

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS - UPDATE

Draft Report of the Director of Public Health

Cardiac arrest - guidance

A cardiac arrest occurs when the heart suddenly stops pumping blood around the body. This is an emergency that usually happens without warning, although heart attack can lead to cardiac arrest.

If someone is in cardiac arrest, they collapse suddenly and will be unconscious, unresponsive, and not breathing or not breathing normally – this may mean they're making gasping noises.

If someone is having a cardiac arrest,

- phone 999 immediately and start CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)
- Follow instructions from the 999 operator until emergency services take over.
- The 999 operator will tell you where the nearest defibrillator is. If there is one nearby and someone can bring it to the person doing CPR fetch it and use as instructed.
- <https://www.bhf.org.uk/information-support/conditions/cardiac-arrest>

1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to summarise the current position regarding provision of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) in Stockport.

Context

1.1 CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) is an emergency lifesaving procedure, performed when someone's heart stops beating normally, or when someone stops breathing. The core of CPR is chest compressions., starting immediate CPR is vital as it keeps blood and oxygen moving to the brain and around the body. People who have been trained to do so can also give rescue breaths. CPR is highly effective on its own. Giving CPR and then using a defibrillator can more than double someone's chance of survival.

1.2 A defibrillator is a device that sends a high energy electric shock, also known as defibrillation, to someone's heart when they're in cardiac arrest. It can help to restore the heart's rhythm and get it beating normally again. An AED uses automated analysis of the patient's heart to prevent administration of an inappropriate electric shock and can therefore be safely used by members of the public. An AED is the portable device while a CPAD or PAD is a Community Public Access Defibrillator usually found in a cabinet and accessible to any member of the public 24/7.

1.3 People are encouraged to be aware of the location of local defibrillators and access to nearby portable defibs forms part of a standard risk management for any public event.

1.4 In November 2021 full council agreed a motion on Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) which included making information about defibrillators available prominently on the council's website; review and, where it would be beneficial, increase the provision of defibrillators across Council-owned spaces and areas of high public footfall; implement a streamlined process for community groups to install defibrillators on council buildings, Liaise with Sport England and other key national sports governing bodies to check the first aid requirements for their affiliated clubs and make CPR and use of defibrillators training

courses available to local clubs. Update reports have previously been received by Health and Social Care Scrutiny in July 2022 and November 2022. This report provides a further update.

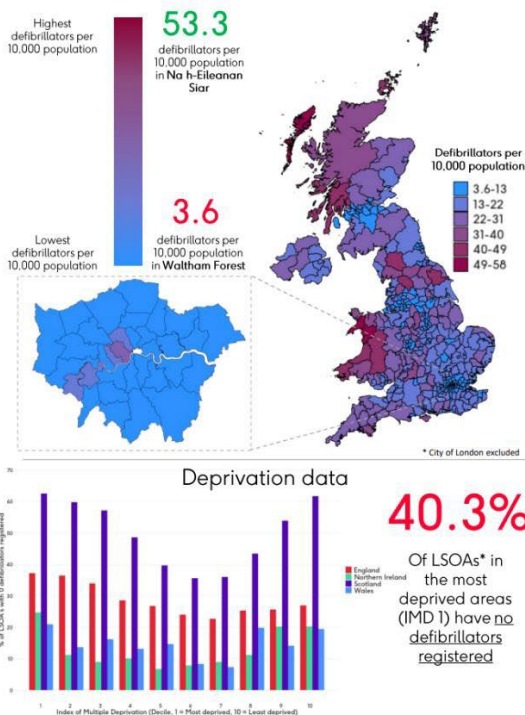
2. Making information about defibrillators and importance of CPR available in Stockport

2.1 This database is the most comprehensive, up-to-date, source of information about defibrillators in the UK. It can be searched by postcode, town or by the user's current location. A link to Defib Finder is available on the Council website on the dedicated Defibrillator web pages.

The Defib Finder' [Defib finder – find the defibrillators nearest you.](#)

2.2 There are 99,472 currently registered in UK and approximately 364 in Stockport. Stockport's registered defibs represent around 12.3 defibs per 10,000 residents, which is similar to other metropolitan boroughs in the country. Emergency services

(particularly NWS) use the circuit to direct people to the nearest defibrillator in an emergency.



