



SECamb Branch 20111



Courtesy of South East Coast Ambulance

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015



1% PAY RISE FOR 2015.

The successful outcome of the National ballot confirms by a two to one vote in favour, that the pay rise will go ahead this year. This has been recognised nationally as largely due to the determination of Ambulance workers who were willing to take on the Government and proceed with strike action which would have made those in power very vulnerable.

Our intention would always be to protect the ill, elderly and frail and prevent outright risk to life and limb, but the Department of Health apparently could not take that chance. It may sound cynical but it seems more to do with a rapidly approaching election rather than a change of heart by politicians with “private” intentions who enjoy a “Bupa” lifestyle funded by the taxpayers.



JOINT PARTNERSHIP FORUM.

The first JPF of 2015 took place a few weeks ago and started the ball rolling for some potentially honest and fruitful negotiations and discussions to take place this year.



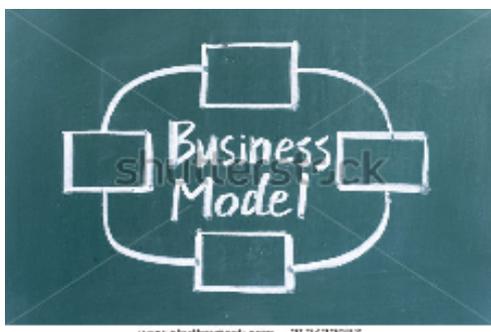
111

Keith Gait, the current Director for 111 gave us a clear and succinct description of where 111 is currently and where it needs to be.

The incredible volume of calls taken makes it clear that at the next negotiations for the contract, SECamb will have to fight for more money as there is an increasing demand for qualified, dedicated and enthusiastic staff.

There was a reminder that 111 is not an emergency service but an essential urgent one with much more complex calls and a much greater volume of calls. It is by its nature an out of hours service which makes it different to 999 as there is a greater opportunity to predict and address call demand as the peaks appear as GP surgeries close for the day and when the weekend begins.

We were able to resolve the issue of no annual leave at Easter by Staffside putting across the proposal that a reduction to 75% of normal allocation would be more acceptable and that this should be extended to Christmas too. There was agreement on the first part but ongoing discussions on the second.



THE NEW BUSINESS MODEL.

As is the norm with SECamb if a change isn't happening now, it will be planned for the near future.

The apparent success of the Thanet/Ashford pilot has led to the plan for a similar structure to be rolled out across the Trust over the next few years.

This will mean changes in the management structure and a move into the Make Ready plan as new MRC's open.

This will impact more so in Sussex with the changes in EOC's and a centralised HQ and we will supply you with any relevant information when we get it and can verify it, as rumours and half-truths do us all a disservice.

PTS CONTRACTS.

Work is taking place in progressing the negotiations for the new PTS contracts which are approaching faster than we think.

It is clear that a lot of work is having to be put into constructing proposals that are both affordable and achievable to guarantee a future within SECamb for our PTS colleagues.

We will support our members and Management with the reminder that the terms and conditions offered through A4C are far superior to the private world outside and robust but realistic discussions need to take place with our Joint Unions support.



OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN SECAMB.

This may sound a bit like an advert for the Trust but it is in fact an honest opinion that it is reassuring to see so many career opportunities within Secamb at a time when a large part of the working environment in this country is struggling with pay cuts, and few jobs on offer.

There seems to be more opportunities for all from Health Advisors in 111 getting jobs in EOC's and ECSW's getting the opportunity to progress, to Paramedics moving on through management roles or more advanced clinical roles.

The Clinical future is particularly bright at the moment and we thank the foresight and leadership of those at the helm in making these opportunities available to those willing to work and study that bit harder to progress their careers.

There is always a bit of shadow when the sun is shining so we will be there to support our colleagues and fellow members who may have a more demanding future ahead over the next year.

**Bryan Hopperton
Senior Activist**