



Weekly Briefing

Issue 250

Thursday 2nd June 2011

This
Week

Demand Soars During Holidays

New Vehicles for Trust

HPC Registration

Ozzie Para Checks out WMAS

CFR Wins DHL Award

Good Luck Martyn & Liz

FAREWELL JOHN AND GOOD LUCK!

John Batchelor retires after a quarter of a Century - page 7



Got a story? Tell the Press Office on 01384 246 496
or 07909 528 550 or email pressoffice@wmas.nhs.uk

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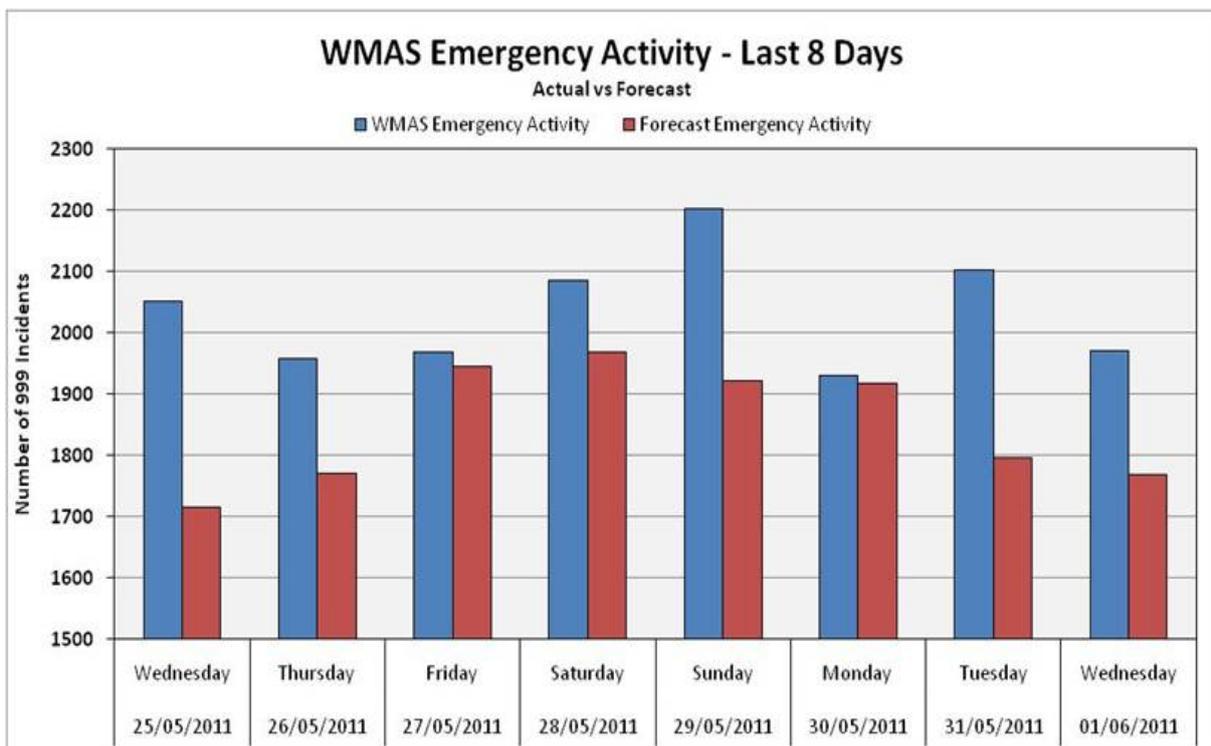


Demand Soars During School Holidays

As operational staff will testify, the end of May and beginning of June has been massively busy. The 9.1% spike in demand across the Region has seen the Trust face real challenges over the last eight days. The break down by area shows that West Mercia and Coventry & Warwickshire were worst affected.

Increases in emergency activity compared to forecast (25th May – 1st June)	
Birmingham	+ 5.38%
Black Country	+ 9.36%
Coventry & Warwickshire	+ 11.05%
Staffordshire	+ 9.77%
West Mercia	+ 12.24%

As you can see from the graph below, certain days have seen huge increases in demand on what the Trust could have anticipated. Trust Chief Executive, Anthony Marsh, said: "I would like to thank staff for all of their efforts over this challenging period. I know that you are doing all you can to ensure that patients continue to receive the very highest standards of care. Analysis of the types of calls shows there is not one area that we have seen rise higher than another; all types of calls are showing large increases. Over the last few days I have heard many cases where staff have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help patients. Please accept my grateful thanks for everything that you have done to help our patients."



Top Stories



First Deliveries Due By August

Good progress is being made in plans to bring in over 100 new operational vehicles. The Trust has placed multimillion pound orders for PTS, HCRT & A&E vehicles. The arrival of the A&E vehicles will mean their average age comes below five years for the first time, while all of the HCRT vehicles will have been replaced over the last two years. The PTS orders will also reduce the average age of the fleet down. The orders are:

- 41 - Patient Transport Service vehicles – a variety of models are being brought into service
- 17 - Healthcare Referral Team (HCRT) ambulances which replace seven year old vehicles
- 27 - A&E ambulances – a 50:50 split between Citroen and Peugeot
- 31 - Skoda Scout 4x4 rapid response vehicles as chosen by staff

Regional Head of Fleet, Graham Cann, said: "The first of the Scouts should be into service during August with many of the PTS vehicles not being far behind. We have placed all of the conversion orders and are now just awaiting delivery dates from the manufacturers but I am confident that the vast majority of the vehicles should be in service before the winter."



