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VOL 16 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2016

NHS UNITES TO TACKLE SEPSIS

Sepsis rally call

Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS England Medical Director, has issued a rallying call to healthcare professionals across the country to focus on improving early recognition and timely treatment of sepsis.

At an event in London last month a new public awareness campaign delivered in and ahead of a major collaboration with the

UK Sepsis Trust, he set out the work that has been done so far to help nurses and doctors to recognise and treat sepsis and what more can be done to reduce deaths from sepsis.

Since April 2015 the number of people screened for sepsis has significantly increased, and it is now being diagnosed and treated quicker than ever before. However, one in four acutely ill patients is still not being tested early enough.

Anyone can develop sepsis after an injury or minor infection, although some people are at higher risk such as those with a weakened immune system, a serious illness, the very young or very old, or those who have just had surgery or wounds as a result of an accident.

Professor Sir Bruce Keogh said: "Doctors, nurses and other health professionals are spotting and treating more cases of sepsis than ever before, but there is still more we can do to reduce the number of families experiencing the heartache of losing a loved one from sepsis.

"Sepsis is a severe and life threatening response to infection which can be really hard to spot in its early phases. It is often preventable if an in-

fection is identified early. But even when it has set in, it may be turned around if treatment is started soon enough.

"Sadly, many people still die from sepsis which is why we will be launching a public awareness campaign and introducing more measures than ever before to support and equip organisations and health professionals, to improve the chances of survival and reduce complications from sepsis."

Sir Bruce also outlined the impact of measures for other conditions that have

helped to reduce the number of deaths where health professionals united in a commitment to take action. These include; meningitis B immunisation for babies which has halved the incidence of the disease; specialist centres and networks improving the odds of survival from major trauma, stroke, heart attacks and an NHS wide systematic approach to assessing risk and preventative treatment for venous thrombo-embolism.

Nearly a year on from the launch of NHS England's Sepsis

Action Plan much has been done, but the next wave of activity is already underway and further measures to help support healthcare professionals to recognise and treat sepsis early are expected over the course of the next year.

Bruce was joined on the stage by others including Dr Ron Daniels, Chair of the UK Sepsis Trust, Ruth May, Executive Director of Nursing for NHS Improvement and Celia Ingham Clark, Medical Director for Clinical Effectiveness at NHS

England at an event to an audience of senior clinicians.

Dr Ron Daniels BEM, Chief Executive of the UK Sepsis Trust and global sepsis expert, said: "We're delighted that our partnership with NHS England will deliver much-needed progress in sepsis awareness among healthcare professionals. This is a far-reaching and highly visible programme to ensure that professional development keeps pace with the huge strides we are making in improving public recognition of sepsis.

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Mental health initiative boost

A project to make sure patients experiencing a mental health crisis have rapid access to care has received £200,000 to develop and deploy two new specialist vehicles.

The Mental Health Street Triage is a partnership between the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST), Bedfordshire Police, East London NHS Foundation Trust, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Luton Clinical Commissioning Group. The service started in June and is a team consisting of a paramedic, police officer and mental health professional responding to mental health calls across Bedfordshire. The team attends incidents where there is an immediate threat to life - someone threatening to

self-harm - or where a third party has called the police or ambulance and expressed concern for someone.

Following the launch, feedback from patients identified that they would prefer a response from the team in a vehicle that does not look like a police or ambulance and expressed concern for someone.

Simon King, senior locality manager at EEAST, said: "Our patients told us what would make the service better and I am delighted that we have secured this funding to procure two new vehicles based on their feedback. It will also ensure that the Mental Health Street Triage team can pro-

vide a rapid response to people in a crisis in modern purpose built vehicles and transport them in comfort if required to do so."

Simon continued, "This initiative is a great example of partnership working; getting a whole range of organisations together to help improve lives and offer better care, protection and treatment."

Chief Inspector Jaki Whittred, from Bedfordshire Police, said "I'm delighted that the panel have recognised how important the Mental Health Street Triage partnership is in delivering the right help to people in mental health crisis. Bedfordshire Police are committed to working with our health colleagues to ensure that we continue to develop and sustain our street triage scheme and this funding award will really assist us in doing so"



Team success

Emergency services in North Wales collaborated and launched a new initiative aimed at protecting people in their homes in Autumn 2016.

The Community Assistance Team has now assisted over a hundred people since it was launched. The pilot is running in Denbighshire and Conwy in the form of a specialised team of staff working together to respond to vulnerable people who experience a fall in their home.

The aim of the initiative is to reduce the number of people who need to attend hospital as a result of a fall, thereby reducing the pressure and demands on ambulance and medical services.

The team consists of fully trained staff members, recruited from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service who are equipped to provide a service of excellence and an improved patient experience.

Stuart Millington, Senior Fire Safety Manager at North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We are ex-

tremely pleased with how this initiative is going and are glad that our team have been able to assist over a hundred people without having to call the ambulance out.

