to support women in labour.

This initiative is one of the many examples of how their nurses work in the emergency

operations control room to support frontline ambulance crews and call handlers. They also offer advice to patients with less serious injuries and illnesses.

Clinical Nurse Advisor, Naz Virgo, has worked for the Service, alongside other call handlers at HQ, since January 2015. She said:

"Working for the Service as a nurse is an interesting change from hospital care and I enjoy treating patients in a different way. I feel a real sense of achievement when I have supported the patient and their family, or have provided the appropriate response which then helps a GP referral."

Deputy Director of Quality and Nursing, Briony Sloper, said: "Nurses play a vital role within the Service, bringing a different perspective and knowledge base, which offers comprehensive care for patients. They work closely alongside paramedics, providing specialist advice on patient diagnosis and many areas, including mental health and gynaecology."

"Our consultant midwife trains staff and advises on challenging obstetric emergencies and community nurses work with paramedics to try to reduce unnecessary emergency department attendances for older and more frail people."

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YAA unveils new helicopter

Geoffrey Boycott has officially unveiled Yorkshire Air Ambulance's landmark new, state-of-the-art helicopter that will take to the county's skies later this summer.

The rapid response emergency service is replacing both its current ageing aircraft - G-SASH and G-SEMS - with the latest generation Airbus H145 helicopter.

Geoffrey, who is a Yorkshire Air Ambulance (YAA) Patron, joined charity staff, supporters and volunteers to get first sight of the first of the new aircraft which flew into the charity's Nostell Air Support Unit near Wakefield.

It will become fully operational in a couple of months following a full medical fit-out and crew training. A second H145 has been ordered from Airbus and will be in service by spring 2017.

The new aircraft - each costing £6m - offer exceptional flight performance and will have significantly lower operational and maintenance costs. The H145 is night capable, enabling longer flying hours, and is used by military, police and air rescue services throughout the world.

Yorkshire Air Ambulance has been planning the replacement of its existing aircraft for several years. The purchase and fitting out costs have been met through planned savings, grants, careful budgeting and the amazing generosity of the people of Yorkshire.

YAA Chairman Peter Sunderland said: "This really is a landmark day for the charity and for Yorkshire. This amazing new helicopter is the result of the hard work and dedication of the tremendous team we have at the charity and the wonderful generosity of the people of Yorkshire."

Air ambulance doctors and paramedics have been involved from the start in the medical fit out of the H145s which provide a much larger cabin area to treat patients in flight, and will carry the latest medical equipment.

YAA Clinical Operations Manager Pete Vallance said: "The open cabin allows clinicians to have full access to the patient in flight and we have future-proofed the specialized medical equipment that is being fitted."

"We believe we have now got the best aircraft and the best equipment available to enable us to provide top-level clinical care across Yorkshire for many years to come."

Yorkshire Air Ambulance still needs to raise £12,000 every single day to keep its helicopters flying. The charity serves 5million people across Yorkshire, attending on average, more than 1,000 incidents a year.

Its two current YAA helicopters, MD902 Explorers G-SASH and G-CEMS will have a phased retirement once the new H145's are in operation and will eventually be sold to aid the replacement costs.

Paul Gowland, YAA Director of Fundraising,

said: "For the people of Yorkshire to raise the amount of money they do to enable us to buy these new aircraft is just astonishing."

"The H145 will enable us to fly an increase of 30 per cent more missions a year, to take an extra 30 per cent more people to major trauma centres and potentially 30 per cent more people will be alive."



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Bandage team in the mud

Last month a group of ambulance staff recently got tough in the mud to raise hundreds of pounds for a hospice charity.

The 18 colleagues from Rayleigh and Southend ambulance stations in Essex took part in the Tough Mudder obstacle course in Grantham.

It was the fourth year that Team Bandage have done the 12 mile event, which saw 13,000 participants braving

electric shocks, jumping in ice baths and overcoming other muddy challenges.

The group have already raised more than £500 for Havens Hospice, which cares for terminally ill children and adults at the end of their lives.

Kate Bennett, station supervisor, said: "We have done the Tough Mudder event for the last four years. The first year was 13 paramedics and we now have on average 23 each year after roping in more staff

and our friends. Tough Mudder is a SAS style assault course which has the motto of no mudder gets left behind, so the aim is to try and get everyone through the challenges.

"The mum of one of our colleagues spent some time at Havens Hospice at the start of the year before she passed away and we were asked by the family if we could run for them this year.

"We had a great time at Tough Mudder and had an excellent weekend all round making it around the course in about 4 and a bit hours. A great effort by everyone."

• You can still sponsor Team Bandage by visiting <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Paul-Warwick3>



Bike4Life Ride Out success

Midlands Air Ambulance Charity's Bike4Life Ride Out and Festival attracted a record 12,000 motorcyclists on Sunday 8th May 2016, which raised £63,500 for the vitally important life saving charity.

Over 6,000 motor bikers took part in the 23 mile Ride Out from Meole Brace in Shrewsbury, 40 per cent more than participated in 2015, demonstrating the growing popularity of the event among the biking fraternity. The riders and pillions were led by motorcycle and truck racing legend, Steve Parrish, adventure motorcyclist and author, Nick Sanders, ITV4 Motorbike Show's Henry Cole, the Emergency Bikers, Mark Hayes (Flymo) and Steve Forrest, and Midlands Air Ambulance Charity's chief executive, Hanna Sebright.