CRB Packs - Are on their Way...

Operational staff who have been identified as not ever having undergone a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check will shortly be getting the following information packs from their line manager:

- CRB guidance pack which includes a covering letter and proposal for CRB disclosures (for information only).
- CRB application pack which includes a covering letter explaining what staff will need to do and the documents they will need to provide; a verification of identity form and CRB application form.

Please note that the verification of identity form can be signed by a member of HR, a line manager and/or a member of the Recruitment Team. **Staff are advised not to send their original identity documents to Recruitment as the verification form will be signed by HR, your line manager and/or Recruitment in advance.** From 1st July 2011 onwards, CRB Disclosures will be sought for all members of staff and volunteers who have not had a CRB check for over three years.



Whistle Blowing Policy

West Midlands Ambulance Service operates a 'Whistle Blowing' policy which encourages all staff to raise concerns where they feel the interests of patients, staff or the Trust are at risk. This may include unlawful conduct, financial malpractice or risks to patients. It is the responsibility of all employees to raise suspicions at the earliest opportunity. The Trust will respect the confidentiality of staff and will also ensure that their identity is protected. Examples of incidents that could be reported through the whistle blowing policy:

- Unacceptable behaviour or ill treatment of patients or colleagues
- Any criminal offence such as theft or fraud
- Unacceptable risks to the health and safety of patients or colleagues

All concerns will be fully investigated and the employee will be provided with written feedback at the close of the investigation. To report an issue under the policy, contact your line manager either verbally or in writing. If an employee feels that their line manager may be involved then concerns should be raised with a director. Full details of the Whistle Blowing Policy can be found on the Trust Intranet site. Go to '**Trust Information**', then click on '**Policies Procedures & Strategies**' and you will find it in the '**Human Resources**' section.

Operational



Renew Your Registration On-line

All Health Professions Council (HPC) registered paramedics are currently being sent a registration renewal form. However, this year, there is a chance to save time by renewing online with real-time renewal and payment facilities. The HPC says that it will only take on-line registrants a few minutes to complete the process. Marc Seale, Chief Executive and Registrar, said: "We have listened to feedback from registrants and responded with a new online renewal system. Online renewal is less arduous and more efficient than filling out paper forms and posting them to us, which can take up to 10 days. Our registrations team is on hand to answer any questions in regards to online renewal and can assist you at any stage." The previous system of posting renewal forms is still in place but it should be noted that the average processing time is approximately ten working days, although this may vary depending on the volume of forms received by the HPC. The online renewal deadline is 6.00pm on Wednesday 31st August. Registrants must also send a payment with the renewal form unless a direct debit instruction is in place. Postal renewal deadline remains as midnight on the 31st August.



STOP Campaign Launched in the Black Country!

From this week, all operational vehicles in the Black Country will be kitted with STOP (Suitable Treatment at Other Place) packs. The STOP campaign is aimed at raising awareness and encouraging crews to utilise alternative care pathways as A&E isn't always the most appropriate place for a patient. The laminated packs will provide crews with all the information they need at their fingertips so they can provide their patient with the best and most appropriate care pathway. Dave Ashford, Black Country Clinical Practice and Governance Manager, said: "During this month we're working in partnership with Sandwell, New Cross, Walsall Manor and Russells Hall Hospitals to identify those patients who have been conveyed to A&E but could've been seen and treated via an alternative care pathway. The aim is to not only educate crews about alternative care pathways but it's an excellent way for us to analyse what types of patients we're currently conveying to our local hospitals so that we can work together to further improve patient care."

Refurbishment Work at Warwick Hospital

Work will commence at Warwick Hospital on Thursday 16th June to refurbish the theatres. Theatre operations will continue in three temporary theatres located on the staff parking area of car park C. In order for the work to be carried out it is essential that access via the Millers Road entrance to the hospital is restricted and this restriction is to allow access for hospital utilities staff only. Maternity patients attending by A&E ambulances will have to be taken in via A&E doors, with those attending by their own transport being advised of an appropriate entrance. Attached at the back of the briefing is a plan of the proposed restriction in traffic flow through the Millers Road vehicle access gate and other obstacles likely to be in this area. During the work, two cranes will be on site, with one occasionally being in the area of the A&E entrance by the waste area. The Trust will have good notice of when this is likely to be and will probably be at weekends. Only ambulance vehicles will be permitted in the area in front of A&E and this will be marshalled by Hospital Security. The two Doctor spaces in front of the A&E admin office will be for ambulance use only. Space is already limited and crews are kindly reminded that once off loaded they should vacate the ambulance area as quickly as possible to allow other vehicles access. The hospital has also requested that alert calls are given as soon as possible so that work force can be advised to take care in the access road area. **All** PTS crews will have to use the alternative access points during the refurbishment (indicated on the attached plan). Please be aware that space is limited so please try not to block any one else in.