"The benefits of collaborative working with other emergency and public services are obvious, both in monetary savings and in respect of delivering improved services to our communities.

"By responding as a specialised team to non-injury falls in this way we hope to alleviate some of that pressure as well as provide a much improved service."

Mark Timmins, the Welsh Ambulance Service's Tri-Service Collaboration Lead in North Wales, said: "The Community Assistance Team is a perfect example of how emergency services can work together to better patient care and community safety.

"Each of the patients are referred to our falls pathway if appropriate and the team have also been providing home safety and crime prevention checks."

The initiative is supported by

Welsh Government in conjunction with the three emergency services, Denbighshire County Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Galw Gofal / Care Connect, and North Wales Regional Call Monitoring Service.

The team members work a shift pattern covering known peak times between 7am - 3pm and 3pm - 11pm. They respond in a branded Community Assistance Team vehicle that is fully equipped with all of the necessary specialist equipment, including lifting devices so as to safely assist a person back to a seated position. The service is mobilised through Ambulance Service control, so the public do not need to do anything different than they would have done previously, however if it is appropriate the Community Assistance Team will be deployed instead of an ambulance.

This initiative and others has already been recognised at the All Wales Continuous Improvement Community Awards 2016 in the 'Collaboration' category that celebrated the success of the Tri Service Prevent and Respond Project Team.

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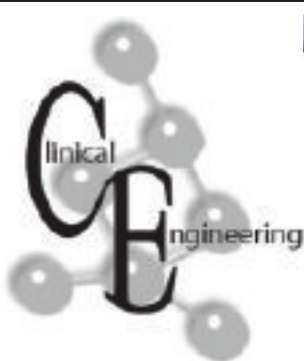
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Clinical info at a click

A new ambulance app that brings clinical guidelines to the fingertips of ambulance staff and volunteers has been launched.

One of the first of its kind for a UK ambulance service, the Clinical Manual app has been developed by the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) to allow clinical colleagues and volunteers to view both Trust and national guidance at the click of a button.

Colleagues with an iOS or Android phone or tablet will



have access, straight from their device, to everything from drug doses and equipment instructions to treatment and care pathways.

Developed with Aimer Media and published by Class

Professional Publishing, the free and EEAST-exclusive app contains the huge knowledge base ambulance clinicians of all grades are expected to know, and will act as a vital sense-checker and reminder tool.

Lewis Andrews, EEAST's Quality Improvement and Professional Standards Lead, was part of the app development team and "delighted" about the launch: "I'd like to express our sincere thanks to Class Professional Publishing, Aimer Media, and everyone working on the project at the ambulance service for their support in developing and creating what we hope will be a really useful and interactive tool for our colleagues."

"They say that 'knowledge is power' and safe clinical practice is definitely based upon the ability to put theory into practice. Not know-

ing what kind of job they'll be going to next, our colleagues are expected to know and retain a huge breadth of knowledge, and having this app will help to support them in delivering excellent patient care."

With the ability to update the app instantly, EEAST teams can use it in the knowledge that what they see in front of them is the latest and most up-to-date clinical information; content can be broken down on the app by their clinical grade, they can bookmark favourite pages, and even watch training videos.

Lewis added: "Once it's been downloaded the app can also be accessed offline - so even when crews are in the most rural and remote parts of our region they'll be able to use it."

The app comes off the back of EEAST's original Clinical

Manual book, which was the brainchild of Paramedic Alice Berrill and then launched by the clinical team in 2014 with Class Professional Publishing.

Class Managing Director Dick Warner said: "The Trust is a leader in clinical thinking, and this app is a result of their innovative attitude to supporting clinicians in the field. We are thrilled to see it launched, and look forward to feedback from users on how to develop its capabilities further in the future."

Adrian Driscoll, Commercial and Publishing Director at Aimer, added: "Aimer strive to make apps truly useful and working to provide key information to the paramedic when and where they need it has been incredibly rewarding. We are delighted to be part of the creation of the EEAST app, which in integrating the local and national guidelines shows how an app

can be much more than the sum of its parts."

The app was rolled out to the Trust's c. 4,000 staff last month, and will be launched with volunteers soon.

Features on the app include:

- full access to an online version of EEAST's Clinical Manual
- the ability to breakdown content by clinical grade
- bookmarking, so staff can 'favourite' popular pages on the home screen
- training videos, on best practice and equipment
- notes, that staff can add in and store
- search function, so staff can find the clinical topic they're looking for quickly
- clinical notifications, for when updates or drug alerts are sent out by the Trust.

Capital ambulances

Two hundred new ambulance vehicles are set to hit London's streets with potential for a further 60 to

be approved next year.

London Ambulance Service will introduce 140 new Mercedes ambulances from March 2017, after a business

case was approved by NHS Improvement. A prototype for the new state-of-the-art vehicles is currently being built.

