

## **Report for Swanage Town Council Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The information the Town Council has received following the recent freedom of information act response from SWAST is at best a mixed bag. The response covers the first six months of this year, January-June 2022.

Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group & the Ambulance Trust issued a statement in March saying that the 24/7 Car was 'saved'. They acknowledged that the Car was poorly staffed and stated that this would be addressed. They later confirmed that they expected the Car to be fully staffed by September.

The FOI response gives information about:

- the staffing of the ambulance car
- the number of ambulance car call outs attended in Swanage and Purbeck
- the average emergency response times, regardless of vehicle attending, for Swanage and Wareham.

**On the staffing**

By this March there were only 2 permanent staff on the Car, when 5 staff are required to staff it 24/7. This meant it was being staffed less than half the time, and in April and May things got worse, with only 1/3 of shifts on the Car being covered. However, the first of the new staff started in June, and, for the first time in over a year, more than half the shifts in June were covered.

**On the number of call outs**

There were under 300 Swanage & Purbeck emergency call outs attended in the first 6 months of this year. In 2019, when the car was fully staffed, more than three times as many local call outs were attended in 6 months.

**On the emergency response times**

The targets were substantially missed for Swanage every month, including for category 1: imminent danger of death. With the first of the new staff coming onto the Car in June, the category 1 response time improved to just under 12 minutes, however this is still well over the 7 minute target time that predicts survival. The Category 2 response time target is 20 minutes, in June the Swanage category 2 average response time was 1 hour 18 minutes.

So there is still a long way to go, although on the positive side we seem to be going in the right direction. When we get the same data for last 6 months of this year, we hope a better picture will emerge, particularly from this month, September, when the 5<sup>th</sup> member of staff was due to start work on the Car.