

# MINUTES OF ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

18 JULY 2023

## PRESENT:

**Members of the Task and Finish Group:** Councillors Sandison (Chair), Mrs Roberts (Vice Chair), Mrs Hassell, Mistry and Roodhouse

**Officers:** Tom Kittendorf (Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing) and Veronika Beckova (Democratic Services Officer)

## 6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2023 were approved.

## 7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Roodhouse declared a non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a Director of Healthwatch Warwickshire.

## 8. VERBAL UPDATE

The Task Group received a verbal update from the Chief Officer for Leisure and Wellbeing concerning a meeting with a representative from the West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) and confirmed that WMAS were keen to engage with the Task Group and pleased to accept the invitation to attend a future meeting.

On 4 October 2021, the Scrutiny Committee met with WMAS to discuss the closure of Rugby Community Ambulance Station. The Task Group requested for an update to be provided on outcomes of that meeting.

To ensure a focused and productive session, the Task Group were asked to provide any specific questions to be put to WMAS in advance of the meeting.

## 9. WORK PROGRAMME

The following points were made by the Task Group during the consideration of the item:

### Community Engagement Event

An invitation was received from Compassionate Rugby to hold an community conversation at the Rugby Myton Support Hub. A date and time for the event be arranged for August via email.

## Defibrillators

Rugby was very well catered for in terms of the provision of defibrillators by:

- [OurJay Foundation](#) – the aim of the foundation was to raise awareness of the importance of having 24/7 publicly accessible automated external defibrillators and to raise funds to purchase and install accessible defibrillators across Rugby, Warwickshire and further afield. As of 18 July, 64 defibrillators were installed by the foundation.
- British Heart Foundation's [The Circuit](#) – the national defibrillator network.

## St Cross Hospital

While the return of an A&E was unlikely, the Task Group felt that there was more that could be done for Rugby's residents in terms of access to emergency health care. Further scrutiny of the hospital's prescribers' duties and a doctor-led urgent and emergency care service was required.

## Meeting with Critical Friends

A meeting of the Task Group be held in October 2023 where the Task Group would seek assurances for access to urgent health care across the network. An invitation to attend the meeting be extended to the following partnership bodies:

- The Orchard Centre
- NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board
- Rugby Health and Wellbeing Partnership (subject to a timely completion of the service review)
- NHS Rugby Health: Lifestyle Clinics, Benn Partnership Centre

To ensure a productive meeting, an individual list of questions be compiled and shared with each partner ahead of the meeting to allow time for consultees to prepare responses.

## Healthwatch Warwickshire

The Task Group was informed that the contract for the service was due to expire on 31 October 2023. A tender process had commenced for new provision from 1 November 2023.

It was noted that the Healthwatch, subject to a favourable outcome of the tender process, could help facilitate community engagement through listening events in Autumn 2023 but in terms of specific evidence, the Task Group would be required to provide clear instructions on what evidence was required to support the review.

## Comms

The Task Group agreed that upon completion of the review, educational comms be developed in partnership with WMAS to improve awareness and understating of urgent care services available within Rugby.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Task Group be held in September 2023 at a date and time to be agreed via email where the Task Group will:

- meet with a representative from WMAS to seek assurances that the foundation trust was on the right track for improvements to meet its goals; and
- share feedback from the community conversation held in August 2023 at the Rugby Myton Support Hub.

## **11. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**RESOLVED THAT** – under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

## **12. CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

The Task Group considered responses received to the call for evidence issued in June 2023.

The [call for evidence](#) will remain open for the duration of the review.

**CHAIR**