In addition to this, 60 new Volkswagen Tiguan fast response cars are currently being rolled out across London

Ambulance Service.

Deputy Director for Fleet and Logistics, Justin Wand, said: "We are investing heavily in replacing our emergency vehicles and the 60 new fast response cars have already been well received by our staff."

"Our new ambulances will offer greater reliability, improved comfort for our patients, new technology and a more environmentally friendly engine."

Some of the 200 new vehicles will bolster the existing

fleet while others will replace older models which will be phased out.

A business case for a further 60 Volkswagen Tiguan fast response cars is due to be considered, with possible delivery in the next financial year.



The new Volkswagen Tiguan fast response cars

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Road safety campaign

Two hundred students have received a valuable lesson in road safety at the launch of a new campaign.

Staff from the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EAST), firefighters and police officers joined forces last month at City College Norwich to give a demonstration of how the emergency services respond to a road traffic collision.

Former patient Thomas Semmons, 18, who was seriously injured in a road traffic collision in Norfolk, also spoke of his personal experiences as part of the campaign to improve road safety amongst young people.

The #Impact campaign was launched by Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner and supported by the Trust, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service and Norfolk Police.

Thomas, who suffered a punctured lung and fractured shoulder and cheekbone on 16th July, was reunited with



Duty Locality Officer Gary Steward who treated him after his collision.

Thomas said: "The emergency services were brilliant that night. I was panicked because I did not like seeing my first car being cut up. They kept me calm and looked after me so much even though I was being difficult refusing needles. They cared for me so well and I owe my life to them."

He added this message for young drivers: "When I had my accident, I was not speed-

ing, but I was going too fast for the conditions. I was wearing a seatbelt, which probably saved my life, and I was not under the influence of drugs or alcohol, so was able to react quickly, and I was not on my mobile phone.

"My message is that you are not as good as you imagine you are. You are inexperienced drivers and have many driving years ahead. There is no need to take risks and it is better to get there late than not at all."

AACE signs up to WRES

The ambulance service in England has pledged its commitment to NHS England's Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES) in a renewed effort to address racial inequality across ambulance trusts.

The Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) represents all 10 English NHS ambulance trusts, partners and associate members from devolved nations.

Each trust will now focus on four WRES indicators - part of the NHS Standard Contract - and commit to short, medium and long term goals, which address the number of black and minority ethnic staff in workplaces; the shortlist and appointment rates and address issues relating to abuse, ha-

arrassment or bullying from patients, members of the public and colleagues.

NHS England has invested £2m over two years (2015-17) in the WRES programme to identify and share best practice building on what Trusts are doing to improve recruitment, Board membership, and tackling disciplinary action and bullying of BME staff. This includes training and developing 75 champions based in trusts who will help reduce inequality, spread best practice and improve patient care.

All NHS commissioners and provider organisations (including the private sector) are required to implement and publish data on the WRES Standard - a summary of the gap between the treatment and experience of White and BME staff, against nine metrics.

Tracy Myhill, Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service and the diversity and inclusion lead for the AACE, said: "This is a watershed moment for ambulance services as we have made a joint and determined commitment to improve the experiences of our black and minority ethnic colleagues. Equality in our ranks does not only make us fair and attractive employers, but also excellent healthcare providers. We serve diverse communities and our workforce should reflect this."

Yvonne Coghill, Director, WRES implementation team, said: "I am absolutely delighted that the AACE is taking the issue of racial inequality in the ambulance service seriously."

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New community response in Kent

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, (SECAmb), has begun responding from a number of new Ambulance Community Response Posts in North Kent.

The Trust has worked with Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) to locate response posts at fire stations in Sheppey, Rainham, Rochester and Edenbridge. Crews began to use the response posts from Monday 21 November.

The posts are all additional locations for crews to respond from and replace a number of roadside cover points currently used. Each post can accommodate one

crew at a time and ensure that staff can rest, with facilities, between calls.

SECAmb's ACRPs are located across its Kent, Surrey and Sussex region to best match patient demand and the Trust is continuing to explore other potential sites for additional response posts.

Paramedic and Operating Unit Manager Nick Keech said: "We're pleased to have agreed this arrangement with our colleagues at Kent Fire and Rescue which means our crews will more often be able to rest comfortably between jobs rather than sit in their vehicles at the roadside. It's important that we are able to locate our staff where they are best

placed to respond to patients but also be able to rest in comfort. We will continue to explore other opportunities for further additional locations based on patient demand."

KFRS' Operational & Development Manager, David Escudier said: "KFRS is delighted to be able to work closely with SECAmb. We have expanded our co-responding work - where firefighters respond to life-threatening emergencies such as cardiac arrests, chest pains and breathing difficulties - on behalf of SECAmb throughout the county. Having joint response stations is the natural next step in this common sense collaboration."

SECamb's ePCR iPad project begins further rollout

South East Coast Ambulance Service's NHS Foundation Trust's (SECamb) innovative electronic Patient Clinical Record (ePCR) project is being rolled out across the Trust's region following successful trials in Thanet, Kent.

