

HUMBERSIDE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE MEDICAL RESPONSE PARTNERSHIP WITH YORKSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE

SUMMARY

1. The Medical First Responder Scheme pilot which commenced in April 2013 at Pocklington has been evaluated and deemed a success.
2. A recent meeting between senior managers of Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) and Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) agreed that an expansion of the Medical First Responder Scheme would benefit the communities involved and would further the objectives of both services.
3. It was therefore proposed that the scheme be rolled out in seven more locations in the East Riding of Yorkshire and a project team has been formed to develop a fully costed proposal for Member approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. That Members:
 - (a) Acknowledge the success of the Pocklington Medical First Responder Scheme and commend those involved in its delivery; and
 - (b) Endorse the decision to develop a fully costed proposal for expansion of the scheme.

BACKGROUND

5. Since April 2013 Pocklington crews have been providing a pilot Medical First Responder service in the Pocklington area. This scheme was reviewed in September 2013 and was deemed to have been successful.
6. Whilst the average number of call-outs at five per month was lower than anticipated consistent positive feedback has been received from the public, the crews involved and YAS. The primary reason for the lower level of activity was that the medical response service only operated for twelve hours per day between 18:00 hours and 06:00 hours. This was to ensure that crewing levels on the fire appliances were not compromised.
7. The most demanding standard for attendance is for incidents categorised as Red 1 and Red 2 (eg suspected cardiac arrest etc). YAS are required to attend such incidents within eight minutes on 75% of occasions. The Pocklington Responders comfortably met this standard throughout the trial period and YAS staff who supported them considered their contribution to patient wellbeing as very positive.
8. On 13th September 2013 the CFO and DCFO met with members of YAS CMT to discuss the results of the Pocklington pilot scheme and to identify other possibilities for collaboration between our services.

9. The outcome of that discussion was that both services would like to roll-out the Medical First Responder Scheme to seven more locations in the East Riding of Yorkshire. It was agreed that this initiative would provide better services for the communities involved and would enable FRS personnel to expand their medical skills and deploy more frequently. The learning from the pilot scheme was that Pocklington personnel were able to provide a rapid and effective medical response in their local area. Personnel have been motivated by developing new skills and by being able to deliver a valuable new service to their local community.
10. It was agreed that revenue costs to HFRS for providing this service would be recovered from YAS and that vehicles for the responder service would be jointly funded.
11. A joint project team has been formed to develop and cost this proposal which will be presented to HFRS/YAS in the middle of October 2013. If it is agreed that the proposal is viable a report seeking approval to implement will be brought to HFA no later than December 2013.
12. In the meantime discussions will be arranged with personnel on the stations concerned and with the representative bodies.
13. The pilot scheme operating in the Grimsby area has also been very successful. Further Discussions with East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) have yet to take place though it will be proposed that this scheme is also extended.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

14. Contributes to Strategic Objective 1 – Preventing loss of life, injuries and community impact from emergency incidents.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

15. A fully costed proposal will be brought before Members by December 2013. It is anticipated that cars will be jointly provided by HFRS and YAS and that the revenue costs of running the service will be recovered from YAS.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. These were initially dealt with when the pilot scheme was established however it will be necessary to develop a detailed partnership agreement which defines performance expectations, liability and cost recovery.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

17. None at this time.

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

18. This scheme demonstrates that HFRS is a flexible service which is able to collaborate effectively.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

19. Training and clinical supervision will be provided by YAS.

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

20. Discussions with staff and representative bodies are planned.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

21. Representative bodies were consulted prior to the pilot scheme being launched.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

22. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

23. That Members:
- (a) Acknowledge the success of the Pocklington Medical First Responder Scheme and commend those involved in its delivery; and
 - (b) Endorse the decision to develop a fully costed proposal for expansion of the scheme.

R HANNIGAN

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RH/EML
16 September 2013