99,472
Defibrillators registered with a named Guardian

17.4
Defibrillators per 10,000 population (mean)

41.1%
Defibrillators are in unlocked cabinets

59.2%
Defibrillators are available 24/7

The circuit
The National Defibrillator Network

Ambulance Service	Number of defibrillators registered on The Circuit	Proportion (%)	Defibrillators per 10,000 population	Percent of LSOAs* with at least one defibrillator
East Midlands	8,216	8.3	15.8	76.9
East of England	9,262	9.3	14.6	74.8
Isle of Wight NHS Trust	545	0.6	38.8	98.9
London	6,246	6.3	7.1	51.6
North-East	3,667	3.7	13.9	72.4
North-West	9,407	9.5	12.7	70.4
South Central	6,710	6.8	15.3	75.3
South-East Coast	6,777	6.8	14.2	74.4
South-West	11,011	11.1	19.3	80.6
West Midlands	9,435	9.5	15.9	72.9
Yorkshire	7,631	7.7	14.8	74.5
Scottish	8,884	8.9	16.2	50
Welsh	8,040	8.1	25.9	88.6
Northern Ireland	3,641	3.7	19.1	86.9

*Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They comprise between 400 and 1,200 households and have a usually resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons. OAs in Scotland are with a population of between 500 and 3,000.

Data adapted from "Are there disparities in the location of automated external defibrillators in England?" Terry Brown, Gavin Parkers et al. 2022



2.2 A defibrillator needs to be correctly maintained, and in particular needs to have its single-use pads replaced every time it is used. Public Access Defibs are registered on the circuit by individual defib guardians, who are responsible for ensuring the defib is maintained and accessible. The BHF are unable to guarantee the accuracy of the data on Defib Finder and do not assume legal liability for the consequences of errors. The role of defib guardians therefore extends from maintaining the defib to ensuring the accuracy of information about the defib, and providing timely updates to the circuit whenever the availability or status of the defib changes. The circuit sends regular reminders to guardians to prompt them to maintain their defib(s) and update the information held, but BHF are not funded to carry out inspections or quality assurance functions.

2.3 We worked with our web design team to produce new web pages on our Council Website which provide a useful resource for community groups and residents. The webpages include information about how to perform CPR, use a defibrillator and a link to the Defib Finder website for publicly available information regarding the location of AEDs/CPAD's across the borough.

[Defibrillators - Stockport Council](#)

These pages were published in January 2024 and were promoted to residents, businesses, and council staff during the BHF led National Heart Month in February 2024. We will promote this again in National Heart Month in 2025.

3.0 Information about funding, providing and installing CPAD's and streamlining processes for installation on Council buildings

3.1 The Council webpages include guidance on things an individual or group needs to consider when buying and installing a defibrillator for a workplace or community, for example information on sources of help towards the cost of purchasing, installing, and maintaining one.

[Defibrillator Guide for First Time Buyers.](#)

3.2 We worked with our Council Estates and Legal team to review and streamline the process for installing a CPAD on a Council building.

3.3 The guidance and an application form is published on the Council website. We also included a CPAD/AED application checklist to help organisations consider and collate all the information they need before they apply.

3.4 Since the launch of the webpages on 1.1.2024 the Defib landing page has received 168 views, applying to install a Defibrillator on a council building 89 views and registering a Defibrillator 20 views. Public Health colleagues have also given verbal advice to community groups. To date Estates have received no new requests for installing a defibrillator on Council premises.

4.0 Increasing the provision of defibrillators across Council-owned spaces

4.1 The council owns several buildings that are already CPAD sites, but we would like to see more CPADs available to our community and are supportive of the use of additional council buildings in this way, where this is appropriate. This is particularly important in areas where the availability of CPADs is lower, since each minute's delay in using a defibrillator may reduce the chance of survival by around 10%.

