



"The London Ambulance Service (LAS) believes it is important to keep in touch with GPs. We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and we welcome your feedback."

February 2014

Keogh highlights ambulance role

A recent report by the National Medical Director of NHS England, Sir Bruce Keogh, called for ambulances to become '**mobile urgent treatment services**', using the skills of staff to safely manage many more patients at home. It also outlined opportunities for extending **paramedic training** to better assess, prescribe for and manage patients suffering exacerbated chronic illnesses and work more closely with **GPs and community teams**.



Two types of hospital emergency departments would also be developed – emergency centres and major emergency centres – with the success of specialist stroke centres in London used as an example of how this could benefit more patients.

LAS Chief Executive Ann Radmore said: "This report is asking us to embrace a much wider scope of practice and delivery, extending the range of what we do and how we do it. The proposals represent a real opportunity for us to further develop our role providing mobile health services, and we will ensure that we feed in to how they may be implemented."

Headlines from the report

- It is suggested that 'up to 50% of 999 calls requiring an ambulance to be dispatched could be managed at the scene'.
- Ambulance services and emergency departments are described as 'victims of their own success' – the unsustainable demands being placed upon them have been fuelled by their own responsiveness but also the difficulty patients experience in navigating and securing help for their urgent care needs elsewhere.

Further details on the Keogh report can be found on the NHS England website:
www.england.nhs.uk/2013/11/13/keogh-urgent-emergency/

New 'super paramedics'



The Service has appointed its first advanced paramedic practitioners who will be treating the most seriously ill and injured patients in the capital from May.

The **12 advanced paramedics** will receive additional training and will respond to the most serious 1-2% of life-threatening incidents. These include patients in cardiac arrest and those who are continually fitting and are difficult to convey to hospital. They will also be able to administer more powerful drugs currently only given by a doctor.

Training will include a **four day trauma course** with doctors from the Service and London's Air Ambulance and an advanced paramedic science course at Hertfordshire University.

Director of Paramedic Education and Development Mark Whitbread said: "We are very keen to develop the paramedic profession. Paramedics are a trusted brand but there is a lot more we can do by developing our paramedics as really skilled clinicians. Appointing advanced paramedics shows our determination to do better, both for our patients and our staff."

The role was introduced as part of the clinical career structure. Twelve advanced paramedics have been appointed and subject to funding, a further 24 will be recruited.



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Did you know? Cycle Response Team

5600 extra ambulance hours have been freed up thanks to the cycle responders - equivalent of £1.5 million per year.

6 minutes - the average response time to Cat A calls (most serious illnesses & injuries)

£53,000 - the amount saved on fuel.