On arrival at the Bike4Life Festival, which is supported by the Safer Roads

Partnership, at RAF Cosford, the bikers and visitors were entertained by live bands, Black Tower, Hollowstar, Mallen and The Wholls, as well as the Festival's headliners, Toseland, whose frontman, James Toseland is a former Superbike World Champion.

In addition there were arena displays, a safety village, live interviews, traders and stalls, as well as refreshments, which everyone took advantage of as it was the hottest day of the year so far

Motorbike manufacturers including Triumph, BMW Motorrad and Honda also drew in the crowds, as did a magnificent fly over of two Spitfire aircraft.

In total, the event raised £63,500 for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, over 40 per cent more than 2015's total, which will help to fund 25 air ambulance missions across the region.

Jason Levy, fundraising and marketing director for Midlands Air Ambulance

Charity, and chair of the Bike4Life organising committee, said: "Our Ride Out is always a much anticipated event for bikers, and this year was certainly our biggest yet. Due to the growing popularity of the Festival, and thanks to the support from RAF Cosford, we moved the event to the airfield to accommodate the 12,000 visitors, a third more than previous years. The atmosphere on the day was fantastic, and a huge thank you goes to the bikers and pillions who did the Ride Out and to everyone who attended the Festival for their support of our event and the charity."

Next year the Bike4Life Ride Out and Festival will take place on Sunday 7th May.

Bike4Life is also in collaboration with Safer Roads Partnership and West Mercia Police who work tirelessly to promote road safety and to help reduce the number of road traffic collisions across West Mercia.

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Staff at the Longwater depot after their Running Man Challenge

Running Man challenge

Dozens of ambulance staff put their best foot forward and raised hundreds of pounds for charity during a dance challenge.

Around 30 staff from the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust's (EEAST) Longwater depot, near Norwich, demonstrated their

best moves for a Running Man Challenge video.

The internet dance trend has gone viral in the United States and New Zealand and emergency services have been challenged to do the same.

Student paramedics Lisa Reus and Vicki Coyle were behind organising the video, which was shot on Tuesday

17th May, and all the staff involved were on rest days and not on duty. Some joined in after finishing their night shifts.

Lisa said: "The Running Man Challenge has been mostly done in New Zealand and we thought it would be a good thing to do here as not many ambulance services have done it. We thought it would be good to have some fun whilst raising money for a good cause."

Over £150 was raised for charity during the filming and ambulance staff have thrown down the gauntlet to Norfolk Police and Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service to take up the challenge.

Within a few hours of going online, the video has received more than 5,000 views.

• To view the video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWJa0Xgywh0>

Funding required now!

Ambulance staff from South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT) have been dancing wildly to raise vital funding for their colleague and friend Kathryn Osmond to save her life. Over 100 ambulance staff arrived in Bristol to complete the Running Man Challenge in front of Clifton Suspension Bridge on Thursday 26th May to raise awareness of Kath's situation. Since then Ambulance Teams across the South West have been spending their days off getting their groove on at various locations.

"We as Paramedics spend our lives trying to save others. Kath hasn't got much time left and needs £70,000 urgently to pay for potentially life-saving treatment which is not available on the NHS," says her friend and colleague Sasha Johnston.

Kath has been given the go ahead for treatment and it can start as soon as the required £70,000 is raised.

Kath was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, after initially noticing a change in a mole. She has undergone a number of aggressive surgeries and treatments over the last five years but despite this the cancer has spread to her bones, lungs and lymphatic system. She has been given just a few months to live unless she can start a treatment called TILs (Tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes). TILs has achieved impressive results but is not yet funded by the NHS. Kath has received all the other cancer treatments available and this is her last chance.

The Running Man Challenge has taken the internet by storm with many emergency services

from across the world getting involved. SWASFT Ambulance staff decided to do their own version to raise support for Kath. The finished clip was uploaded to youtube and SWASFT would appreciate your support in helping them to make this

clip and Kath's campaign reach a global audience.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkPK6qJvZo>

Support is growing on social media and so far over £46,000 has been raised. Time is of the essence - the sooner Kath receives the treatment, the better her chances. Please show your support by helping to raise SWASFT profile, sharing their fundraising page and making a donation.

Thank you for your support.

• *Anyone wanting to support their Running Man Challenge and help raise funds for Kath's Treatment can do so by visiting www.Runningman4Kath*

Or use:

https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/sharon-elsbury?utm_id=2

www.tinyurl.com/runningmankath

SP SOS Syria

In the five years since protestors in Syria first demonstrated against the four-decade rule of the Assad family, hundreds of thousands of Syrians have been killed in the subsequent violence and some twelve million people have been displaced. The country has descended into an ever-more-complex civil war.

SP have been contacted by One Nation, a UK based charity for support with a relief effort to Syria. The charity supports local, national and international relief projects and distributes food packs, clothes and medical supplies to communities within Syria and displaced people along the Turkish border. SP's donation of medical supplies forms part of a container that is on its way to Aleppo, Syria's largest city. To date 30 containers of aid have been sent to Syria organised through One Nation with more planned.

Steve Bray, SP Services Managing Director said: "We are pleased to have helped out with the donation of urgently needed medical supplies to those people in Syria who have been caught up in the conflict. SP Services have been providing support for major disaster and relief projects for a number of years and will continue to assist where it can in the future".

Rebecca Smith, Project Manager for One Nation said: "It is wonderful news that SP Services have helped out and provided essential medical supplies. The donation will make a large difference to the relief effort."



