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YOUR REF:

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Cllr Sarah Kerrison
Chair Health Scrutiny Committee
Chief Executive's Department
Town Hall
Knowsley Street
Bury
BL9 0SW

3 July 2015

Dear Cllr Kerrison,

WHITEFIELD AMBULANCE STATION

As you may be aware from previous communications, the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust is currently undergoing an extensive review of its estates portfolio throughout the region.

This review has been undertaken with three main objectives;

- to maintain and where possible, improve service delivery for the communities we serve
- to improve the working environment and facilities for Nwas staff
- to establish in this challenging financial climate whether the Trust is using its resources as effectively as possible.

We have committed to communicating developments to local stakeholders such as yourself and I would like to take this opportunity to update you with our plans for Whitefield ambulance station on Bury Old Road.

Whitefield station is a 1950's building, occupying a site shared with the Nwas Greater Manchester office and the structure is showing extensive signs of age and needs significant investment to bring it up to a modern and acceptable standard. We currently have one 24 hour and one 12 hour emergency ambulance operating from the station.

Discussions with Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) has led to the development of an option to relocate the 24 hour vehicle to the fire station which has capacity both within its garage and staff facility areas. The site is approximately 0.8 miles from the ambulance station and provides access to the A56.

As part of this proposal, the 12 hour vehicle would relocate to Bury ambulance station and a rapid response vehicle (RRV) would operate from Whitefield fire station.

It is important to understand that ambulances are on the road for the majority of their shifts which means for most of the time, stations are vacant. Once a patient has been taken to hospital, the vehicle will usually be despatched straight to the next patient and will rarely return to station except for a rest break, restocking or cleaning.

Headquarters: Ladybridge Hall, 399 Chorley New Road, Bolton. BL1 5DD

Chair: Ms W Dignan

Chief Executive: Mr B Williams



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Should these proposals go ahead, we do not believe that the community will see any change to the way in which they are served and responded to.

Both NWAS and MFRS agree that these proposals are a positive demonstration of partnership and responsible financial management by two publicly funded organisations.

With regard to the support services based on the same site as Whitefield ambulance station, it is anticipated that the remaining staff who occupy the offices will vacate the site in late 2015, at which time, a proposal will be made for disposal.

By opting for the relocation and eventual disposal of the whole site, the Trust believes it can save approximately £107k per annum, and any monies from the sale of current site would be reinvested in frontline services.

As well as yourself, I am also writing to Bury Healthwatch and Ivan Lewis MP to let them know of our plans. These proposals will be discussed by our Board of Directors and if agreed, we also plan to inform residents in the area through traditional and social media channels.

If you would like to discuss these proposals with any of our Project team, please do not hesitate to contact me so we can arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely

Bob Williams
CHIEF EXECUTIVE