The project, in which clinicians are personally issued with iPads, enables ambulance crews to complete patient records electronically, streamline communication with hospitals, save on paper and time, improve information security and create more legible records.

The rollout will see groups of clinicians receive the devices and be familiarised in their use by specially-trained colleagues.

The Trust will distribute the devices to clinicians across its Kent, Surrey and Sussex region in stages with the majority expected to have been delivered by spring 2017.

SECamb's ePCR project has been developed with leading UK-based IT provider Kainos utilizing their Evolve software and with iPads and network provided by O2 Telefonica.

The new system involves ambulance crews emailing patient records to receiving hospitals across the region which are then able to either append the record electronically into their own A&E systems or print a paper copy.

The project has been continually assessed and improved since its operational launch in October 2015 with an improved software version deployed earlier this year.

SECamb IT Development Project Manager Karen Mann said: "We're really pleased to enter the next stage of the rollout of this important project. Our ePCR will play a major part in our plans to streamline the handover process with hospitals and also reduce the amount of paper we use. Clinicians will also benefit from the system during assessments of patients who do not require hospital treatment and we expect it to further improve our links with local healthcare teams and GP surgeries."

SECamb paramedic Mike Earl was one of the first paramedics to use the iPad and ePCR application. He said: "This electronic system has a number of benefits and is a really worthwhile innovation. The quality of the documentation is better and more legible and there are no constraints to a text box like there is with a paper form. Also the data we log can be captured and audited instantly. While we're in the early stages, it has been well received by hospital colleagues and staff welcome the fact that the software is operated on an iPad which means the device is multi-functional."

SECamb Head of IT Mark Chivers added: "This is an important project for the Trust. Not only does it improve patient care and efficiency but it also takes us forward on our mission to be digitally mature. The iPad is intuitive and the clinicians use it not just for the ePCRs but also for messaging, web browsing

and more, while keeping data safe utilizing the iOS' inherent security strengths."

SECamb is currently the only ambulance trust in the UK using iPads for its clinical records. This has ensured the device is multi-functional for clinicians and will open up avenues for further use and development in the future.

Mike Earl using the iPad



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Flying high

London Freemasons' £500k donation takes their total support to £2million and keeps London's Air Ambulance flying high London Freemasons have presented London's Air Ambulance with a cheque for £500,000 at their Investiture Day.

The £500,000 is the final instalment of London Freemasons' £2million pledge which enabled the charity to purchase a second helicopter for London.

London's Air Ambulance is now able to fly more days, longer hours, and take its advanced trauma care to more people across the capital thanks to London Freemasons' support.

In 2015, the single emergency medical helicopter was out of action for the equivalent of 62 days for necessary

maintenance. Since the second aircraft became operational in January 2016, the service has only been without helicopter cover for the equivalent of five days.

London Freemasons, which has 40,000 members in 1,350 lodges across the capital, has raised the money through personal contributions from members meeting across London.

Metropolitan Grand Master, Sir Michael Snyder said: "With London's badly needed second air ambulance now permanently in service, London is a safer place to live, work and travel.

"London Freemasons have responded magnificently to the challenge, totally embracing the initiative and allowing us to complete the fundraising in only 18 months rather than the expected 24!

"Our members have under-

taken all sorts of charity fundraising events from garden parties to bridge walks and running many marathons.

"It hasn't just been our members either, as they have been joined by their families and friends in totally supporting our pledge to support the communities of London with this very special and now completed project."

London's Air Ambulance Pilots Capt. Neil Jeffers and Capt. Dave Rolfe and Dr Anne Weaver accepted the cheque on behalf of the charity at a gathering attended by Freemasons and their families.

Capt. Neil Jeffers said: "Operating two helicopters gives us the resilience to ensure we can deliver critical care across the city every day of the year."



The cost of running the 24/7 trauma service is £8.5million a year. The charity's doctors are seconded from Barts Health NHS Trust, and its paramedics from London Ambulance Service, but all other costs -

including running costs, pilots, fire crew, fuel and charity staff are entirely funded by donations.

Charles Newitt, interim CEO of London's Air Ambulance, said: "The support of London Freemasons

has been instrumental in allowing us to acquire a second helicopter and to keep it in the air for the next five years.

"As a result we will be able to reach more patients and save more lives."

Night time funding

It was announced in the Autumn Statement by the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP that further grants were being made from the Libor (Bank Fines) Fund to emergency services charities. Devon Air Ambulance is delighted to announce that £1 million has been awarded to facilitate night landing sites.

Heléna Holt, CEO of Devon Air Ambulance explains: "We applied for a £1 million grant on behalf of the Devon community, to assist in funding community landing sites across the county. We were so pleased that we had been awarded the grant."

