

Item 9: South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust: Update

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 23 July 2019

Subject: South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb): Update

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

1. Introduction

- (a) South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb) receive and respond to 999 calls from the public, urgent calls from healthcare professionals and receive and respond to calls to NHS 111 as well as providing the regional Hazardous Area Response Team (HART).
- (b) The Trust employs over 3,300 staff across 110 sites in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. They cover a geographic area of 3,600 square miles.¹
- (c) The Care Quality Commission (CQC) published an inspection report on 8 November 2018 which rated the Trust as “Requires Improvement”. The Trust is currently in Special Measures.

2. Previous reports to HOSC

- (a) SECAmb have presented to HOSC twice in the last year: 27 April 2018 and 23 November 2018.
- (b) During the meeting in November, the Committee raised specific questions around the following points:
 - *Handover delays* – remained an issue both in Kent and nationwide although significant progress had been made.
 - *Response times* – category 3 response times remained an issue.
 - *Recruitment* – an additional 174 FTE would be in place by December 2018, with further recruitment in January.
 - *Fleet management* – the Trust had purchased 101 new vehicles during 2018 as well as 30 second-hand vehicles for winter.

¹ SECAmb (2019) ‘About Us’, <https://www.cqc.org.uk/provider/RYD/contact>

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- (c) At the conclusion of the meeting on 23 November, the Committee made the following recommendation:

RESOLVED that the report be noted, and SECamb be requested to provide an update in June 2019.

- (d) A written report from the Trust is attached for information.

3. Recommendation

RECOMMENDED that the Committee note the report and SECamb be requested to provide an update at an appropriate time.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2018) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (27/04/2018)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7846&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2018) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (23/11/18)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7923&Ver=4>

Care Quality Commission Inspection Report, 8 November 2018, <https://www.cqc.org.uk/search/providers/all/south%20east%20coast%20ambulance%20service?location=&latitude=&longitude=&sort=default&la=&distance=15&mode=html>

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust Five Year Strategic Plan 2017-2022, http://www.secamb.nhs.uk/about_us/our_vision_and_strategy.aspx

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