Operational



Warwick University End of Life CPD Event

Warwick University, in conjunction with WMAS, are inviting paramedics/technicians to attend a training event to learn about and help evaluate a decision support tool that will assist you in making safe and effective decisions when attending to patients at the end-of-life. The event will take place from 9.30am to 1.30pm on 23rd June at Radcliffe House Training and Conference Centre, University of Warwick. Lunch will be provided by and you will also receive a CPD certificate for attending. If you are interested in attending the training event, please turn to the back of the briefing for more information. Places must be booked by the 9th June. Attendance must be in staffs own time and no overtime payment is permitted.

Upcoming Station Meetings

Staff are reminded that a number of station meetings have been arranged throughout the Region which are taking place over the next few weeks. These meetings are the perfect opportunity to give your views, raise issues, suggest ideas and discuss queries you may have with senior managers. All staff are welcome to attend.

Station	Date	Time
Tweedale	Thursday 2 nd June	1800 hours
Park Lane	Wednesday 15 th June	1800 hours
Rugby	Wednesday 22 nd June	1800 hours
Stoke On Trent	Wednesday 29 th June	1800 hours
Monyhull	Wednesday 29 th June	1800 hours
Donnington	Tuesday 12 th July	1800 hours
Wombourne	Tuesday 19 th July	1800 hours
Henrietta Street	Tuesday 19 th July	1830 hours
Dordon	Wednesday 20 th July	1800 hours
Stafford	Wednesday 27 th July	1800 hours
Tettenhall	Tuesday 16 th August	1800 hours
Lichfield	Wednesday 24 th August	1800 hours
Stratford	Wednesday 24 th August	1800 hours
Warwick	Wednesday 21 st September	1800 hours
Henrietta Street	Thursday 20 th October	1830 hours
Coventry	Wednesday 26 th October	1800 hours
Nuneaton	Wednesday 23 rd November	1800 hours
Rugby	Wednesday 7 th December	1800 hours

Diploma in Pre Hospital Care Training

If you're planning to sit the Diploma in Pre Hospital Care at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the West Midlands Central Accident Resuscitation and Emergency (CARE) may be able to help! The CARE team is putting on training sessions for staff in a study group format to help prepare for sitting the exam. The sessions, which are free to attend, are planned to be held in the Clinical Skills Centre at Bristol Road Ambulance Station. If you are interested in attending such a session and would like more information, please email your expressions of interest to office@wmcareteam.co.uk. Once the CARE team has an idea of numbers interested, dates will be arranged. Staff wishing to attend must do so in their own time. No overtime will be paid.

Non Operational



Birmingham Administration Team

After recently relocating to Bristol Road station, the administration team for Birmingham are settling well into their new surroundings. Ann Lacey from Chelmsley Wood, Dawn Baggott from Solihull, Carole Petty from Sutton (pictured left to right) and Glenda Stanton from Mornhull moved to Bristol Road a few weeks ago. Carole said: "The move went well with no problems. We're all settling into our new office and having been used to working on a station on our own we're getting used to working together. Thank you to everyone for their help and patience during the move." To contact the administration team at Bristol Road, please:



- Telephone: 0121 415 6927
- Fax: 0121 471 2757
- Email: birminghamadminsupt@wmas.nhs.uk

Louise Aims for the Peaks

Louise Jasper, Administration Assistant, based in the EOC at Millennium Point will be taking part in the Three Peaks Challenge from 2nd - 3rd July. The challenge is to climb the three largest mountains in Great Britain in just 24 hours. Louise will be taking part in the challenge with her partner and a few friends and will be raising money for Cancer Research. The event will begin with the first ascent of Ben Nevis in Scotland (4,409 ft) and then onto Scafell Pike in the Lake District (3,209 ft) and finally to Snowdon in Wales (3,560 ft). To sponsor Louise please visit www.justgiving.com/pimpmypeaks or you can now fill in the sponsor form that is located on the reception at Millennium Point.



News



Trust ID Badges

All staff are reminded to ensure that they wear their Trust ID badge at all times whilst at work or whilst being on Trust premises. This includes when visiting ambulance stations, training facilities, EOC's and also Trust Headquarters. This is a security issue and helps to ensure the safety of ambulance service sites and facilities. If staff do not have a valid and / or up to date card then they should arrange to get one as soon as possible.



Crews Thanked by Patient

A patient who recently had to call upon the ambulance service has sent a letter of thanks to their local newspaper. The letter, which appeared in the Dudley edition of the Express and Star on Monday 23rd May, was written by Mrs E Martin from Wolverhampton and reads: "Having recently had to use the ambulance service because of a very painful injury due to a fall, I wish to thank the paramedics who reassured me and made me comfortable on the way to A&E at New Cross." Well done to those who attended.



New Website To Launch

Members of UNISON may like to be aware that the local branch will be launching its new website on Saturday (4th June). It will have a new address: www.wmambo.co.uk and will contain who your reps are, how to get advice and what is happening both locally and nationally.