Nigel Hare, Operations Director of Devon Air Ambulance added: "We are now flying into the hours of dark-

ness. We have been working hard with the community since January to build a network of community night landing sites. These sites are pre surveyed and have state of the art technology with remote switching to turn on and off the lights at scene."

He added "Communities have very much taken ownership of their own landing site, not only funding them but also undertaking to ensure they are kept in good order. Even though the communities would still need to raise the funds to buy the equipment, the grant would be available to fund the cost of installing the flood lighting."

The £1 million grant will help with the installation of up to 300 landing sites.





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New helipad for Wales

Almost £700,000 of Welsh Government funding has been announced by Health Secretary Vaughan Gething for a new 24 hour helipad and associated developments at Prince Charles hospital in Merthyr Tydfil.

The current helipad has been found to be unsuitable for night flights, this funding will enable Wales' flying

medics, the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service Cymru (EMRTS), to attend to patients at any time of day or night.

EMRTS is a partnership between the Wales Air Ambulance Charity and NHS Wales. Since April 2015 consultants and critical care practitioners have joined the Charity's helicopters in south and mid Wales to at-

tend to patients whose survival is time-critical.

Through the flying medics service, consultants are able to start hospital equivalent treatment at the scene of an emergency and transport patients directly to the appropriate specialist care. This will give those patients, who are in a life-threatening situation the best possible chance of survival.

Vaughan Gething said: "This

significant capital funding from the Welsh Government will help ensure those critically ill patients who need care as fast as possible, by air, day or night, can get that care.

"This is all part of our ongoing commitment to delivering a modern and effective health service that the people of Wales deserve."

Cwm Taf University Health Board expects the new helipad to be operational in March 2017.

Ruth Treharne, Director of

Planning and Performance at Cwm Taf University Health Board said: "We are delighted that our capital funding bid for a new helipad at Prince Charles Hospital has been given the go-ahead. The helipad, which will be situated next to our state-of-the-art Emergency Care Centre, will allow us to receive and treat more critically ill patients 24 hours a day."

Dr Dindi Gill, EMRTS Interim National Director, said: "We are delighted to hear about the development

of this new 24 hour helipad and we thank the Welsh Government for their ongoing support. This facility will enhance our capability of delivering pre-hospital critical care and time-critical transfers working with our colleagues in Cwm Taf University Health Board.

"The introduction of this lit landing site also aligns itself with the strategic vision of EMRTS, in conjunction with our partners the Wales Air Ambulance Charity, becoming a 24/7 service."

HIOAA wins award

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA) had reason to celebrate last month after winning an Association of Air Ambulances Award of Excellence for its highly successful 'Be a 999 Hero' Education programme. The awards ceremony took place on 14

November at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel in Kensington.

HIOWAA CEO Alex Lochrane commented: "We are thrilled to be recognised for the success of our 'Be a 999 Hero' programme and the part that it has played in spreading our life saving message to children aged 5-11 across our region."

The Hampshire and Isle of

Wight Air Ambulance 'Be a 999 Hero' education programme is designed to teach young people about how to respond in an emergency and to highlight the importance of the Air Ambulance and other emergency services.

At the forefront of the campaign are five super hero characters, inspired by the charity's team of paramedics, doctors and pilots. The characters are featured on a website (www.hiowaa.org/skyheroes56) specifically de-

signed for young people, so that they can access vital safety information, fundraising ideas, games and a news page of activity from across the region. In addition, primary schools benefit from a 30 minute interactive presentation for pupils in class or assembly, plus a surprise visit from one of the charity's three new mascots: Pilot Paws, Teddy Medic and HeroCopter.

Since launching the programme in October 2015, the charity has delivered its

life saving message to over 20,000 children in schools, clubs and nurseries across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Alex Lochrane continued: "We could not have achieved this without the support of our crew and a loyal band of volunteers who help to deliver our interactive presentation to children across our region. This award goes as much to them and also to our brilliant corporate sponsor Knight Frank who have been hugely supportive

at every stage'.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance flies seven days a week and attends an average of two to three missions a day, many of them life saving. The charity receives no government, statutory or national lottery funding for routine operations, and is entirely dependent on donations received from members of the public, companies and grant-making bodies to keep the Air Ambulance flying and saving lives.

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Physio-Control Launches LIFEPAK CR2 Defibrillator

New LIFEPAK AED Response System Offers Connectivity, Intuitive Design and Unique Technology to Analyse Heart Rhythm during CPR



The new Physio-Control LIFEPAK® CR2 Defibrillator with LIFELINKcentral™ AED Program Manager is being launched in Europe and features a bold design, enhanced usability, wireless connectivity and an array of new technologies in-

cluding cprINSIGHT™ Analysis Technology, which allows chest compressions to continue during ECG rhythm analysis.

Physio-Control, part of Stryker, launched the company's newest defibrillation solution, the LIFEPAK® CR2 Defibrillator with LIFELINK -

central™ AED Program Manager, at MEDICA 2016 in Dusseldorf, Germany. The company has announced that the LIFEPAK CR2 automated external defibrillator (AED) has received CE Marking.