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O&H Vehicle Conversions wins tender

New, greener ambulances designed in collaboration with WMAS staff

Following a competitive tender West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) has awarded a £21 million contract to O&H Vehicle Conversions (O&H) to supply the Trust with over 200 of the most technically advanced and efficient ambulances to date, according to WMAS.

WMAS is one of the few ambulance trusts to rigidly follow a five year front line fleet replacement policy and O&H will supply WMAS with 220 double-crewed, front line ambulances over the next four years.

O&H uses lighter, stronger

aerospace-type build materials that increase vehicle durability and lower weight, reducing fuel consumption and cutting CO2 emissions according to the company.

"O&H scored well in the tender process. The vehicle layout and engineering ideas they included were first rate and the steps they have taken to reduce vehicle weight are first class," said WMAS Fleet Services General Manager, Tony Page.

"Along with our staff, our emergency vehicles are our most important asset. The five year replacement policy means that staff can respond using a modern, good quality

ambulance fleet that is reliable and efficient.

"We have been working with our staff and O&H to come up with an innovative design that will mean better working conditions, and that will make it easier to provide good quality, comfortable care to patients in their hour of need.

"Our ambulances will be easier to drive and more fuel efficient, with lower CO2 emissions and less wear and tear; we are also looking at the introduction of lithium ion battery technology and solar panels. This all ultimately saves money that can be reinvested in recruiting more

paramedics, which can only be a good thing for patients", Tony Page concluded.

Commenting on the 220-ambulance award from WMAS, O&H Vehicle Conversions Sales and Marketing Director Lee Bott says: "We look forward to supporting West Midlands Ambulance Service's strategic objectives with a best-in-class fleet founded on engineering innovation and manufacturing excellence."

WMAS covers an area of 5,000 square mile, with a population of 5.5 million. It was the only English ambulance trust to exceed every performance metric in 2015-16.



Ambulances waiting to be converted

Company background

O&H Vehicle Conversions (www.oh-vehicleconversions.co.uk) is one of the leading vehicle converters in the UK, renowned for its innovation in the field and an established converter since 1988.

O&H specialisms include front line A&E Ambulances; patient transport, PTS ambulances; PPV (Patient Practitioner Vehicles) and RRV (Rapid Response Vehicles); private and Motability wheelchair ac-

cess vehicles, or WAVs; Welfare vans and Crew vehicles; and minibuses. O&H customers include the 13 UK ambulance trusts, private ambulance operators, local councils, Motability scheme conversions and leasing and rental companies supporting the welfare van market.

O&H Vehicle Conversions is based on a six acre site in Goole, East Yorkshire, where it has a dedicated 60,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility.

Patient Safety Awards

London Ambulance Service has been shortlisted for two national awards celebrating the work of their mental health nurses.

London Ambulance Service has introduced a scheme for mental health nurses to be in the control room and the promotion of the scheme has also been shortlisted in the

Patient Safety Awards, the winners of which will be announced at an annual conference in July.

Deputy Director of Quality and Nursing Briony Sloper

said: "The Patient Safety Awards continue to recognise and reward outstanding practice within the NHS and it is a fantastic achievement to be shortlisted.

"We're committed to providing the best possible care for all of our patients, including those with mental health

concerns.

"We will be working hard to showcase the fantastic work we have achieved as a Service by introducing mental health nurses to the control room and the positive impact it has had."

Now in their eighth year, the Patient Safety Awards recog-

nise organisations that are striving to improve patient safety in healthcare and the judges were very impressed with the high standard.

Awards will be handed out at a ceremony held in Manchester alongside the Patient Safety Congress on 5 July 2016.

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Left to right: WMAS Andy Jaynes, Tony St. John, 'Juggler' Martin Hughes, Robert Wilkinson and Mark Jastrzebski

Funfair shock

A fairground in Birmingham is not only offering customers' screams and smiles, but if your heart stops, a life-saving shock won't be too far away either.

West Midlands Ambulance Service has teamed up with Robert Wilkinson Fairground and The Big Top Neighbourhood Watch Roadshow to provide life-sav-

ing training and equipment to help patients in cardiac arrest.

In April, the Trust's Community Response Manager Andy Jaynes visited Pipe Hayes Park to train more than 30 staff and volunteers from the fairground and roadshow in basic life support and how to use an automated external defibrillator.

The Trust has donated a defibrillator together with a training defibrillator whilst the

British Heart Foundation has provided The Big Top Neighbourhood Watch roadshow with resuscitation dummies and a training DVD to enable them to hold training sessions to members of the public.

The fairground and roadshow, which tours Birmingham and Solihull between March and November, has around 80 staff, volunteers and fair family members on site and regularly see 3,000k fairgoers a day through the gates.

Mark Jastrzebski, Chair of The Big Top Neighbourhood Watch Roadshow, said: "Last

year, a woman sadly died after suffering a cardiac arrest at the fair and despite the best efforts of ourselves and ambulance staff we couldn't save her.

"Whilst the ambulance service praised us for everything we did that day, we felt we needed to do more so we contacted Andy to find out about getting a defibrillator. Not only do we want to help save lives but we also want to raise awareness about learning CPR. The training we've had has been great and the defibrillator is so easy to use. Now that we've got the kit to help train others, we've launched The Big Top awareness training initiative so that each Thursday we can train members of the public in first aid and basic life support. The more people we can train the better."

Andy Jaynes, the Trust's Community Response Manager said: "A fairground is a busy and bustling place where people from all ages visit. I applaud Robert and Mark for their determination to make a difference in the wake of such a tragedy and hope they train hundreds more people throughout the summer in basic first aid."



