



**SECamb Branch 20111**



Courtesy of South East Coast Ambulance

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **JULY 2015**

### **PTS Surrey.**

The Trust has confirmed that they have agreed a further 18 months continuation of the contract from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2015, which offers job security for our members affected. However it was also confirmed that they had lost the Surrey Downs CCG support due to their financial difficulties. This means the loss of 20% of the total contract and will lead to approximately 30 staff being Taped over to G4S. We will continue to support all of our members during this period of change and recommend you contact us for advice and reassurance.

News on other PTS contracts will be supplied to you as soon as we know.

**111**



The full time HA's are still in the process in working with Management to come up with a rota that is acceptable to all.

It is nice to see they are now working together with proper input from all affected and hopefully will come up with a workable solution soon.



### **Rumours.**

**It has been announced in GP press that the process of renewal of 111 contracts has been suspended as there is an intention to bring OOH GP's and 111 together. We will raise this at the next JPF for clarification and will let you know accordingly.**

### **Management Structure.**

**I am sure that I am speaking on behalf of all staff in welcoming Kath Start back into a more visible role since her recent health issues. She was recently at a 111 meeting with the Nurses and they were delighted to find the meeting very productive and no doubt the first of many.**

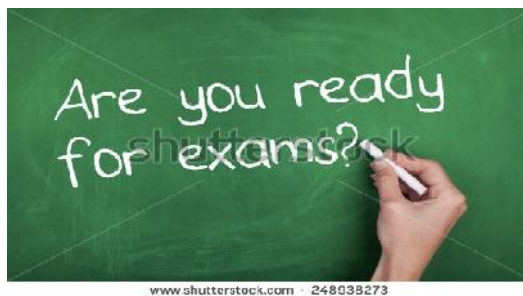
**The new and essential position of Senior Clinical Ops Manager at 111 has been taken on by Sue Mitchell and we are sure that she will do an excellent job, so congratulations Sue !**



### **Closer Working.**

**I am pleased to say that my initial efforts to get closer working and communication between 999 and 111 staff seems to be progressing with joint Mental health training being proposed making use of the expertise of the Mental health Nurses employed at 111 and in time hopefully the expertise of many more sides to the Nursing role which are not covered in Paramedic training.**

**A plan is also in place to get the Nurses who are interested to spend time as observers on 999 shifts so thanks to the CTL's at Ashford Make Ready for making it possible.**



## **GCSE courses at Ashford Make ready.**

**One of our members who is a CTL at Ashford Make ready has worked at his own volition to make an opportunity for those who are keen to progress their careers in SECamb but do not as yet have the required minimal qualifications.**

**Steve Bingham has shown how determination and genuine concern for his colleagues has made it possible for those keen enough to get on the relevant courses that are required, in the comfort of SECamb property, with fellow workers in similar situations and at times that fit in with their shift patterns.**

**We fully support this shining example and offer to all members of UNISON taking part in these courses the opportunity to apply for funding towards both books that are needed but also the cost of the training.\***

**(\* up to £100 can be claimed in total subject to minimum membership requirements and adequate receipts).**

**I know that following recent conversations with our fellow unions that this is something they don't appear to offer so another reason for joining us !!**



## **The Business Pilot in Kent.**

**There is a meeting arranged in the next two weeks between all of the Unions and Chris Stamp as SOM in Kent when he will bring us the latest news.**

**We will of course let you know of any developments as ultimately, this Pilot is the basis for the new Business model being put in place across the whole Trust. We will be seeking**

clarification that Unsocial Hours is not affected by revised rota plans and that the ongoing problem of late finishing is being addressed.

Specifically in Kent, we have the ever presence of Private Ambulances doing our job and look forward to confirmation that the Trust's dependence on them is declining.



The new Key Skills package in Kent has proved very popular as it is spread over three days, gives us genuinely useful updates and the opportunity to get up to speed again by practising our clinical procedures. We hope that this will be available over 3 days throughout the Trust eventually but obviously Rota restrictions and staff availability limit this being the case at the moment.

#### **JOINT PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

We will be attending the JPF on Friday 24th July and will forward any relevant information to you afterwards.

The minutes from the last meeting can be made available to anyone interested and this meeting will no doubt be as productive and constructive as the last one, however the constraints of time and frequency of the meetings means everything seems to progress slowly.

The range of topics discussed is wide, including PTS, 111, 999, Make Ready progress, the New Business model, Policies and Procedures , relevant current discussions and much more.

There is therefore a need to focus on what is the most important for discussion and resolution in order to achieve the objectives from both the Management and Union perspectives.

Watch this space!!



## **WELFARE**

**'Many of you may be unaware of Unisons THERE FOR YOU. It is UNISON's own charity set up to help members in times of trouble. It covers financial assistance in times of crisis, debt advice for when circumstances may have taken over, a host of credit unions that are fairer than banks regarding interest rates and a team of extremely knowledgeable case officers there to guide you through your situation.**

**From a local point of view, you have 2 Welfare Officers, fully trained and accredited, to call for advice and support. We will assist with information and support and we are there throughout your case until the situation is resolved. To contact us just phone the Branch Office on 01273 575337 and you will be assisted.**

**SECamb has recently started to recognise the work we do. Some of you may be aware of the TRiM trial that is happening in the Guildford ODA. It's a structured approach to looking after staff following a traumatic incident they may have attended. We have been involved in meetings and communications and see this as a positive start for staff mental health welfare. We have also been involved with the Mind Blue Light Scheme. This is still in it's early days but it's great to see so many people finally taking the mental health of staff seriously.**

**Over the 5 years I have been a Welfare Officer, I have dealt with many different cases. I have met numerous members in their own homes or somewhere convenient for them. Some of the cases have been particularly harrowing and I have felt honoured to be trusted with the information they have shared. From the death of a spouse, the death of a member of staff and looking after their families and all the organisation that comes following a death, to marital issues and the ensuing financial implications and legal issues, the involvement of police and injunctions and the effects on the entire family, debt problems that are putting relationships and accommodation at risk and sometimes being the ear to listen when maybe others haven't or been unable to.**

**A lot of this has gone unnoticed by SECamb, partly due to our confidentiality and partly due to non-communication with SECamb through their lack of awareness. We held meetings 3 years ago to raise that awareness and it is only now just starting to show signs of improvement.**

**There has been an increase over the last year or so of people contacting us for support through mental health issues. Whether it be stress, depression, PTSD symptoms, anger issues or general frustration, we have information that may be of help as well as staff having the support of First Assist through SECamb.**

**If you are in need we're THERE FOR YOU.**

**So next time you may be facing financial difficulties, emotional problems or needing support or advice, don't forget we're here. We are 100% confidential and take this very seriously. Pick up the phone and ring us or email us, whichever is easier for you.'**  
**[jenny.young@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:jenny.young@secamb.nhs.uk) or [james.apps@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:james.apps@secamb.nhs.uk).**