"The LIFEPAK CR2 Defibrillator with LIFELINK central AED Program Man-

ager seamlessly connects the complex links in a cardiac arrest emergency response - from total system readiness to effective bystander use and early emergency response notification.

"In order to save more lives from sudden cardiac arrest, we must save time," said Mathieu Badard, Vice President & General Manager EMEA and South Asia, Physio-Control.

"The LIFEPAK CR2 is designed to help rescuers provide higher quality CPR and to provide the fastest first shock when defibrillation is needed". Everything about it is designed to increase user confidence. The LIFEPAK CR2 harnesses the benefits of connectivity to provide a foundation for better care throughout the entire rescue chain of survival and to simplify AED program management," continued Mathieu Badard.

The LIFEPAK CR2 features an attractive design with an array of new technology, including an industry first: cprINSIGHT™ technology that allows chest compressions to continue during ECG analysis, helping to increase hands-on time and reduce the longest pauses in CPR, which can improve survival outcomes ^{2,3}. A Child Mode button reduces defibrillation energy for paediatric patients using the same electrodes, and an optional bilingual feature enables the rescuer to toggle to a second pre-set language.

Using Wi-Fi® or cellular connectivity in designated markets, the self-monitoring LIFEPAK CR2 connects to LIFELINKcentral AED

Program Manager to enable an organization's AED manager to remotely monitor and manage device readiness issues such as low battery or expired electrodes. This helps ensure the device is always ready to use when needed. The LIFEPAK CR2 also reports via LIFELINKcentral when a device is being used and pads have been placed on the victim by transmitting near real-time email alerts.

A complete system of care must quickly come together to maximize a victim's chance of survival. To support incoming emergency services and professionals providing care at the receiving hospital, the LIFEPAK CR2 can be configured to send near real-time event data via Wi-Fi, including measured heart rhythm and

Solutions, Physio-Control. "By maximising connectivity to medical caregivers while minimising delays in administering lifesaving therapy, the LIFEPAK CR2 with LIFELINK-central AED Program Manager provides continuity across the entire system of care."

The entire LIFEPAK AED Response System combines new technology along with connectivity and simplicity to keep AED program managers and rescuers focused on what matters - saving more lives.

• Information about the LIFEPAK AED Response System can be found on the Physio-Control web site at www.physio-control.com/cr2.

"A Child Mode button reduces defibrillation energy for paediatric patients using the same electrodes, and an optional bilingual feature enables the rescuer to toggle to a second pre-set language"



RUD Automatic Snow Chains

ROTOGRIP is an automatic snow chain system which has been specifically designed for commercial and emergency vehicles.

The automatic snow and ice chain is simply deployed with just a flip-of-a-switch from the driver's seat, while the vehicle is in motion. ROTOGRIP enables emergency vehicles to reach their destination regardless of bad weather; a necessity in such a volatile industry, providing

convenience and safety at the flip of a switch.

ROTOGRIP CS Compact Solution system is RUD's new addition to the automatic snow chains range which has been specifically developed for vehicles with limited mounting space and ground clearance. ROTOGRIP Compact Solution is bespoke to each vehicle making the installation process extremely quick and easy.

RUD ROTOGRIP automatic

snow chains offer maximum traction on snow and icy covered roads, simply switch on when the weather becomes dangerous and off when the road is clear of snow and ice. The chains offer immediate safety at the flip of a switch, are bespoke to your vehicles and reduces installation time meaning no downtime stuck at the side of the road. Regardless of the weather RUD's Innovative Automatic Snow Chains will help keep your Emergency Services vehicles on the move this winter.

• For more information please call: 01227 276 611 Email: Katie.crane@rud.co.uk or visit us at www.rud.co.uk

shocks delivered, to incoming emergency services using the LIFENET® AED Event Viewer™ application.

"The LIFEPAK CR2 Defibrillator with LIFELINK-central AED Program Manager seamlessly connects the complex links in a cardiac arrest emergency response - from total system readiness to effective bystander use and early emergency response notification," said Ryan Landon, Vice President and General Manager, AED

1 Physio-Control Internal Semi-Automatic AED Comparison Usability Study, August 2016

2 Christenson J, Andrusiek D, Everson-Stewart S, et al. Chest compression fraction determines survival in patients with out-of-hospital ventricular fibrillation. *Circulation*. 2009;120:1241-1247.

3 Brouwer T, Walker R, Chapman F, Koster, R. Association Between Chest Compression Interruptions and Clinical Outcomes of Ventricular Fibrillation Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest. *Circulation*. 2015;132:1030-1037.

Photo: Business Wire



Slater Gordon donate 1,000 first aid kits

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service has been given a fantastic donation of 1000 first aid kits from Slater and Gordon Solicitors.