The emergency exercise in Gorleston

Texting caution

Hundreds of people received a stark warning about the dangers of texting and driving during an emergency exercise in Norfolk.

A two vehicle road traffic collision, with four casualties, was simulated outside East Norfolk Sixth Form College, in Gorleston, on Friday 6th May, with the response being led by East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST), with support from Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service and Norfolk Constabulary.

The 'incident' involved a head-on collision after a driver, who had been texting, swerved into an oncoming car. Students

from the college volunteered to play the casualties.

Mark Little, an EEAST duty locality officer, who organised the exercise, said it was a "huge success" with around 300 people watching.

"This was an excellent example to engage people about the dangers of using mobile phones whilst driving and it certainly had an impact on those observing."

"The exercise also demonstrated excellent co-working with the external agencies which were monitored for JE-SIP (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme) compliance," he said.



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New cardiac response scheme

Cheshire firefighters will soon be helping to deliver life-saving treatment for cardiac arrest patients in partnership with North West Ambulance Service (NWAS).

From Monday 6 June, when a person dials 999 to report a suspected cardiac arrest, both NWAS and firefighters will respond and whoever reaches the casualty first, will start providing life-saving treatment. Once the ambulance crew arrives, advanced

life support will commence and the patient will be handed into the care of NWAS. Initially this project will be run as a pilot scheme in Crewe, Frodsham, Holmes Chapel and Warrington but will hopefully be extended to all stations in the future.

Similar Schemes have launched in Lancashire and Greater Manchester in 2015, and more recently in Merseyside at the beginning of 2016 and all have proved to be very successful.

There will be no change to

the system of assigning and sending ambulances and medical staff to emergencies. The scheme works in a similar way to NWAS' volunteer Community First Responder scheme.

Under the new scheme the fire and rescue service will be contacted when a suspected cardiac arrest is reported near to one of the response stations. The added advantage to despatching fire crews is their advanced training and their ability to respond on blue lights, there-

fore arriving more quickly to a situation where literally every second can mean the difference between life and death. Fire crews will be despatched at the same time as an ambulance.

Mark Cashin, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's Deputy Chief Fire Officer said: "We have a clear vision of a Cheshire where there are no deaths or injuries from fires or other emergencies and so we are delighted to be embarking on this exciting partnership initiative."



North West Ambulance Service, Director of Operations, Ged Bleazard comments: "This is an extremely positive project and it's great to work with CF&RS on a scheme that will contribute to saving lives in Cheshire."

"Last year, the ambulance

service responded to 1763 incidents in Cheshire where the patient had reported a cardiac arrest - sadly, despite everyone's best efforts, not everyone survives but everyone deserves that chance and this is what this scheme will give people."

European EMS Champions

Paramedics from Fulham ambulance station have been named the winners of the European EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Championship.

Facing teams from Turkey and Denmark in the final round, Clinical Team Leader

Tim Weekes and Paramedics Ryan Parry and Sam Cooper showcased their skills in a scenario involving a canoe accident with four seriously injured patients, with judges commenting that they "solved the very complex case nearly to perfection."

Team Leader Tim Weekes, said "It's a privilege to represent the Service at such an important event. Scenarios

like the ones we've dealt with show just how skilled the paramedic profession is. I'm proud to have been part of a great team and to have demonstrated what we are capable of."

Anne Lippert, main instructor of the European EMS Championship said: "Of course nobody wants to be part of a major accident, but I can honestly say after to-

day's LAS performance that if I could choose a place to be traumatised, I definitely wouldn't mind being in a place where I would be treated by the London Ambulance Service. They did a remarkable job all through the competition."

The European EMS Championship is part of the EMS2016 congress in Denmark, which is held

these days in Copenhagen. Over 1,000 experts and health professionals are gathered to find new ways to improve the emergency medical systems around the world.

The championship challenges team work, skills, experience and the ability to find a solution in chaotic situations. 12 teams participated from 11 countries.

Resuscitation investment

North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) is investing £1m in patient care over the next 5 years with the purchase of new defibrillators for its 142 emergency ambulances.

Last year the service's emergency care crews responded to nearly 300,000 incidents that resulted in a patient being taken to hospital and they treated and discharged 85,000 patients at home. Around 3,000 of those needed CPR.

Patients who have suffered a cardiac arrest or a heart attack will benefit most from the investment.

The new defibrillators will give staff instantaneous feedback on the quality of their Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation.

Consultant paramedic at NEAS, Paul Aitken-Fell, said: "Other parts of the world have better rates of survival for patients with a system wide approach to cardiac ar-

rest. Advancements in defibrillator technology mean that this investment will improve the outcomes for patients and enable us to also monitor our CPR effectiveness at the scene of an incident."

The Trust is also investing in new electronic patient care record technology, which will connect to the defibrillator and generate a complete care record of emergency care given to the receiving hospital.

Aitken-Fell added: "On average our paramedics only attend 3 to 4 cardiac arrests a year and because they get such a limited exposure to such incidents, giving them more support when delivering CPR at a scene can really make a difference to patients. Our crews can be faced with any number of complex conditions and it's crucial that we equip them with the best tools for the job."

North East Ambulance

Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS) covers 3,200 square miles across the North East region. It employs more than 2,500 staff and serves a population of 2.7 million people by handling all NHS 111 and 999 calls for the region, operating patient transport and ambulance response services, delivering training for communities and commercial audiences and providing medical support cover at events.

