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South Central Ambulance Service
NHS Foundation Trust

18 September 2026

Hythe station update

Dear Sir Julian, Cllr Wade

Below is a brief update on progress and next steps around the Hythe station.

Consultation with staff on changing their base locations has now completed and for the affected staff it has been identified which new station they will move to (Lymington or Nursling). Staff are receiving final confirmation of the consultation outcome this week.

Adding people into the rosters for their new teams is underway and the change is being scheduled to go live from 2 November.

From November the current Hythe station will be used as a stand-by point. In practice this means each day, at the start of early and late shifts, an ambulance crew from Lymington station will be directed towards the Hythe station. During shifts, if demand permits and the distribution of all crews across the sector warrants it, a crew would also be directed towards the Hythe stand-by point.

To be open and manage expectations, it is important to be clear that with current demand there is limited actual use of stand-by points anywhere across the SCAS geography.

- The crew initially directed to Hythe at the start of their shift may be assigned a call whilst on route to Hythe, so may not actually reach Hythe.

- During the course of a shift most crews will be dispatched to a next incident within minutes of clearing from their previous incident, rather than travelling to a stand-by point or back to their base station.

We will continue to manage the distribution of crews across wider area to ensure we keep cover across the New Forest, with crews moving in and out of Hythe and the wider New Forest area as they respond to incidents.

We are finalising a scope for the pilot in terms of what metrics we will monitor, and we will share this with you in due course. We have progressed conversations about potentially using the Hythe Fire Station as a permanent stand-by point, but not yet finalised an agreement. As we have previously committed to, no action will be taken to sell our Hythe station, and it will continue to be the local stand-by point until an alternative is confirmed.

Yours sincerely

Mark Ainsworth
Executive Director of Operations
South Central Ambulance Service