News



Cheers John and Good Luck

John Batchelor, a paramedic in Coventry, retired from the Trust this week after 25 years service. John started working in PTS and then moved to the Emergency Services side of the ambulance service. He worked at Tile Hill and Canley before finally working as a paramedic on the RRV shift at Coventry Station. John is hoping to follow his plan to become a JP and also currently assists at the Coventry Motor Museum where he enjoys driving the old buses. He was presented with a commemorative plaque from the service by GSM Pete Head and received gifts from the Mayor's Office, whisky glasses and a bottle of mature whisky. Pete said: "I would like to thank John for his hard work and dedication during his quarter of a century with the ambulance service. Staff will miss John and his many tales of both the ambulance service, and his past military experiences. Good luck John and we all wish you a happy retirement."



Want it at Home...Weekly? Catherine Can Help!

If you like to keep your finger on the pulse, why not get the Weekly Briefing emailed to your home address? More than 1,000 staff from across the Region are now enjoying the benefits of receiving the Weekly Briefing to their personal email accounts every Thursday. To read the Trust's latest news in the comfort of your own home; in bed, in the bath, in the garden or wherever you like, send your personal email address to pressoffice@wmas.nhs.uk and Catherine, the Communications and Press Office Administrator, will add you to the list. You will then automatically receive the Weekly Briefing every Thursday. If you change your email address don't forget to let us know.



Ozzie Para Checks Out WMAS

An Australian ambulance service Clinical Team Leader has spent three days at WMAS as part of a Scholarship for Australasian Paramedics. Glen Cuttance, who works for South Australia Ambulance Service and has been a paramedic for 21 years, spent a day with the Trusts Emergency Planning Team, examined various aspects of our EOC operations and also went to see HART including going on calls with the team. Of his visit, Glen said: "I have been welcomed by everyone at West Midlands Ambulance Service and have thoroughly enjoyed my three days here. In many respects, things are very similar to back home, but I will definitely be taking some new ideas and concepts I have seen back with me to see if they could work down under. I have also been overwhelmed by the history of England on my first visit here, and I will be trying to organise another visit, but next time as a holiday with my wife and 12 year old son." Glen has worked in his career as a paramedic in Alice Springs, Queensland, Victoria and for the last ten years, in Adelaide. HART Manager, James Price, presented Glen with a WMAS commemorative plaque to remember his visit to the Midlands. Glen also spent time at London Ambulance and City University in London before departing back home to Adelaide.



Dan Doubles His Efforts for Charity

A Clinical Development Officer from Coventry and Warwickshire is doubling his efforts for the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance charity this year, quite literally!! Dan Brady, based at Nuneaton Station, ran the 5km Air Ambulance Heroes Run at the Stoneleigh Showground in Coventry last year and raised £700. This year, Dan is doubling his efforts and running 10km on Sunday to raise funds. Dan said: "I would like thank the people who have supported me so far, but I am aiming to beat last year's total. Hopefully, by running twice as far, people will reward the charity for my efforts! I have been training hard but i know it is going to be much tougher than last year." To help Dan reach his target, please visit his Just Giving page to donate to this worthy cause via www.justgiving.com/DanBrady



News



CFR Wins DHL Community Hero Award

Phil Brown, CFR and group co-ordinator for Stone was recently awarded the DHL UK Foundation Individual Volunteering award for 2011. Phil who is a truck driver for DHL began responding for the CFR group in 2007 and was nominated for the award after providing around 700 hours to the Stone scheme over the last year. The DHL UK Foundation works with different charities and organisations throughout the UK providing both volunteers and funds to various projects. Phil was presented his award along with £600 for the CFR scheme at a special ceremony to celebrate DHL employee achievements on Friday 20th May. As well as being a CFR, Phil plays an active role in promoting the DHL truck and child safety program. The program involves Phil and other members of staff attending schools with the trucks and demonstrating to the children the dangers of being around these large vehicles.



Notice Board



Good Luck Martyn & Liz

Staff from Coventry and Warwickshire would like to wish Martyn Scott and Elizabeth Nicolas the best of luck as they get married this weekend in Croydon. Officer Martyn, and Paramedic Liz, who are both based at Warwick Station, have been together nearly three years and engaged for two. After their wedding, they are setting off on a cruise around the Mediterranean for their honeymoon. Good luck to you both and everyone wishes you a long and happy marriage.



Clivestock 2011!

Following the huge success of its debut last year, Clivestock music festival returns to Worcestershire for 2011! Clivestock, a music festival for WMAS, is anticipated to be bigger and better this year! Just outside Stourport on over 60 acres of land, Clivestock is from 30th until 31st July (guests can pitch up tents on 29th July for a chill out night around the campfire!). The festival kicks off at 1pm on 30th with 'The Adams Jovi Experience'. Headlining the festival will be Black Country Divisions' very own rock band, 'Trading Places' made up of ambulance staff! With karaoke, a raffle, large camp fire and a spectacular finale of fireworks it's a festival not to be missed! All staff from WMAS, friends and family are welcome to attend (children must be aged over 13). All you need to bring are tents, drinks, food and something to cook on (there are always plenty of barbecues knocking around!). Toilet facilities and water are provided onsite. Tickets are priced at just £10 per person (£15 at the gate!). For more information, please see the poster at the back of the Weekly Briefing.