Improving the quality of the ambulance response: Focusing on clinical outcomes

In January 2016 Professor Jonathan Benger, National Clinical Director for Urgent Care NHS England, discussed the way forward for the ambulance service including a new way of working moving away from the 8 minute response target; "We need to get the right resource to the right patients - an appropriate vehicle with a skilled paramedic to the patients that need it in a timely manner"

"Of particular importance is the need to ensure that the

ways in which ambulance services are managed and measured reflect the needs of a 21st century population, and are focused on clinical priorities, rather than response times alone."

"We have a tendency to send ambulances to patients when we don't actually know if they need an ambulance or not - we also send multiple vehicles to the same call - there are also other things that start to happen due to the 8 minute response - such as sending a fast response unit to stop the clock - and be-

cause we are only measuring half the calls the green calls may have very long waits for an ambulance response. These kinds of behaviours are inefficient but in some ways are a logical response to current measurement - we are losing sight of the reason for the service, improving outcomes for patients" Prof Jonathan Benger National Clinical Director for Urgent Care NHS England Professor of Emergency Care University of the West of England, Bristol & Consultant in Emergency Medicine University Hospitals

Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, January 2016

The national Ambulance Response CPD conference and exhibition due to be held on Tuesday 28th June 2016 in London will give delegates the opportunity to find out how the ambulance response can be improved - moving away from time based targets - and towards a new way of working, ensuring a clinically appropriate response that will improve outcomes for patients. Through national updates, to case studies and lessons from pilot sites the conference will update delegates on this important development and the impact in practice. The conference will also look at implications of working differently in terms of workforce, para-

medic training, challenging public assumptions around ambulance responses, and the future for both Ambulance Trusts and independent Ambulance Services.

Confirmed chair and speakers include; Mark Docherty Director of Clinical Commissioning and Strategic Development/Executive Nurse West Midlands Ambulance Services NHS Foundation Trust; Hilary Pillin Consultant in Healthcare Response & Preparedness Association of Ambulance Chief Executives; Dr Brendan Lloyd Medical Director and Richard Lee Director of Operations Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust with Julian Baker Director of Collaborative Commissioning Emergency Ambulance Services

Committee; Neil Le Chevalier Director of Operations South West Ambulance Service (the South West Ambulance Service is a National Ambulance Response Programme Pilot Site); Kate Davies OBE Head of Armed Forces and their Families, Health & Justice and Sexual Assault Services Commissioning NHS England with Adellah Snape L&D Board Member and Service User Representative; Gerry Egan Chief Executive College of Paramedics; Mr Kjeld Brogaard Deputy MD Falck Emergency.

• For further information visit <http://www.healthcareconferencesuk.co.uk/improving-the-ambulance-response>.

EEAST director appointments

The East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) has appointed Kevin Brown as Director of Service Delivery, and Wayne Bartlett-Syree Director of Strategy and Sustainability.

Chief Executive Robert Morton said: "I am delighted that we have been able to make these appointments. Kevin and Wayne are both exceptional candidates and the knowledge and skills they bring will help further build our leadership capability."

Kevin, who has always lived in the east of England, has more than 18 years' experience in the ambulance service. He spent his first 10 years as a paramedic in the Beds and Herts Ambulance and Paramedic Service, before moving onto the police service and then into commercial healthcare specialising in critical care. He then

worked for London Ambulance Service for nine years as an experienced strategic commander and, amongst other achievements, led the planning and delivery of the ambulance response for one of the London 2012 Olympic Games Zones.

Kevin said: "Having worked as a paramedic and also having been a community first responder, I am delighted to be given the opportunity to lead the great staff and volunteers across the east of England who work exceptionally hard to provide high quality patient care."

Wayne has extensive NHS experience in a career that has taken him from the sluice rooms to the Board room. Wayne started as a nurse auxiliary at Bedford South Wing Hospital in 1998 before training as a nurse at the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham. After qualify-



Wayne Bartlett-Syree, Director of Strategy and Sustainability

ing he progressed to becoming a senior nurse in critical care. Wayne then moved into management; working in clinical networks delivering a range of service improvement programmes before leading urgent and emergency care reform in Coventry and Warwickshire and the West Midlands. More recently Wayne was a member of the national team for spe-



Kevin Brown, Director of Service Delivery

cialised commissioning at NHS England where he led the strategic planning function.

Wayne said: "I am very pleased to have been appointed to this role; I cannot wait to work with an exceptional group of staff and be part of the team that improves the ways in which we support communities across East of England."



Steve Hextall and Daniel Webster

39 memorable years

Thirty-nine years after starting his ambulance service career, Hinckley man Steve Hextall has hung up his ambulance keys and is set to enjoy retirement.

Steve joined the service in 1977, prior to the paramedic role being created. His first role was as a qualified ambulance person based at Coalville Ambulance Station.

Back then, the ambulance service operated a 'scoop and run' response to 999 calls. In simple terms, patients were picked up and taken straight to hospital for treatment. In 1982 Steve progressed to lead ambulance person and moved to Hinckley Ambulance Station where he was responsible for a team of colleagues.

Emergency lifesaving care and treatment developed as did the ambulance service and in 1994 Steve became a qualified paramedic and responding to emergency and urgent calls across Leicestershire.

East Midlands Ambulance Service Locality Manager Daniel Webster presented Steve with an EMAS retirement shield and gift said: "Steve has committed himself to the service and to the people of Hinckley and Leicestershire for the past 39 years. He leaves behind a legacy of staff who have all developed under his

guidance, ensuring that the high levels of high quality care are maintained.

