

Report to: **East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)**

Date: **03 December 2015**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive**

Title: **South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECamb)
Winter Pressures and other issues**

Purpose: **To provide information on SECamb planning for 2015/16 winter pressures and on other activities**

RECOMMENDATIONS

HOSC is recommended to consider and comment on SECamb winter planning.

1. Background

- 1.1 South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust (SECamb) provides NHS ambulance and patient transport services across Sussex, Kent, Surrey and parts of Hampshire.
- 1.2 SECamb has to plan for seasonal variations in activity, in particular a surge in demand for ambulance services across the winter months. The trust also needs to have plans in place to deal with extreme winter weather such as snow.
- 1.3 SECamb is an active member of the East Sussex System Resilience Group (SRG) which is responsible for coordinating seasonal planning across the county. The SRG will be presenting a paper on winter planning to 03 December HOSC. However, given the critical role played by ambulance services in dealing with seasonal demand variations, it was considered necessary to give members an additional opportunity to question the ambulance trust.
- 1.4 Paul Sutton, SECamb Chief Executive, and Geraint Davies, SECamb Director of Commissioning, will address the HOSC. This will also be an opportunity for members to ask questions on other issues relating to ambulance services. This will potentially include the 2014/15 scheme to 'triage' some 111 calls that is currently under investigation by Monitor.

2. Conclusion and recommendation

- 2.1 HOSC members are asked to consider and comment on SECamb's winter planning preparations.

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