Trading Places Gig

If you can't wait until Clivestock to see Trading Places, get yourself along to the Royal Oak Pub in Amblecote this weekend! Band members Roy Russon, Steve Jasper, Colin Campbell, Phil Potter and Andy Yorke will be performing at the Royal Oak on Saturday 4th June from 2100 hours. Admission is free, all over 18's are welcome! Visit www.tradingplaces.webs.com to listen (and learn the words!) to their new track 'Clivestock' which will be performed live at Clivestock music festival on 30th July.



Notice Board



Bike4Life Revs Up For Second Year

Calling all bikers from WMAS and beyond! Organisers of a charity ride-out planned for 26th June (2011) are inviting the motorbike community to join in a special ride-out in aid of Midlands Air Ambulance. The Bike4Life ride-out will cover 100 miles of some of the best biking road network across Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, and is being organised in association with BMW Motorrad, Kerrang and Michelin. Now in its second year, Bike4Life will kick off at midday from the Worcester Warriors Rugby Stadium. The ride-out is free to enter but participants will be asked to make a voluntary donation to the Air Ambulance Charity. Stef Langford-Brown, Bike4Life Event Manager said: "More than half of all incidents we respond to each year are road traffic accidents, many of which unfortunately involve motorcyclists, so we have a strong association with the motorbike community and have received a great deal of support from them over the years." Any one wishing to join the MAA ride-out can register online at www.midlandsairambulance.com/bike4life or contact Stef Langford-Brown on 0800 840 2040.



Self Catering Holiday Accommodation for WMAS Staff in Brittany

Fancy a real value for money holiday in fabulous Brittany? The below accommodation caters for all tastes and is on offer to WMAS staff.

- Maison Beryl - A 500 year old farmhouse set in lovely countryside and about a 20 minute drive south of Le Mont St. Michel. Can sleep up to 8 - 10 people with a lovely private garden.
- Cours es Chartier - A fabulous apartment in a secluded courtyard in the centre of the medieval town of Dol de Bretagne, halfway between St. Malo and Le Mont St. Michel. Ideal for a couple but can sleep up to 4.
- Mont Dol - A lovely little stone built cottage only a couple of kms from the seaside at Vivier sur Mer, in the Bay of Le Mont St. Michel. Sleeps up to 4 - 6.

All accommodation is serviced by a local English couple who will meet and greet you and give all the local advice you might need. Special WMAS discounts are available. For more information please contact John Clarke via jclarke339@aol.com.

Can You Help New Cross Diabetic?

A former WMAS employee is asking for your help to come up with fundraising ideas to help with a new charity that she has set up. Sharon Beddow (previously Calvin) is a diabetic but has most recently been diagnosed with kidney failure and is now on daily dialysis and is currently on the transplant list awaiting a double organ transplant (kidney and pancreas). Talking about her Charity work Sharon said: "I have a full understanding of what diabetic patients go through, having been diabetic for 30+ years, since the age of 10, and would really like to help other fellow patients. To do this, a few friends and I have set up a charity 'New Cross Diabetics' who are concentrating on raising funds to help make life a little easier and more pleasant for diabetic patients. These include subsidised days out, parties and comforts whilst spending time in hospital such as tv/dvd for outpatients departments. My hope is that someone may be able to help with raising these valuable funds by either suggesting some ways of fundraising or by maybe helping out at any of our events, such as quiz nights, fun days or bag packs, anything at all really." For more information please contact Sharon via sharonbeddow@mrzuki.com.

Special Offer to See Disney On Ice

Disney on Ice returns this November to the Birmingham NIA. Lightning McQueen, Mater and the crew of Disney/Pixar's CARS are all in action. The performances will run from Wednesday 2nd to Sunday 6th November. DB Promotions are offering staff discounted tickets on selected performances. Tickets for this production sell out quickly. For further information please phone 0121 308 4511 or visit www.dbpromotions.co.uk/partnerdiscounts-worldoffantasy.htm

Disclaimer

WMAS has not reviewed these third party discounts or offers and does not control and is not responsible for any third party, the third party discounts or offers or their content or availability. The Trust therefore does not approve or endorse or make any representations about any third party or discounts or offers, or any results that may be obtained from using them. If you decide

Jobs Update

Vacancies open to internal candidates only; accessible via NHS Jobs

Clinical Development Officer – VN008-11-12

Base: Initially Baggeridge Education & Training Centre, DY3 4AD with review of CDO Zone allocation upon completion of probation period & qualification.