An incredibly generous donation, the first aid kits cost Slater and Gordon over £6000. The Service's Road Safety Team is looking forward to offering these kits to attendees of the organisation's dedicated motorcycle safety course, Biker Down, in exchange for a suggested minimum donation of £5, with all proceeds going to the North West Air Ambulance Charity.

Colin Heyes, Road Safety Manager at Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We are so grateful to be given this fantastic

support from Slater and Gordon Solicitors. Through their donation, we are able to raise awareness of Biker Down whilst raising money for the North West Air Ambulance charity.

"The charity is responsible for transferring patients to the best medical/trauma centre for treatment thus improving their chances of survival and reducing the risk of long term injury. We hope to receive as many donations as possible to support the vital work they do."

The North West Air Ambulance Service attends over 2,000 missions every year. In September alone, they were called 187 times. 65 of these incidents were road traffic collisions.



(Left to right) Lee Farley WMAS, Ed Bache Headboy, Rebecca Foster headgirl. Steve Tivey assistant headteacher

Back to the classroom

A school in Stourbridge, West Midlands has purchased a defibrillator to help keep their students and teachers alive and kicking.

Ridgewood High School in Wollaston bought a defibrillator after learning about the benefits of the device from a member of their Parent Teacher Association who is a former member of WMAS. After getting advice from the Trust about the defibrillators, the school purchased a life-saving device from Physio Control.

Lee Farley, Black Country Advanced Paramedic, visited the school to provide defibrillator training and awareness to staff and said: "It's great to see a school taking such an active interest in the lives of their students and staff alike. The device is ready to help if the worst should ever happen at the school."

Mr Steve Tivey, Assistant Headteacher at Ridgewood High School, said: "The defibrillator was purchased through the Ridgewood Parent Teacher Association. Lee Farley came into school and trained 16 members of staff in its use. We hope to also train students and more staff with the skills we've learnt in CPR and how to use the defibrillator. The support we gained was great and we are really grateful to Lee."



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WAS awards 2016

The Welsh Ambulance Service honoured its staff and volunteers at an awards ceremony in Cardiff on Tuesday 8 November 2016.

The Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Mrs Morfudd Meredith, presented awards for Her Majesty the Queen's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for staff with more than 20 years in the Emergency Medical Service (EMS).

Retirees were also recognised at the service at the SWALEC Stadium, as well as non-EMS staff who had dedicated 20 years or more.

This year, as well as those traditional awards, the Trust introduced category awards - six in total - which are aligned to its new behaviours.

Time was also taken to honour colleagues who have died while on duty and in service.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Executive Tracy Myhill said: "I never cease to be amazed and inspired by the

professionalism and excellence our staff and volunteers display across all aspects of their work with the Welsh Ambulance Service.

"Our staff awards are a fabulous way to show our appreciation and recognise the sterling efforts of our people."

The ceremony also saw the presentation of two special awards.

The Gail Williams Award, which is sponsored by Michael Williams and his daughters Megan and Sioned in memory of his wife and their mother, Gail Williams, pays tribute to those who have provided clinical excellence in the pre-hospital setting.

This year it was presented to EMS staff Nick Ozzati, Phil Watts and Helen Collins who are all based in Llanelli.

In April they responded to a group call to a young baby in cardiac arrest.

Through their joint efforts they achieved a return of spontaneous circulation and thanks to their actions; the child has now left hospital.

Head of Clinical Operations, Greg Lloyd, said: "The team selflessly put the needs of the patient first and displayed excellent teamwork in a demanding and highly emotive situation."

The Trust also presented its Dr Jennifer Bucknell Community First Responder (CFR) Award, which recognises those who have gone the extra mile to deliver first aid to their community.

The award, which was inspired by sudden death of the popular Cardiff University student and first responder, went jointly to Tomos Hughes and Bryan Foley.

Bryan Foley has dedicated his time to assisting others for over 12 years as a CFR and, of the 5,000 calls the Barry team has attended since they started, it is believed that Bryan has personally attended well over 3,000.

Since Tomos qualified in 1999 he has attended hundreds of 999 calls within the Conwy Valley, supporting members of the public who

were experiencing life-threatening incidents. He has also provided 39 villages with a life-saving defibrillator.

In the Trust's category awards, Paramedics Andrew Parker, based in Pontypool, and Cwmbran-based Jeff Lewis, were recognised for Valuing Difference for the kind and considerate treatment they gave to a patient with dementia who suffered a fall.

Ambulance Liaison Officer Helen Radcliffe from the Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS) received the Working Together award for the work she has done to improve transport services for dialysis patients in the South East region.

Meanwhile, the award for Taking Responsibility went to NEPTS call taker and supervisor Carl Phillips for his efforts to strengthen relations in his team and enhance the service for patients.

The recipients of the Personal Excellence award were Human Resources Business Partners Hilary Caffrey Matthews, Michelle Morse and Cath Mulligan and Communications Specialist Lois Hough for facilitating the 'Big Bang' recruitment event in



Cardiff, which led to the recruitment of more than 30 Paramedics.