"During his career Steve has been involved with the delivery of many new initiatives, examples being the introduction of defibrillators on ambulances, something which we and patients are so reliant on to save lives. He was also part of the early roll out of paramedic education in Leicestershire, ensuring that he was able to deliver advanced lifesaving skills which had previously been unavailable to the patient. His presence at Hinckley will be sorely missed and will leave a huge void."

"There have been lots of memorable calls during my 39 years in the service," said Steve. "I responded with colleagues to a variety of traumatic road traffic collision, and two memorable aircraft crashes. There have been good times too. I've helped to deliver 9 babies, and on one special occasion was invited with my crew mate to join the family at the Christening of the baby."

"It's been a real privilege to work with my colleagues at Hinckley Ambulance Station and across the county. The staff are brilliant. It's been a great to be part of the work family, and now I'm looking forward to enjoying my retirement."

New NWS Chief

North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of Derek Cartwright as its new Chief Executive.

Following a rigorous and challenging selection process, the decision to appoint Derek was announced on Tuesday 10 May 2016.

Derek has held the role of Interim Chief Executive since the departure of former chief Bob Williams in March and has had a long career in the ambulance service in the North West.

Derek joined Greater

Manchester Ambulance Service (GMAS) as a member of its patient transport service in 1986. He progressed to the emergency service in 1988 where he became a paramedic and then a manager. Derek continued his career in Greater Manchester and in 2003 he was appointed to the post of Operations Director and operated as a member of the GMAS Board.

On establishment of the North West Ambulance Service in 2006, Derek was appointed to the post of Area Director for the Cumbria and Lancashire area

and was subsequently promoted to Director of Emergency Services in 2009.

In November 2012, Derek was appointed to the role of Director of Operations and then in March 2016 he was appointed as Interim Chief Executive.

Derek said: "I am very proud to be given this opportunity to take the Trust forward and am looking forward to working together with staff and partners in the region to make sure we provide quality, compassionate care for our patients."

Derek received the Queen's Ambulance Medal



Derek Cartwright, Chief Executive at North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust

(QAM) in the New Year's Honours list on 2014. He lives in Bolton with his wife Joanne, has four grown up children and a Grandson.



Roy (left) and Steve in the palace garden

A royal day out

Two South East Coast Ambulance Service paramedics had a day out to remember when they attended Buckingham Palace as guests at a Royal Garden Party.

Clinical Operations Manager (COM) for Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Lewes and Hove, Roy Nightingale and recently-retired Steve

Andrews, from Bognor Regis, were nominated to attend the event for their roles in attending the Shoreham Airshow disaster and their long service. They attended the event, hosted by The Queen, with their wives on Tuesday 10 May.

Steve said: "I was very proud at being chosen to attend on behalf of everyone at SECAMB who attended the

Shoreham Airshow disaster. It was a very special day and being able to park on The Mall and walk through the gates to the palace was surreal. The obvious highlight of the day was seeing The Queen who looks fantastic at 90. It was an honour to represent SECAMB albeit with a feeling of obvious sadness at the loss of life on that tragic day."

Roy added: "I was extremely proud to be invited to attend such a smashing day and represent everyone at

SECAMB involved in attending the Shoreham Airshow. It was a great experience to see The Queen and for both Steve and I to be able to have such special memory to treasure."

Sussex Regional Operations Manager James Pavey added: "Both Steve and Roy have served their local communities with a huge amount of dedication. I am delighted they were able to represent the service and their colleagues at such a prestigious event."



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Green light for 24/7 life savers

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust (EHAAT) is to introduce a 24 hour day seven day week life-saving service via its Rapid Response Vehicles (RRVs).

Trustees approved the decision at its latest Board Meeting in April (26.4.16) in order to meet its vision to provide the highest level of clinical care across Essex, Hertfordshire and surrounding areas. Work will now begin to introduce the extended service, in stages from autumn 2016.

The Board of Trustees also gave the green light to the introduction of a double pilot operation to ensure that the best patient care can be provided during transportation to hospital and further boost aviation safety.

Rob Forsyth, Chair of

Trustees said: "It's thanks to all our supporters that we are in a position to extend our service and provide ever more advanced clinical care to the people of Essex and Hertfordshire. These major initiatives have been fully costed in our current and future financial plans to ensure a strong and sustainable future for the Charity. These improvements won't happen overnight but our decision sets the wheels in motion to work towards a 24/7 clinical service."

Currently, EHAAT's Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) teams operate 7 days a week - 7am to 9pm or sunset, whichever occurs first. The extended service will see greater use of EHAAT's RRVs which will operate into the night, initially for two nights from the

North Weald Airbase.

Like the helicopters, the RRVs transport both a Critical Care Paramedic and Pre-Hospital Care Doctor rapidly to the scene; and carry the same life-saving equipment as carried on the helicopter. This brings an advanced level of clinical care and equipment to the patient that goes beyond that of a land ambulance. In addition, the RRVs will continue to be used when the aircraft are grounded due to bad weather or unplanned maintenance.

Stuart Elms, Clinical Director said: "I am delighted and proud that the Charity can embark on its long term vision to deliver a first class, pre-hospital emergency medical service 24/7. Trauma, illness and cardiac arrests happen anytime, day or night: working with our partner East of England Ambulance Service Trust we have identified the need for extended critical care in our area. It's tremendous news that the Charity can continue to build



upon its very strong foundations of excellent clinicians, clinical care and governance."

