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Dear Tim

Proposed withdrawal of the Swanage Paramedic Car

I am writing to you at the request of the Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG), which I chair. We were dismayed to hear that it may now have been definitely decided to withdraw the Swanage Paramedic Car in the very near future.

We very much support the continuation of this service and particularly value having a paramedic car based in Swanage to provide a rapid response in an emergency, pending the arrival of an ambulance. PPG members have personal experience of benefiting from this service, including examples where lives have almost certainly been saved and outcomes improved.

Swanage is 11 miles from Wareham Ambulance Station, where the nearest ambulances are based - and ambulances are often dispatched to Swanage from even further away. This is a particular issue at busy times of the year when the population of Swanage can double and access to and from Swanage by road can become very challenging - as well as when the ferry is not operating, as has been the case for many months over the last two years. Furthermore, we anticipate that journey times to hospital for emergency treatment will be even longer when the A&E Department at Poole Hospital closes.

We also value having a paramedic car based in Swanage overnight, particularly as the Swanage Minor Injuries Unit is closed from 8:00pm-8:00am and the ferry does not operate overnight.

The presence of the Paramedic Car in Swanage goes a long way to addressing the inequities in access to emergency medical care that inevitably result from our relatively isolated location. The PPG believes that the removal of the Paramedic Car would exacerbate these inequities in access and we very much hope that the decision to remove this service will be reconsidered by the CCG.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Your sincerely

Margaret

Mrs Margaret Broadhurst (Dr Margaret Guy)
Chair
Swanage Medical Practice PPG

cc: Natasha Ritchie, Practice Manager, Swanage Medical Practice
Dr Jamie Jackson, Clinical Director, Purbeck Primary Care Network
Gill Foott, Engagement and Communications Coordinator (PPGs), NHS Dorset CCG
Louise Bate, Healthwatch Dorset Manager