

# **HILLCREST & HENSINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
at St John's Church Hall, Hensingham

Meeting started at 6.30pm

**Forum Chair: Cumbria County Councillor Mike Hawkins**

**Councillors Present: Cllr Margarita Docherty, Cllr Geoffrey Garrity and  
Cllr Norman Williams**

**Apologies: None**

**Declarations of interest: None**

**Topic 1: Your Ambulance Service – Foundation Trust Consultation**

**Speaker: Andy Hickson – Assistant Director of Commissioning with  
Matt House, Advanced Paramedic, North West Ambulance Service  
based at Distington**

Consultation Document: *Seeking your views on our plans for becoming an NHS Foundation Trust*

North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust is applying to become an NHS Foundation Trust. Foundation Trusts are still part of the NHS and subject to NHS standards, performance ratings and systems of inspection. The difference with a Trust is it is run locally, with local people as members, having a say in how they wish their services to be developed.

Main benefits to Nwas and its users: freedom to design services that meet community needs; greater financial freedoms; much more involvement for staff and members of the public to have their say in developing services; the opportunity to have a voice as a Governor of the organisation; support for staff and improvement to their working lives; strengthening local partnerships.

The closing date for consultation is 1 April. For further information go to [www.nwas.nhs.uk](http://www.nwas.nhs.uk) email [communications@nwas.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@nwas.nhs.uk) or call 0845 112 099

## **Questions and Discussion**

Q You've talked about the make up of the Organisation how can we be sure that the Central Control Centres are familiar with this area?

A Ambulance controls have moved on significantly, technology has moved on; there are three Control Centres, when calls come in systems can identify where the calls are coming in from; dispatching is done by Satellite Navigation Systems the key thing is that the "guys" who are going out there are the ones with the local knowledge, it's local people responding who have that knowledge.

Q Technology is great as long as we have the resources to use it, we are in a predominately rural area, are we likely to lose the resources we have, such as local ambulance stations?

A The Ambulance Stations are not the issue but the ambulances, the pressure that's on them and demand to respond within eight minutes, using rapid response vehicles. In Cumbria it is difficult, not just rural but remote, which makes it difficult to get anywhere. Since becoming Nwas there has been additional investment in resources and staffing we are now achieving

against a stricter standard where we have to respond 45 seconds earlier we're achieving 71% consistently which is not the National Standard, the level of Service/Patient outcomes and activity has improved from 5-6 years ago with investment in Community First Responders (CRFs) more schemes are starting up in this area than anywhere else in the country. We are not looking to cut resources.

Q Acute Services are being moved to Carlisle, ambulances have to go to Carlisle more frequently which means we need more ambulances here.

A Not necessarily buying more of the same but how we deal with the activity; it costs £650,000 to run a vehicle, there are alternative ways of dealing with the patient such as paramedics, dealing with the incident over the phone. To manage the service more effectively we need to manage demand in a different way. There is still a commitment to deliver 75% response rate on a regional level.

- **Whitehaven & District Community First Responders**

There are six Responders in this area who cover Moor Row, up to the Swimming Baths, Parton, Moresby, Lowca, and Kells over to the sea. They are trained by the North West Ambulance Service and have learnt a lot of ambulance skills. They use a defibrillator, oxygen and bandages and can attend an incident within 5 minutes. Responders cover a lot of Category A emergencies, e.g. fits, drug & alcohol related illness, heart attacks. They have uniforms, which were bought with funding from one neighbourhood forum, so that the public know who they are which aids their safety and security. Consumables are paid for by the NWAS but the rest is purchased through fundraising e.g. bag packs, Neighbourhood Forums, talks, donations from Heart Start training; a defibrillator kit costs £1,500 per Responder. Responders deal with local incidents whilst ambulances are dealing with traffic incidents etc. or occupied on other events.

HEARTSTART Course is a two hour free session covering everyday emergencies such as what to do if someone collapses, is having a heart attack, chest pains, is choking or bleeding.

**Topic 2: West Lakes Peer Education Project to the Gambia**  
**Speakers: Young Cumbria**

In 2010 Young Cumbria was awarded £250.00 from this forum towards their project; Mark and Vicky brought along a DVD of their adventures and were very keen to answer questions. They hope to return to Gambia later in the year.

Steve Barna, West Area Youth Work Manager spoke about the project and what the youngsters had done in order to qualify for the Level 2 Award in Peer Education. In Gambia it was a very poor region; the trip was the end of their training where the 12 young people delivered Peer Education workshops to young people in Gambia covering three topics, Oral Hygiene, Cannabis Use and Bullying; youngsters will often take more notice of young people talking to them about these issues rather than adults. There was also an opportunity for the young people to explore the local area and experience the Gambian culture. Fundraising included band nights, quizzes, bag packing, a sponsored walk, community events and bids to local Trusts.

