

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 3
15 JULY 2013	Public Report

Report of the East of England Ambulance Service

Contact Officer(s) – East of England Ambulance Service
Contact Details – Sheila Shaw 01954 712424 Stakeholder Officer

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS IN RURAL AREAS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide information on the Community First Responder Scheme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Support the on-going development of Community First Responders within rural communities, look at the possibility of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) within rural communities for public use.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 N/A

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Community First Responders are volunteers trained and equipped to provide lifesaving treatment to patients while the ambulance response is on its way. Community First Responders attend calls of a medical nature, and attend patients over the age of eight years of age. The type of calls attended by Community First Responders are chest pains, breathing problems, cardiac arrests, stroke patients, unconscious patients and patients found fitting.

Community First Responders are equipped with an AED, airway management equipment, oxygen, first aid equipment, glucogel. They are contacted by ambulance control (HEOC) through a mobile phone text message and/or phone call identifying the location and type of incident. Community First Responders drive under normal road conditions without lights or sirens and obey the highway code.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 Within Rural Peterborough we have community first responder groups based at Yaxley (2 volunteers), Wittering (6 volunteers) and Whittlesey (11 volunteers). Within these groups we have attended over 260 calls during the year 2012/13. We are looking at setting up a Community First Responder group in Eye and are actively recruiting volunteers for this group.

Community First Responder groups volunteer hours when they are within the community, they do not provide 24/7 cover but as much as possible within their work/life balance. The initial community First Responder equipment is purchased through charitable donation and the ambulance service provides replacement of consumable equipment used on patients.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Community First Responders provide lifesaving treatment and support to the local community at their time of need. They enhance the care that the patient receives prior to the arrival of the

ambulance resources.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 N/A

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 N/A

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

See Appendices

9.1 N/A

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1 - Defibrillator – East of England Ambulance Service
Appendix 2 - Policy Statement Defibrillators in public areas produced by British Heart Foundation