
Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)

Date: 28 January 2015

Subject: Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. At its meeting in December 2014, the Scrutiny Board agreed to a request for scrutiny in relation to potential risks to patients being created by the Board of the Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust (YAS), highlighted by Unite the Union.
2. A letter from Unite the Union (presented at Appendix 1) was widely distributed, with a copy received by Leeds City Council. Following discussions with the Leader and Deputy Leader of Council, the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing referred the matter to scrutiny for consideration.
3. At the meeting in December 2014, the Scrutiny Board also considered a written response from YAS in addition to some frequently asked questions. For completeness, these details are provided at Appendix 2 and 3, respectively.
4. In response to the request for scrutiny, the Scrutiny Board agreed to convene an addition, dedicated meeting to consider the issues highlighted. The Scrutiny Board also agreed to:
 - a. Seek additional information to support/ substantiate the concerns identified by Unite the Union.
 - b. Request responses from YAS (as the service provider) and NHS commissioners.
5. Additional information and input to the meeting has been requested from a range of key stakeholders, including Unite the Union, YAS, NHS commissioners, the NHS

Trust Development Authority (NTDA) and Unison. Local HealthWatch organisations have also been contacted to provide any local intelligence that may help the Scrutiny Board consider issues relating to service provision and patient safety.

6. Attached to this report is additional information provided by YAS, including performance data (and trend information) relating to the organisation's business operation in relation to:
 - Emergency response (999 calls);
 - Patient Transport Service (PTS); and,
 - 111 service.
7. Any additional information received will be provided for the Scrutiny Board either before or at the meeting.

Other considerations

8. In considering the issues at hand, the Scrutiny Board should be mindful that its remit is to consider the issues around the provision of services and any impacts on patient safety. It is not the role of the Scrutiny Board to adjudicate between YAS and any trade unions.
9. Furthermore, it should be noted that the Council's Scrutiny Board procedure rules identify a number of instances where the Scrutiny Board may not undertake a review. This includes (except in exceptional circumstances) any decision in respect of which there are 'ongoing judicial proceedings, Ombudsman or audit inquiry...'.

Recommendations

10. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider the details presented/ made available and determine any additional actions, activity and/or appropriate recommendations.

Background papers¹

11. None used

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.