**Questions and Answers**

Q Did you find any cultural opposition to what you were doing?

A Gambian youngsters have to pay £90 a year to go to school, if they fail their exams they have to go back to the start, if they can't afford to pay they have to leave.

Q Are you going back?

A Yes we hope to.

## Community News and Updates

- **Neighbourhood Policing – PCSO Jonathan Mann**

As the local PCSO for the Hensingham area Jonathan encouraged anyone who was aware of any issues to speak with him.

The main priority, for the Police for this month in this area, is problems caused by youths hanging around at the West Cumberland Hospital.

- **Whitehaven Locality Partnership**

Councillor Geoff Garrity is the Chairman of this Partnership covering the Whitehaven area, which includes all District & County Councillors, they are a non-political group. Their main focus is to concentrate on trying to upgrade the Town centre; they are working with partner agencies.

- **Young People Enquiry Group** is a sub group to look at youth organisations;
- One resident commented that he felt the new blue Christmas lights made the town feel cold and not as festive, he preferred reds and greens – can this be looked at?

- **Dog Poo bins**

**Q** Can you get more bins?

**A** We are trying as a Council but in Hensingham a lot of them have been set on fire so big fixed bins are being put out, it's all down to money though;

**Comment:** There should be a campaign educating people to use the bins rather than putting more bins out.

- **Mayfield School – Governors now being recruited**

Anyone wanting to play an active part in the education of children and young people and would like to make a voluntary contribution to their local community are being encouraged to consider joining the Governing body. For details of how to apply contact the Clerk to the Governors.

- **Handy Loan Scheme – Information packs available**

- **Copeland Borough Council – Joe Shearer, Locality Officer** was available to take comments, compliments, and complaints.

- **The following issue was brought to the forum by Sheila Edwards** who has great concern over the huge series of deep potholes on Thornton Road, Fairfield and the danger which could result in a road accident as parents and children travel to the five schools, Jericho, Hensingham, Mayfield, Whitehaven and St Benedict's. She saw a car in traffic swerve to avoid potholes alongside the Ghyll, leading down to Hensingham Square, it had to swerve back to avoid cars coming in the opposite direction and mounted the pavement by the trees. Sheila didn't get a number as the car was broadside on in busy traffic. This could have been very serious. While she is concerned about the state of the road she is more concerned that someone is going to be hurt. Sheila has reported this to the Highways Authority and also to the Police in Whitehaven, Stan Rothery Traffic Management Officer, Cumbria Constabulary, was very helpful. The whole of Thornton Road heading to Cross Lane is now becoming very hazardous. Sheila is aware budgets are being cut so she'd like to know please who decides on the question of priority for this area? Is there a particular engineer for this area? Maybe an engineer is present? Will this meeting note her concerns and take immediate action and keep her informed.

Sheila knows her concerns were mentioned at a meeting today by the policeman she spoke to, so hopefully something positive will come out of her bringing concerns to this meeting. What else can be done? Access only/Speed Limit?

There was a discussion about the amount of traffic using Cross Lane and Thornton Road – Can anything be done about through traffic? The problem is where the original road terminated which has been patched up for years, it needs a proper repair.

**Action:** Formally referred to the Whitehaven Locality Group and information to be passed onto Karl Melville, Acting Area Engineer.

**Grants Budget remaining for 2010/2011 - £ 3,293.32      Youth Budget £ 455.50**

### Grant Applicant Presentations

The grant applicants made their presentations

### Consideration of applications

(Applicants and their supporters including councillors withdrew whilst those remaining, decided the awards).

### Grants Awarded

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF GRANT</b>	<b>AMOUNT AWARDED</b>
Hensingham ARLFC Players Fund	Towards the purchase of Rugby and First Aid Equipment	£300.00
Whitehaven, Egremont & District Credit Union	Towards the cost to market new financial products and existing services including 5/6 drop in sessions at local community centres	£500.00
Copeland Citizens Advice Bureau	Towards the cost of equipment for advisers running outreach sessions and home visits in Copeland	£646.18
Copeland Talking Newspaper	To purchase a computer or laptop, plus software and hardware for the Group	£590.00
Gd Fridays Youth Club	Towards the purchase of a TV and X-box Kinect for the Youth Club	£512.64
Friends of St Benedict's	Towards the purchase of a greenhouse for the Seeds For Success Community Project	£600.00
Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project	Towards the purchase of a DVD TV for the group and towards the cost of a ski trip	£600.00

### Topics for future meetings - Highways

### Date of next forum to be advised

The meeting finished at 8:45 pm