

NWAS Ambulance Response Times

On 2nd August the Committee received ambulance response times for Quarter 1. This is an extract from the Minutes –

70. NORTH WEST AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIMES

The North West Ambulance Service had provided quarterly response times to emergency incidents at County and postcode level for the period 1st April to 30th June 2022. They were split into 5 categories, ranging from category one for calls about people with life-threatening injuries and illnesses, where the aim was to respond in an average time of 7 minutes and at least 9 out of 10 times within 15 minutes, to category 5 calls which were very low level calls where there was no target.

Members were very concerned about the response time for category 1 calls in BB18 which was 2 seconds short of being 16 minutes, compared to 9.44 minutes in BB8 and 8.09 minutes in BB9. It was noted that the category response times in Blackpool was 6.03 minutes and 7.01 minutes in Blackburn with Darwen.

RESOLVED

That the NWAS be asked to provide more detail about the performance in West Craven for future reports if possible.

This was fed back to the NWAS Communications Team. In providing the Quarter 2 statistics they refer back to their Chief Executive's letter of 26th May, when they mentioned how performance can be affected by a number of things - some unexpected and some planned for.

Unfortunately, if an ambulance goes out of area to take a patient to hospital, it is very likely that it could then be allocated to another incident before it comes back into area as they always send the nearest available response – regardless as to whether or not the ambulance is based close to the incident. This generally means that the closer a community is to a hospital emergency department, the better the performance is. However, it has been widely reported that the current demand on the NHS is impacting on the performance of ambulance services throughout the country and services are facing increased demand nationwide.

In that letter they mentioned that a new Area Director was being appointed whose remit would be to engage more closely with councils. The new Cumbria and Lancashire Area Director has now been appointed and the Senior Communications Manager will be meeting with him in the next week to discuss the more detailed information the Committee would like. They are confident that there is more they can do to work with the Council and will report back. It is also hoped that the new Director will be able to attend a future meeting.