

<b>Subject:</b>		<b>South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb) Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection</b>	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>		<b>19 October 2016</b>	
<b>Report of:</b>		<b>Executive Lead for Strategy, Governance &amp; Law</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Giles Rossington</b>	<b>Tel: 29-5514</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>		<b>All</b>	

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The CQC is the statutory inspector of NHS-funded healthcare. The CQC has a rolling programme of inspection of NHS trusts.
- 1.2 SECAmb provides 999 and 111 ambulance services across Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The CQC undertook a full inspection of SECAMB services in May 2016. The findings of the CQC inspection were discussed with stakeholders at a Quality Summit on 28 September and the CQC's inspection report was published shortly after. The summary report is included as **Appendix 1** to this report.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That HOSC members note the contents of the CQC inspection report (see **Appendix 1**); and
- 2.2 that HOSC members agree that scrutiny of the implementation of SECAMB quality improvement measures in response to the CQC report findings be undertaken by an informal joint working group representing all the interested HOSCs in the SECAMB 'region'.

**3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 SECAmb is an NHS foundation trust, providing emergency ambulance transport to residents of Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The trust was inspected by the CQC in May 2016, and the CQC inspection report was published in September 2016.
- 3.2 The CQC scores services at NHS trusts as: **outstanding, good, requires improvement** or **inadequate**. Each service is judged against five performance domains: **caring, safe, well-led, responsive** and **effective**. As well as scoring each major trust service in each of these domains, the CQC produces an overall score for the trust against each domain, and an aggregated score for the trust as an organisation. If a trust is deemed overall to be **inadequate**, or it has several

***inadequate*** scores, then the CQC may advise NHS Improvement (NHSi), the NHS trust regulator, to place the trust in Special Measures. Trusts in Special Measures have access to additional improvement support.

- 3.3 The most recent CQC inspection report gives SECamb an overall score of ***inadequate*** and the CQC has recommended that SECamb be placed in special measures. Trusts are required to produce Quality Improvement Plans (QIP) setting out in detail their plans to improve services in response to CQC recommendations. The SECamb QIP is still being developed and will be published shortly.
- 3.4 HOSCs have no prescribed role to play in CQC inspections, other than being asked for comment prior to an inspection. However, HOSCs generally seek to monitor the implementation of QIPs arising from CQC inspection reports, particularly where trust performance has been identified as poor.
- 3.5 Ambulance trusts typically operate over a large geographical area; for SECamb this area encompasses Kent, Surrey and Sussex. This means that the trust is answerable to six HOSCs: Surrey County Council, Kent County Council, West Sussex County Council, East Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, and Medway Council. In order to minimise duplication and ensure that scrutiny does not impose an undue burden on SECamb, regional HOSC Chairs have proposed that monitoring the implementation of SECamb's improvement actions be undertaken by a joint, informal meeting of all the interested HOSCs. As the Chairs of South East Coast HOSCs already meet regularly to network, the proposal is that this meeting should also be used to monitor SECamb. This informal group would have no delegated powers, all of which would remain with the individual committees. Each HOSC Chair would report monitoring activities back to their HOSC and any further action would be determined by that HOSC.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The HOSC could choose not to further scrutinise this issue. However, HOSCs are expected to hold NHS providers to account for poor performance and it is clear that SECamb is currently performing poorly.
- 4.2 The HOSC could decide to scrutinise this issue individually rather than via an informal joint meeting (although no formal delegation of powers is proposed). However, SECamb is answerable to six HOSCs in total, and dealing with each individually would impose a significant burden on trust leaders as well as duplicating activities in terms of HOSC member time and in terms of support resources.

#### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 None undertaken in relation to this report.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 This report presents the findings of the recent CQC inspection report for information as well as suggesting that ongoing scrutiny of this issue would best be managed via a joint, informal meeting of Chairs of the six interested HOSCs.

- 6.2 Any future substantive decision on this matter (e.g. to cease monitoring as significant improvements have been made; or to escalate concerns if no improvement occurs) would be the preserve of each individual HOSC, not of the informal joint working group.

## **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

- 7.1 None for the council.

### Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

*Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert; Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016*

### Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 None to this report, although such issues may form part of the scrutiny activity to be undertaken by the proposed informal working group.

### Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 None to this report, although such issues may form part of the scrutiny activity to be undertaken by the proposed informal working group.

### Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 None identified.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. SECAMb CQC inspection report summary

### **Documents in Members' Rooms**

None

### **Background Documents**

None