Salary: Band 7 £30,460 - £40,157 (fully qualified)

(This post can be accessed for internal candidates only via NHS Jobs – you must search using this number: 217-VN008-11-12)

Above vacancy closes Friday 3rd June 2011

PTS Driver – VN014-11-12

Base: Warwick, CV34 5LW

Salary: Band 3 £15,860 - £18,827

(This post can be accessed for internal candidates only via NHS Jobs – you must search using this number: 217-VN014-11-12)

Above vacancy closes Monday 13th June 2011

Vacancies advertised externally – accessible via NHS Jobs

Strategy & Business Development Director – VN010-11-12

Base: Regional Ambulance Headquarters, DY5 1LX

Salary: Band 9 £77,079 - £97,478

Above vacancy closes Friday 3rd June 2011

Patient Car Services Driver – VN012-11-12

Base: Heart of England

Salary: Band 2 £13,093 - £17,003

Part-Time Patient Car Services Driver – VN013-11-12

Base: Heart of England

Salary: Band 2 £13,903 - £17,003 (pro rata)

Hours: 1600 – 0000 hours (Monday/Wednesday/Friday)

Above vacancies close Thursday 9th June 2011

Stores Person – VN009-11-12

Base: Chelmsley Wood Ambulance Station, B37 6RE

Salary: Band 2 £13,903 - £17,003

Ambulance Fleet Assistant – VN011-11-12

Base: Staffordshire, ST16 3HS

Salary: Band 2 £13,903 - £17,003

BANK Operations Assistant (PTS) – VN015-11-12

Base: PTS Control, Leamington, CV32 5HH

Salary: Band 2 £13,903 - £17,003

Above vacancies close Monday 13th June 2011

Free of charge careers advice and guidance for all NHS Staff is available at www.careers-advice.org/hlas or 08000 150 850

For an information pack including job description, contact us in one of the following ways:



Complete application form on line at www.jobs.nhs.uk - enter job title or reference number in the search box!



Write to Recruitment Team, Baggeridge House, Fir Street, Gospel End, Sedgley, DY3 4AD



Ring the Recruitment team on 01902 886459



Weekly Questions and Answers Session:

Date: 2nd June 2011

During this week's meeting between WMAS' Director of Service Delivery, Barry Thurston, the Joint Union Staffside Chair, Stuart Gardner and the Joint Union Staffside Secretary, Peter Green, the following points were raised:

Q: What are the benefits of not opting out of the Foundation Trust? If I opt out can I simply just 'opt back in' without any ramifications? Is there a limit to the amounts of times I can Opt Out or Opt Back In?

I would request that the Trust makes all information available in respect of how staff members may be affected by the changes (Good & Bad)? What it will mean to the service that we deliver (Good & Bad)? What body we would address if these pledges were not upheld?

I realise that a lot of work has gone into Foundation Trust Status; unfortunately an Information Package does not seem to have been an important part of that process.

A: Becoming a Foundation Trust brings a number of advantages for the organisation and the staff who work for it. Perhaps the biggest advantage is that staff will get a direct input into the heart of decision making on the future direction of the organisation. This is achieved through the creation of the 'Members Council'. It is made up of governors that represent the public, key stakeholders and the staff. The Council decides the future strategy of the Trust and has a great influence on the organisation by agreeing who the non-executive directors and Chairman are. If you are not a staff member you will not be able to stand for election by your peers as a Governor or take part in the election of Governors. Even if you opt out you are still bound by all decisions taken by the Trust.

A number of questions have been raised through this forum about what will happen to terms and conditions when WMAS becomes a Foundation Trust. The Trust has twice written to all staff (via pay slips) jointly with staff side outlining the fact that there are no plans to move away from Agenda for Change or any other current terms and conditions. As you will be aware, all NHS organisations must become a foundation trust by 2013 in their own right or be taken over by an existing one.

Other issues that are positive for the Trust include: legally binding contracts that ensure that the trust receives monies due to it for undertaking work; becoming more business-like – in these austere times that we live, it is absolutely vital that we reduce waste so that we can place as much resource as possible into the services that help the patients we serve.

Whilst there is nothing to stop you opting out, or indeed back in again, one would ask why you would want to opt out in the first place. As already mentioned, the only ramification would be the inability to vote or stand as a Governor.



In regard to your comment about the amount of information made available to staff, the following methods have been used:

- Two letters to individuals via pay slips
- Copy of the summary consultation document to each individual via pay slips
- Copy of the full document sent to all stations along with other information on the website
- Documents also available on the website and intranet
- Regular Weekly Briefing articles
- Drop in sessions at stations – something we hope to repeat and widen during the summer months.
- Posters on station notice boards

It is also difficult to highlight the 'bad' points for staff of becoming an FT as the Trust sees this as a wholly positive change and not one that will adversely affect staff. There is little doubt that becoming a Foundation trust will improve governance and assurance and make the organisation more accountable to the public.

Q: Why are CFRs being sent to 'Green' calls where their only purpose would be one of seemingly hand holding as they do not 'Clock Stop' such incidents? What is the Clinical purpose of responding CFRs if they have no training/skill base to address an incident that they would be activated on?

A: CFRs receive formal First Person on Scene training. They are trained to carry out basic life support, administer oxygen, record basic observations and take a patient history, to name a few of their skills. In many cases providing moral support is as important to the patient as any other clinical intervention as it provides comfort and reassurance to the patient.

