



**LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK (LINK)
Joint Working Group (JWG)
UPDATE FOR THE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (JOSC)**

January 2011

Patrick Mulcahy, Head of Clinical Quality and Quality Account Engagement, Great Western Ambulance Service (GWAS) attended the November meeting of the JWG to discuss the outline and aspects of the 2010-11 GWAS quality account. Following this presentation the group accepted the trust's invitation to become actively involved in the development of this account and a small sub group, led by JWG vice chair, Anna Farquhar, was appointed to meet with Patrick. The first meeting has taken place with a further one arranged.

The January meeting of the JWG was attended by Linda Prosser, Lead commissioners, NHS Gloucestershire. Linda has a responsibility for the commissioning of ambulance services. Of particular interest was the clinical desk and aspects of unscheduled care.

Linda was unaware that JWG members from the North Somerset LINK and South Gloucestershire LINK had been fully involved with the award of the Patient Transport contract and that opportunities for continued participation were being pursued. The group felt that such participation should be part of the decision making processes around unscheduled care. Linda said it was too late for 2011 but agreed that this should be considered for 2012.

The chair advised the group that new Clinical Quality Indicators for A&E were being introduced from April 1st. 2011, which would be challenging for emergency departments. Similar indicators for ambulance services will also apply.

The Gloucestershire LINK carried out two unannounced visits to the ED at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital (the report will follow).

The Wiltshire LINK has been invited to participate in the transformation of community services being led by Great Western Hospital.

The North Somerset LINK has completed a review of transport access to healthcare centres, and the Gloucestershire LINK has embarked on a similar short term venture.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Albert Weager'.

Albert Weager (Chair)
20th January 2011