The principles of locating an AED are installing them in locations that meet the following criteria:

- where footfall is high, and particularly where physical activity or risk of drug taking increases the risk of a cardiac event
- where access can be provided at the times when the site is busy
- where someone (a guardian) can maintain it,
- where there is a power supply
- where the vandalism risk is acceptable

4.2 We have worked with our Business Intelligence colleagues to map gaps in the locations of defibs to understand where increasing AED provision would be most beneficial. Recent analysis of information is attached in Appendix 1. The diagram shows the distribution of AEDs and Community Public Access Defibrillators (CPADs) and population density of the borough. In common with the national picture shown in the infographic above, Stockport has lower levels of provision in its more disadvantaged areas.

4.3 There are a number of challenges in increasing the number of publicly available defibs including cost and ensuring that a suitable guardian for the equipment is identified. Not all Council-owned public spaces and centres are accessible when a defib is most likely to be needed; the site may not meet the criteria for installation and, in particular, there may be risks of vandalism. These issues contribute to the lower density of defibrillators in our most deprived areas. Below are some examples of recent community and Council/partner collaborations to install new defibs.

4.4 Defibulous is a local group dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of having accessible defibrillators in public spaces. Established in 2023, their mission statement states they aim to educate communities, advocate for better access to life saving equipment and to collaborate to ensure defibs are readily available where they are needed most. Defibulous have to date installed 20 across Stockport and have recently installed CPAD defibrillators in Offerton and Adswood.

4.5 A young man who fundraises for defibrillators via Facebook has been supported by BRSK, the broadband provider, to provide a free defibrillator for Stockport. We are working with Stockport Homes to identify a suitable site on Lancashire Hill and they have agreed to maintain the equipment and electricity supply. Its anticipated it will be in situ in early 2025. Discussions are taking place about offering the community training and guidance on how to use the equipment.

5. Provision and training at Sports facilities and Clubs.

5.1 There are AEDs in all Life Leisure Facilities with some of the larger sites having two units, one fixed and one portable. Life Leisure's Health and Safety Compliance Officer is in the process of registering all defibrillators onto The Circuit, these will be available to both community and ambulance during Life Leisure's operating hours. All staff inducted into the organisation train on CPR and how to use a defibrillator, they have regular training updates.

5.2 We have requested an update from Sport England on progress in making CPR and first aid training available to affiliated clubs. We will continue to engage with Sport Governing Bodies and Sport England and our own local clubs and seek out opportunities for training courses and learning opportunities on how to access AEDs and to be trained in the use of defibrillators and CPR.

6. Wider work on cardiovascular health

6.1. **Coronary heart disease** is the leading cause of heart attacks, targeted prevention initiatives are essential to reduce incidence of heart attack. Public health guidance and programmes aim to promote good cardiovascular health and the prevention of cardiovascular disease. CVD prevention is one of four priorities of Stockport's Provider Partnership in Stockport, and we have established strategies and initiatives for the major risk factors. These include tobacco control and smoking cessation, diabetes prevention, reducing alcohol consumption, promoting healthy eating, physical activity and the take up of NHS Health Checks. In 2023/24 we recommissioned the local NHS Health Check offer, which invites people without heart disease aged 40-74 years to a heart health check at their GP practice every 5 years, and are seeing an increase in delivery as a result. Through our 'know your numbers' initiative we provide blood pressure checks at community events and are currently delivering a "Healthy Heart Check" blood pressure programme in local workplaces, as part of a pilot programme from Department for Health and social Care, with the aim to deliver 3,000 checks by March 2025.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The committee are asked to note the progress made against the actions set out in the motion agreed at full Council in November 2021.

Consider the following recommendations

- To promote the importance of accurately registering CPADs/AEDs in Stockport on the circuit through appropriate Council and partners comms routes.
- To run targeted comms campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of CPR and being familiar with location of local Defibrillators, during Heart Health Month in February 2025.
- To raise awareness of available training on CPR and how to use defibrillators in community outreach/focused work, particularly during Heart Health Month.
- To work with Sector 3 and our VCSFE partners and community networks to engage with our communities regarding current provision of AEDs to identify gaps and willing community groups who want to fundraise and be AED guardians and who can enable installation in their local areas and across the borough.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Jilla Burgess-Allen on jilla.burgess-allen@stockport.gov.uk

Appendix 1:

Stockport Defibrillators (Dec 2024) (Source: BHF) with population density (Source: Nomis)