In approving plans for a double pilot operation, Trustees took on board industry best practice and recommendations from the Civil Aviation Authority which highlights the benefits of improved specialist support available to the pilot and an increased ability to recover aircraft in the event of a pilot

becoming incapacitated.

Cliff Gale, Operations Director said: "EHAAT has an exemplary safety record and whilst the Civil Aviation Authority recognises that UK single pilot operations are safe, by moving to a two pilot operation we are enhancing aviation safety and patient care whilst establishing a sound model for future expansion of the HEMS Service."

"Two heads are better than

one in emergency situations and we recognise how vital a second pilot will be should a challenging situation occur."

In addition, a double pilot operation will enable Critical Care Paramedics, who currently assist the Pilot as trained Technical Crew Members, to concentrate solely on patient care and undertake advanced clinical procedures in flight, if necessary.

HEMS cardiac care

Critical Care Paramedics from Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust took the first steps in gaining new skills in the use of ultrasound technology - with an aim to boost the on-scene, life-saving care they can give to patients suffering cardiac arrest.

The first-stage training follows the purchase by the Charity of five portable iViz ultrasound units from SonoSite, specialists in ultra-high frequency micro-ultra-

sound technology who led the training workshops.

Paramedics gained hands-on training, aided by the provision of a mannequin from CAE, providers of training equipment and services.

Over recent years, the Charity's Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) crews have seen rising numbers of call-outs to critical cardiac cases which now account for nearly a third of patients treated.

Stuart Elms, Clinical Director of the Trust, explained: "As part of our pro-

gramme towards ever greater patient care, we are moving towards using ultrasound for the management of cardiac arrest and advanced life support.

"Our aim is to make as much use of ultrasound as we currently do of stethoscopes - whether they are cardiac, medical or trauma patients - the insight the new technology gives us at the scene will help us improve outcomes for many more patients."

Paramedics will continue their training under the su-

pervision of Sonosite, working with expert teams at Basildon Hospital's 'Essex Cardiothoracic Centre' and at Harefield Hospital.

Vanessa Light, UK Education Manager & Clinical Applications Specialist - Southern Region, FUJIFILM Sonosite Ltd said: "We were delighted to meet EHAAT's Critical Care Paramedics and help them gain the skills to make the most of this new technology. Our portable, compact systems are expanding the use of ultrasound across the clinical spectrum by cost-effectively bringing high-performance ultrasound to the point of patient care."



Adam Carr, Critical Care Paramedic; Dr Flora Bird of EHAAT; Vanessa Light - Sonosite; David Kerr-Sheppard and Dt Matt O Meara of EHAAT

Plasma on-board

Thames Valley Air Ambulance now carries life-saving "fresh frozen plasma" (FFP) on board its helicopter and emergency response vehicle.

TVAA is one of very few air ambulance charities in the country to use FFP. It is now administered together with O Negative red blood cells (which have been carried on

board since 2014) to give blood transfusions to patients suffering from severe blood loss.

Already TVAA's medical crews have given two life-saving blood transfusions with the addition of plasma to patients with major haemorrhaging in the Thames Valley.

TVAA Emergency Medical Doctor, Dr James Raitt, has worked closely with Julie

Staves and the Transfusion Laboratory at the John Radcliffe Hospital's blood bank in Oxford to enable the service to carry FFP on board and explains its importance: "Blood transfusions are given to treat a multitude of illnesses as well as to replace blood loss in major trauma, therefore when it is donated it is separated into various components that are

used to treat patients in different ways," says Dr Raitt.

"Current evidence and NICE trauma guidelines now recommend that if a patient is bleeding to death, they should receive both 'packed red cells' (which carry oxygen) and 'plasma' (which carries the clotting factors to help stop the bleeding).

"Up until now, it has only been viable for TVAA to carry red blood cells on board due to it being more readily available and the way it is able to be stored and recycled. Plasma is scarcer and

once thawed from its frozen state it only has a five day shelf-life before it has to be discarded.

"As the John Radcliffe is the major Trauma Centre for the region, we are confident that thawed plasma not used by the air ambulance in a 48 hour period can be returned to the hospital via the blood bank and used by the emergency medical teams there without any waste. This partnership is pivotal in improving survival rates for patients needing blood products (red blood cells and plasma) to

treat severe haemorrhaging before they reach hospital."

TVAA 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 and increase patient survival rates.



A Host of New Features at The Emergency Services Show 2016

The Emergency Services Show has a host of new features for 2016 as it moves to the larger Hall 5 at the NEC, Birmingham on 21-22 September. New seminar programmes will cover Lessons Learnt, ICT Innovation and PPE. Home Safety 2016 runs as a new show within the show, the Drone Zone brings together everything UAV, while popular features like the Collaboration Zone and College of Paramedics CPD workshops have also been enlarged. Register now for free entry at: www.emergencyuk.com

Lessons Learnt from past incidents and training together to prepare for the future will be key themes at this year's event. A free two-day seminar programme focusing on lessons learnt, curated and inspired by JESIP and the National Operational Guidance Programme for the Fire & Rescue Service, will review the multi-agency responses to recent incidents, identify the operational challenges and capture positive

learning. It will include new rescue techniques and communication models for improved outcomes in the future.

A number of exhibitors will be available to speak to visitors about collaborative projects. London Fire Brigade for example will be showcasing the results of Exercise Unified Response, a large scale and complex, live and command post exercise.

