



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority  
Community Safety Committee

# **PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

**Date:** 08 April 2016

**Purpose of Report:**

To inform Members of a proposal between the Community Heartbeat Trust and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service that will result in the provision and installation of fully managed community public access defibrillators at the Service's premises.

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 According to the UK Resuscitation Council, following a cardiac arrest, the chance of survival decreases by 23% per minute. With this statistic in mind they suggest that defibrillators should be accessible wherever medical treatment is more than five minutes away.
- 1.2 The Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) is a national charity focused on the provision of life saving defibrillation services to local communities through a nationally held database used by the UK Ambulance Service.
- 1.3 The CHT is well known and works with a range of local and national public and private sector organisations as well as a number fire and rescue services across the UK.

## **2. REPORT**

- 2.1 It is recognised that in the event of a cardiac arrest, a swift response including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of a defibrillator increases the chance of survival significantly.
- 2.2 The basis of this report is to inform Members of the proposal to partner with the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) with the aim of fitting a community public access defibrillator (CPAD) to all Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services (NFRS) premises.
- 2.3 Due to the number and visibility of NFRS premises across the City and County they provide an excellent focal point within communities to locate a public access defibrillator. The majority of sites also provide facilities that safely enable both vehicle and pedestrian access to the front of the buildings.
- 2.4 The fire cover review consultation exercise undertaken during 2014 demonstrated strongly that communities value their local fire stations far more than the number of emergency response calls it undertakes. It is clear that there is a real sense that stations are a community asset, and this project supports and reinforces the notion of social capital, and provides an increased offering to the community.
- 2.5 The fundamental principle of the project is that the local community will be supported by CHT and NFRS to raise money to purchase and maintain the equipment. The service has already agreed to two stations having CPADs installed following approaches from the local communities. This project intends to expand this county wide in a co-ordinated and managed approach.

- 2.6 CHT will provide each nominated NFRS premises with a CPAD solution that comprises of:
- A heated cabinet;
  - A Lifeline defibrillator;
  - Registration with East Midlands Ambulance Service;
  - Training for the local community; and
  - A fully managed maintenance and management system that covers insurance and consumables.
- 2.7 The cabinets are easily recognisable and will carry both CHT and NFRS branding, and will be installed by existing contractors who are familiar with working on the Service's estate.
- 2.8 Each CPAD will be registered with East Midlands Ambulance Service and when a 999 call is made in the local area the operator will determine if it is appropriate for the defibrillator to be used. If this is the case the caller will be informed of the location and the lock code so that the equipment can be accessed.
- 2.9 There will also be a media campaign to raise awareness of the project to create a catalyst for the fundraising and of the community asset that will result.
- 2.10 Once a CPAD is installed CHT will provide initial training sessions for the public which NFRS will host locally. It is envisaged that regular training events will then take place in the future as part of the Service's educational program in communities. This serves to maintain awareness and raise confidence to access and use the equipment.
- 2.11 All insurances, public liabilities and consumables are addressed and covered through CHT, including any damage to the CPAD or its cabinet.
- 2.12 This initiative will make NFRS the first fire and rescue service in the East Midlands to commit to the installation of CPADs at all of its fire stations, and the proposal will see the installation of up to 27 CPADs, where the first will be installed at Service Headquarters during the spring.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The initial cost of each CPAD will be in the region of £2,000 per site, and NFRS has agreed to support the project by financing the installation costs which will be in the region of £150-200 per site. If the project is successful at all 27 sites the total one-off cost of installation would be in the region of £5,000 and will be met by the estates maintenance budget.
- 3.2 As the solution is a fully managed service there is an ongoing annual maintenance charge that ensures the equipment is regularly serviced and restocked after use. The majority of this cost will be met by ongoing local

fundraising co-ordinated by CHT, with NFRS making a contribution of £126 per site per annum. Again, in the case of all 27 sites being successful this would create an annual cost in the region of £3,400 and will be met by the estates managed services budget.

- 3.3 Each of the cabinets is provided with an electrical supply to provide a small amount of heating to avoid damage to the equipment. The ongoing cost of this is minimal and will be contained within site utility charges.

#### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no human resources implications arising from the provision of CPADs, however CHT are able to provide initial awareness training to the community and NFRS staff if required. The basis of this training is to raise awareness and give confidence in the use of the equipment, which is designed to be easily used by anyone in the community.

#### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The equipment selected for the cabinets is one of the most accessible available and uses both written and spoken instructions to appeal to a broader number of potential users.

#### **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The agreed proposal with CHT is a fully managed governance system that provides NFRS with the reassurance that all insurances and public liabilities are covered contractually by CHT.

#### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The CPADs and the cabinet they are contained in will be fully managed and maintained by CHT to ensure that they are fully operational, functional and meet all legislative and regulatory requirements.

#### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the contents of this report and support the proposal.

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)**

None.

John Buckley  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**