

# **EMAS contract settlement**

## **EMAS will receive approximately £19million additional funding each year**

I am very pleased to say that Hardwick Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) – which manages the EMAS contract on behalf of 22 CCGs across the region – has signed off the terms, which will see £9million extra funding for clinical staff, ambulances and other resources being provided this financial year, rising to approximately £19million next year, dependent on performance targets being met and other financial agreements made as part of the contract terms.

We will be able to make significant improvements to the quality of our services as a result, most notably in terms of being able to respond more quickly and more consistently to our patients.

## **More frontline colleagues, vehicles and equipment**

The funding will enable us to secure essential clinical staff, medical dispatchers, ambulances and other resources so that we can respond more quickly and more consistently to 999 calls and urgent GP requests for ambulances. Some of the money will also be spent on recruitment and training.

## **A great time to be working for EMAS**

People working at EMAS have worked tremendously hard to deliver a good service, despite various pressures relating to demand. It will be fantastic news to everyone that we will soon be joined by new colleagues and have access to additional opportunities for career development within EMAS. It's a very exciting time to be working here.

## **Initiatives will be implemented over two years**

However, there is a lot more work to be done and these changes will not happen overnight. Over coming months we will focus on recruiting many more staff, purchasing more ambulances and equipment, and ensuring that everyone has access to the right training, development and support needed to ensure we deliver consistently outstanding care to all our patients.

## **Working with partners to address wider healthcare challenges**

We will also be working with commissioners and our healthcare partners to address issues that impact directly on our performance, not least in reducing critical handover delays at hospitals; these hold ups account for an average of over 190 hours every day when our ambulances are tied up and unable to respond to emergency calls.

There has been significant interest in our service for a long time, and further interest was created following the parliamentary debate which was led by Ruth George MP in February. It's vital that I and my senior management team engage and regularly communicate with people that have a desire or need to be in the loop; it allows them to be better informed and to play their part in our journey of improvement.

### **Funding linked to performance measures**

The new funding is linked to a trajectory in performance improvement, and quarterly measures will be reviewed with our commissioners. These measures will assess our ability to make improvements to response times as additional resources, such as new ambulances, crews and 999 call handlers, are brought on board. We expect to deliver a step change in performance by this time next year, and have agreed with commissioners that we will meet national standards at a county level by quarter one (April to June) of the 2019/2020 financial year.

### **We are recruiting!**

EMAS is recruiting now! Anyone interested in securing a career with us can visit our website at [www.emas.nhs.uk](http://www.emas.nhs.uk) to find out more about us and see or social media posts on Facebook and Twitter to explore the latest job opportunities.