West Midlands Police's

Multi Agency Specialist Assessment Team (MASAT) will be exhibiting this year. "This a great piece of partnership working in the CBRN world that has shaped thinking and operational direction throughout the UK. West Midlands Emergency Services teams were instrumental in the development and trial of this team," says Jon Thursfield, Inspector Operations, Emergency Planning, West Midlands Police.

Visitors to the Excelerate stand will be able to see the new joint command vehicle for police and fire services in Northamptonshire. Currently under construction, it is believed will be the only one of its kind in the UK. The new vehicle, which will be run by Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), will provide a base for commanders when in attendance at large scale or major incidents.



Home Safety 2016 is an exciting new show running alongside The Emergency Services Show 2016, where emergency services will share collaborative approaches to helping people

live safely at home and equipment suppliers will showcase the latest specialist equipment for the safe home. Speakers will include a number of fire and rescue services that have expanded their work into the health area by working alongside the NHS, as well as partnering other agencies such as Age UK and the Alzheimer's Society. The role of data and research in targeting prevention and changing people's behaviours will also be covered.

As well as showcasing drone suppliers, the new Drone Zone will bring together industry specialists

The impressive indoor and outdoor exhibition is a one-stop shop for sourcing all the latest services and equipment required

and end-users who will be making presentations on UAV technology and sharing their experiences with delegates. The programme includes a presentation on risk management for Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) and the factors affecting RPAS operational safety in both civil airspace and commercial space. Other sessions will cover privacy, security implications and legislation.

The ever-popular College of Paramedics' free 30 minute CPD workshops will be delivered from the ex-



College of Paramedics

panded College of Paramedics' CPD area. No pre-booking is required and all those attending the workshops will be given a CPD certificate. The new CPD-ac-

credited Trauma Care

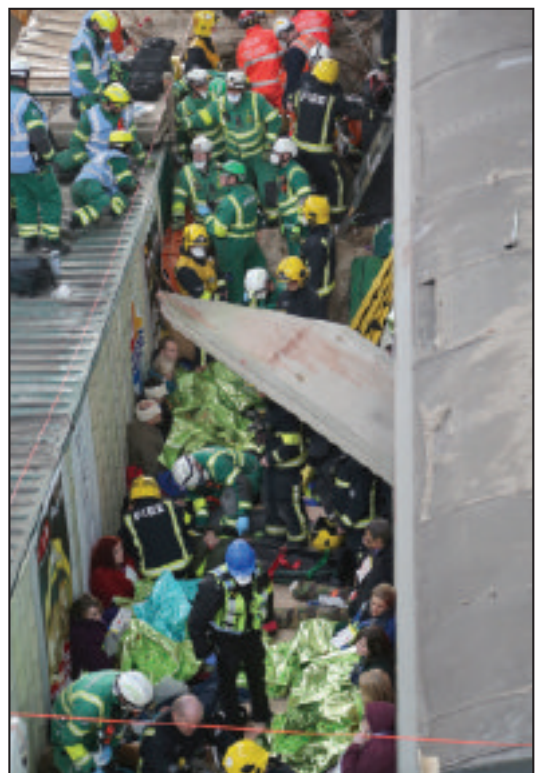
Training & Education Zone will feature CPD skills stations and a fully immersive training suite where teams can perform a primary survey under pressure. The Emergency Services Show is expected to feature over 450 exhibiting companies and organisations. The impressive indoor and outdoor exhibition is a one-stop shop for sourcing all the latest services and equipment required for emergency response and keeping the public safe from threats such as floods, road traffic accidents

and terrorist attacks. Exhibiting companies include leading names in first response, communications, IT, protective clothing and uniforms, vehicles and fleet, vehicle equipment, outsourcing, training, community safety, station facilities, medical supplies, search and rescue and extrication. Several exhibitors are planning live demonstrations of equipment and rescue techniques.

The event also presents the ideal opportunity to meet, network and collaborate with colleagues within the emergency services, government departments, voluntary sector partners and NGOs.

The NEC is next to Birmingham International station and Birmingham Airport as well as being directly accessible by motorway. Visitor entry, seminar theatres and parking at the Emergency Services Show are all free.

• To register for free entry visit www.emergencyuk.com



Exercise Unified Response

Bespoke Theatre Resus Bags



Having a long term relationship with Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust, SP Services were keen to discuss the idea of developing some new medical bags with them.

It was recognised for some time that theatres have previously used a standard resuscitation bag and over the years which had become cluttered as the anaesthetic team had requested more and more equipment is stored in the bag for management of patients across the trust.

Several problems were being highlighted with this storage bag system. The Operating department practitioners (ODPs) who accompanied the anaesthetist with the resus bag were starting to complain of back and shoulder problems when transferring due to the weight of the bag. In addition, staff could not easily access the equipment quickly as everything was thrown in the bag together. This resulted in unnecessary delays when quick interventions are paramount.

Working closely with Stephen Kemp, Lead Prac-

titioner for Theatres at Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust, a new medical bag was developed which has fully met the needs of the theatre teams.

Stephen commented: "The new Parabag from SP has greatly improved the way we operate. It incorporates a number of transport options and can be used as a rucksack thereby improving weight transfer and also wheeled along and has its own wheel storage system. The bag also has compartmentalisation, allowing for improved segregation and equipment storage and all areas can be accessed quickly and freely."

Stephen added: "The new TPU construction is a much better material for cleaning following use on all patients including high risk patients, an absolute must in the daily working environment for this essential bag."

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