We meet on a weekly basis so if you have any comments or questions, please e-mail Stuart Gardner on sg.unison@btinternet.com or Pete Green on meetings@petegreen.plus.com

Barry Thurston

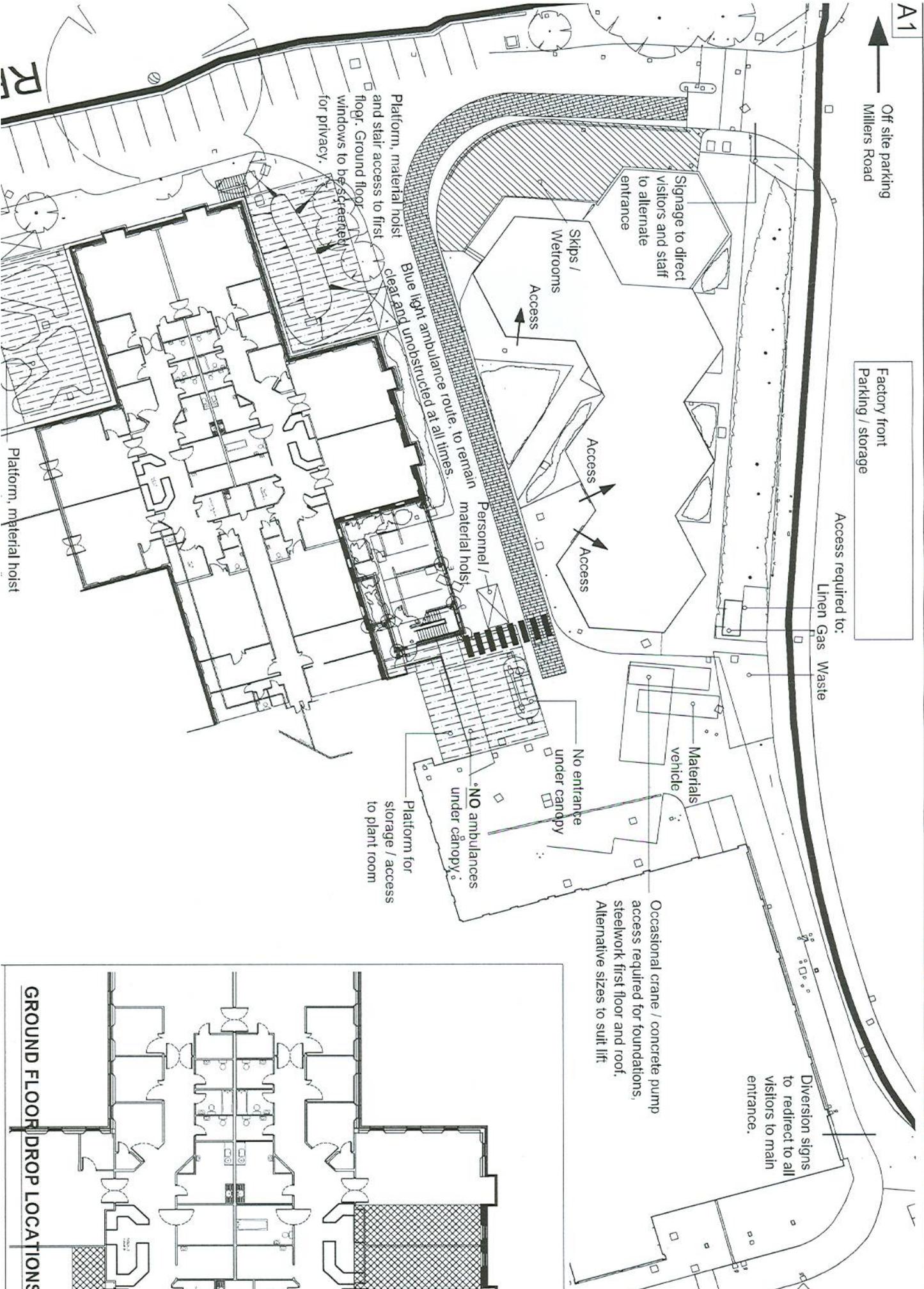
Peter Green

Stuart Gardner

Off site parking
Millers Road

Factory front
Parking / storage

Access required to:
Linen Gas Waste



Platform, material hoist

Platform, material hoist and stair access to first floor. Ground floor windows to be screened for privacy.

Blue light unobstructed route: to remain clear and unobstructed at all times.

