

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS - UPDATE

Report of the Director of Public Health

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 At Full Council in November, a motion was passed to:

- Liaise with North West Ambulance Service to seek public access to their definitive list of public defibrillators and to make this available prominently on the council's website;
- Review and, where it would be beneficial, increase the provision of defibrillators across Council-owned spaces including public parks, community centres, leisure facilities, and areas of high public footfall;
- Implement a streamlined process for community groups to install defibrillators on council buildings using the Community Heartbeat Trust system;
- Liaise with Sport England and other key national sports governing bodies to check the first aid requirements for their affiliated clubs and make training courses available to local clubs and teams that want to learn how to access Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and be trained in the use of defibrillators and CPR; and
- Bring a report to the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee meeting in January 2022, detailing a plan to roll out more AEDs across the Borough, and reporting on progress towards gaining public access to the North West Ambulance Service definitive list.

1.2 This paper constitutes as an update of the progress of the motion on AEDs that was agreed at Full Council.

2. THE USE OF AEDs AND SITES AROUND STOCKPORT

2.1 Defibrillators can be useful devices in many circumstances, but in a medical emergency, the important action is for an ambulance to be called. If it's relevant, the ambulance trust will then provide access to defibrillators listed via <https://www.thecircuit.uk/>.

2.2 A defibrillator are of most use when installed in locations that meet the following criteria

- where footfall is high, and particularly where physical activity or risk of drug taking increase the risk of a cardiac event
- where access can be provided at the times when the site is busy
- where someone can maintain it,
- where there's a power supply
- where the vandalism risk is low

2.3 NWAS have a way to register defibrillators - <https://form.jotformeu.com/61873324400348> and an accreditation scheme - <https://www.nwas.nhs.uk/get-involved/lifesaving-skills/cardiaccsmart/>

2.4 Two website maps do attempt to show all community defibrillators, but both currently look incomplete: <https://www.nddb.uk> - this is supported by NHS & BHF, and <https://www.heartsafe.org.uk/aed-locations>.

- 2.5 We are therefore currently working with North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) to pursue enabling public access to the list which they hold, to enable clarity of existing distribution and availability of defibrillators across the borough.
- 2.2 We are also working with our own estates and legal team to determine the location of current AEDs on Council Buildings. It may be appropriate to do an audit of current locations, conditions of the AEDs on Council Buildings and to identify gaps in provision and seek out opportunities for potential new sites, and to review the process of installation to see if this can be streamlined.

3. THE COMMUNITY HEARTBEAT TRUST

- 3.1 The Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) is a charity whose aims are to help and support communities in the correct provision of defibrillators, but in sustainable, resilient and governance led manner.
- 3.2 CHT provide the equipment on a sale/purchase basis and the responsibility for the equipment; policies; insurance; ongoing support and maintenance, and regular weekly checks on the equipment and reporting of this to the ambulance services, is the responsibility of the community/owners.
- 3.3 Alternatively, a community can donate funds and fund raise to the CHT charity, and the charity will own any equipment and provide a service (via a long-term loan) to the community which will include the equipment, insurance (theft, damage and public liability), policies, and also address any issues with the equipment going missing through provision of additional loan equipment. CHT takes care of any VAT element, and also covers the insurances on the equipment, as defined below. This is called the Managed Solution Partnership (MSP)
- 3.4 CHT also ensures that communities obtain the correct defibrillators equipment, equipment that is designed for the task and conforms to the various legislative requirements, such as disability laws. They also review and ensure the storage cabinets meet the right requirements for the need, this means storage that will minimise condensation, is heated with the right type of heater, conforms to health and safety, as well as electrical safety requirements, and meets disability recommendations.
- 3.5 It is therefore essential that community engagement and ownership of the installation and maintenance of any defibrillators is sought, and this should be an integral part of the process of identifying any new sites.
- 3.6 We will work with the VCSE sector, through Sector 3 to engage the community in the identification of any new potential sites, once the current locations are fully understood (section 2.5 above).

4. AED'S AND SPORTS CLUBS

- 4.1 There is a mixed picture regarding AEDs in sports clubs that will to a large extent be governed by that sport's National Governing Body (NGB). This will range from little guidance to clear policy guidance.
- 4.2 Across Greater Manchester, the Manchester Football Association have been leading on some work with the Mayor's office. They set out a 5 point strategy for defibrillators in July 2020, specifically for football, but acknowledging that the sites where football is played are also used for multi-sport and wider community engagement.
 - The 5-point plan includes:
 - Completing an audit of all their Clubs and Leagues (Central Venue) to assess who has access to defibrillators.

- Ensure their Clubs / Teams know exactly where the nearest defibrillator is located when using hired facilities.
 - Work with Clubs who do not have access to a defibrillator at a facility to develop a funding plan to purchase a defibrillator, which will include financial support from Manchester FA and access to the FA scheme (Heart Safe Clubs) which offers defibrillators at a reduced price.
 - Ask that organisers of any summer festivals or tournaments held by Clubs and Leagues have access to a defibrillator and where possible ensure they have a trained paramedic (e.g. St John's Ambulance) on site.
 - Ensure all coaches and volunteers have access to Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training and device training so that clubs know how to operate the defibrillator.
- 4.4 The audit for football found that there are 984 sites across Greater Manchester;
- 197 have access to an AED already
 - 423 Education sites need checking
 - 298 Local Authority Sites or Commercial Facilities need checking
 - 66 Sports Clubs need checking
- 4.5 Manchester Football Association met with the Greater Manchester Mayor's Office in November 2021 and it was agreed that the Mayor would write to all Education and Local Authorities in early 2022 to request the completion of a survey to enable Manchester Football Association to complete the Audit.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 We have made progress with gathering the most relevant information from our partners to support this work. As set out at Full Council we are liaising with North West Ambulance Service to seek public access to their definitive list of public defibrillators, which will enable further assessment of appropriate potential locations for additional defibrillators.
- 5.2 We are working with colleagues to review the current distribution of defibrillators across all Council-owned spaces including public parks, community centres, leisure facilities, and areas of high public footfall with the view to increase provision where this is appropriate and supported by the community.
- 5.3 We will continue to work with Sector 3 and our VCSFE partners and community networks to implement and support a streamlined process for community groups to install defibrillators in appropriate settings using the Community Heartbeat Trust process.
- 5.4 We will build on the current work at a Greater Manchester level to ensure we complete the audit and gain this insight for Stockport clubs. We will also continue to work with amateur sports teams to ensure they know how to liaise with Sport England and other key national sports governing bodies. To check the first aid requirements for their affiliated clubs and make training courses available to local clubs and teams that want to learn how to access AEDs and are be trained in the use of defibrillators.
- 5.5 It is recommended that the Committee note the report and agree that an update on the progress of this work is brought back to the March meeting of the Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Jennifer Connolly on 0161 474 2442 or alternatively email jennifer.connolly@stockport.gov.uk