Personnel / material hoist

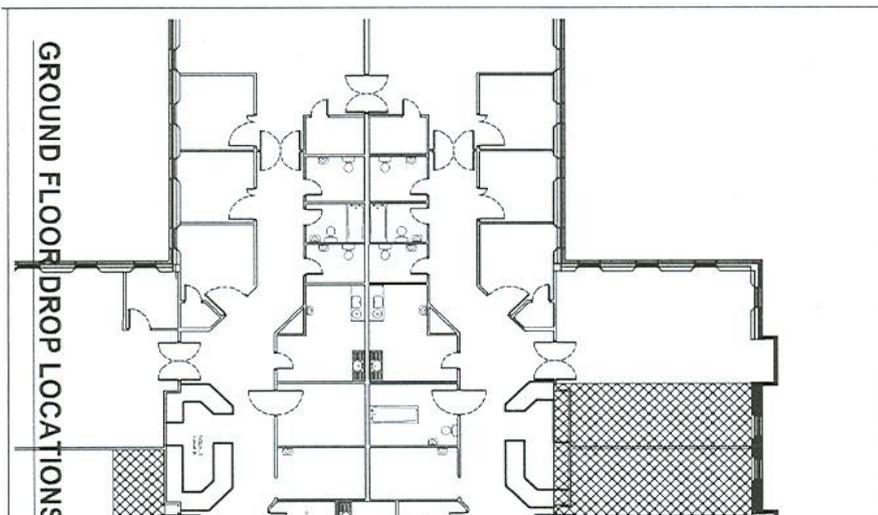
Platform for storage / access to plant room

NO ambulances under canopy

No entrance under canopy

Occasional crane / concrete pump access required for foundations, steelwork first floor and roof. Alternative sizes to suit lift

Diversion signs to redirect to all visitors to main entrance.

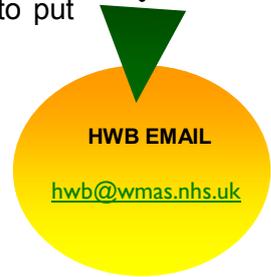


GROUND FLOOR DROP LOCATIONS



HEALTH & WELLBEING EMAIL ACCOUNT

We now have a dedicated email account set up to receive staff ideas and comments on Health & Wellbeing initiatives within the Trust. Please email hwb@wmas.nhs.uk to put forward event ideas and suggestions.



HOW DID YOU SLEEP LAST NIGHT??

HEALTH EVENTS DIARY

Mental Health Awareness Week	23-29 May
World Blood Donor Day	14 Jun
National Bike Week	18-26 Jun

SLEEP FACT

The world's loudest snore is 111.6 decibels – that's as loud as a jet plane!



The Mental Health Foundation have recently teamed up with Sleepio to raise awareness of the huge impact sleep has on everyone's mental and physical health. According to the Mental Health Foundation, the quality of your sleep can have a significant impact on your mood, energy levels and ability to concentrate, it can affect your work, cause relationship problems and make it difficult to complete simple tasks. Sleep can also affect our mental wellbeing, immune system, and other health-related issues. It is crucial to our health that we learn to sleep well.

Their comprehensive Sleep Matters report and handy Sleep Well pocket guide to better sleep constitutes the start of their year-long campaign to help the UK get a better nights' sleep.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Sleepio

The Sleepio website includes info about various sleep problems and your chance to take part in the Great British Sleep Survey! www.sleepio.com

Mental Health Foundation

The Mental Health Foundation promotes the impact of sleep on our mental health. www.mentalhealth.org.uk

Whether you're having serious problems sleeping or just an occasional night's poor sleep, their 'Sleep Well' guide contains advice to help you improve the factors that affect how you sleep such as health, environment, attitude and lifestyle. Visit www.howdidosleep.org to download a free copy of the sleep guide, a blank sleep diary, to help you record your sleep and a free progressive relaxation MP3. According to Sleepio, listening to the 10 minute track can help relieve stress and muscle tension built up throughout the day, preparing your body and mind for a sound night's sleep.

WELLBEING PODCASTS ONLINE

The Mental Health Foundation has produced several podcasts ranging from 5 minutes to 20 minutes, discussing relaxation and sleep techniques. Below shows a sample of the range of podcasts which can be downloaded.

Exercise and Mental Health

About how everyone can look after their mental health using exercise.

Wellbeing and Relaxation

A short and easy form of meditation which can be effective in relaxing and reducing stress.

Stress and the Mind: Full Works

A series of exercises which outline how to use positive emotions and imagery to ease pressure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING CONTACT
YOUR LOCAL HR DEPARTMENT

Training Event - 23rd June 2011

End-of-Life Decision Support Tool

I am inviting paramedics/technicians to attend a training event to learn about and help evaluate a decision support tool that will assist you in making safe and effective decisions when attending to patients at the end-of-life. The event will take place from 9.30am to 1.30pm, at Radcliffe House Training and Conference Centre, University of Warwick. Lunch will be provided by Radcliffe's award winning catering team and you will also receive a CPD certificate for attending.

If you are interested in attending the training event, please contact me as soon as possible to book a place, **by Thursday 9th June 2011 at the very latest**, using the contact details provided.

Name: Miss Sandeep Gakhil

Email: S.Gakhil@warwick.ac.uk

Tel: (024 76) 572648

Please note there are limited places available!!

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BBQ

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Tents can be set up on Friday the 29th and enjoy a chill out evening before the main events of the weekend.

For further information and tickets please contact:

Helen Campbell 07747 444147
Clive Dunn 07710 360397
Richard Rhead 07967378060
Tracey Merris 07834 483180
Julie Tranter 07752 866018
Jon Winnall 07734 306237

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