The Chief Executive's award recognises those who consider the needs of others, and was given to Carmarthen EMS staff Tom Bloomfield, John Wilkins and Jonathan Griffiths for their commitment to improving relations in the workplace and in the community.

The final award of the evening was the Chair's Award, which recognises people working across teams and boundaries for the benefit of others.

It was handed to NEPTS General Manager for Central and West, Joanne Rees-Thomas, for continuously modelling great public service behaviours and showing

warmth and kindness to those around her.

Chair Mick Giannasi said: "It has been a wonderful and inspirational evening and we are absolutely delighted to share and celebrate the hard work and achievements of our colleagues."

"Awards such as this remind us of the work which our staff and volunteers undertake day in and day out, often in very difficult circumstances."

The Trust would like to thank Ortus Technology, Swansea University's College of Human and Health Sciences, Blake Morgan Solicitors, Ridler Webster and Scarlet Design Group for sponsoring the event, as well as staff at the SWALEC Stadium for hosting it.

Paramedic's half-century

One of the longest serving paramedics in the UK is still saving lives in the capital after 50 years at London Ambulance Service.

Kevin Walker, 70, still rides his bike to from his nearby home to Ilford Ambulance Station where he has spent his whole career, having returned to work part-time after just one month spent in retirement.

"The highlights have definitely been resuscitating people," said Kevin, who was awarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for his work as a paramedic. "I joined up because I wanted to try and help people and I still enjoy the job. Being a paramedic makes you feel you're doing something worthwhile."

One of his most memorable moments was saving the life of a woman he knew as a re-

ceptionist in one of the hospitals he took patients to.

"When you see someone you know in cardiac arrest, it's not nice," said Kevin. "Thankfully we brought her back and when I was out shopping she came up to my wife and said 'your husband saved my life'."

Before the city had fully felt the effects of a series of clean air acts it was subject to thick 'pea soup fogs' and Kevin re-

called how they had to navigate the streets with burning torches to reach patients and take them to hospital in the late 1960s.

He said: "They used to put a third man on the ambulance who would walk in front with a foot-long wax taper. Between walking to the patient and then to hospital they could end up walking about seven miles."

"In those days we didn't do so much treatment; if the patient was badly injured we just had to try and stop the bleeding and get them to hos-

pital as quickly as we could."

The state-of-the-art ambulances Kevin uses today, fully equipped to deal with a range of emergencies and navigate quickly through the city streets, are a far cry from the original fleet.

He added: "The vehicles then were old diesels; you could do about 50 miles an hour going downhill with the wind behind you. In the winter they wouldn't start so we had to put a mattress on the only petrol coach in our fleet then push the diesel ambulances around the yard until



they started."

Assistant Director of Operations Ian Johns said: "By any measure Kevin is an extraordinary man who has committed his life to making sure people are taken care of."

Polish welcome

A new cohort of Paramedics from Poland are preparing to take to the streets of Cumbria and will soon be utilising their skills to save lives in the county.

The group of eleven new recruits joined North West Ambulance Service on the 3rd October and are currently on a 12 week induction course based at Energun

in Lillyhall. They will be deployed to the West Coast of Cumbria and will be based at Egremont, Distington and Flimby Stations.

A further 15 will be welcomed in January of next year and will also be based in North Cumbria.

Head of Clinical Education, John Gillespie comments: "This is a great boost to the numbers of Paramedics in the county. There is a nation-

al shortage of qualified Paramedics in the UK and while we are recruiting from within, this takes time and there is an urgent need for Paramedics now.

"Paramedics in Poland have a greater degree of autonomy than UK Paramedics and have a much larger drug formulary that we do here. They will however work according to NWAS protocols and procedures."

The Paramedics recruited not only have excellent clinical skills but they also speak very good English and

NWAS is assisting them with the local dialects! They have been assigned a mentor from within the Trust who is helping them with all aspects of moving to another country such as accommodation, opening bank accounts and family support.

The new recruits will all undertake a period of observational shifts and work with another Paramedic in the first few weeks of arriving on station to give them some extra operational support. They will also work closely with Advance Paramedics



and Senior Paramedics.

This is the first cohort of international Paramedics into the Cumbria area, although NWAS has successfully recruited Finnish and Polish Paramedics in the Greater Manchester area.

Eleven new Polish paramedics are preparing to set to work for the North West Ambulance Service

Why Ambition is Europe's No. 1 event for those who must prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks or mass casualty emergencies

Each year, thousands of Emergency preparedness, resilience & response professionals from across the world visit Ambition to source the latest equipment and attend the leading conference.

The event returns to London Olympia on 3-4 May 2017 with an exhibition of the latest products and services available to both category 1 and category 2 responders, attracting senior professionals across local police, fire and ambulance services, the NHS and Environment agencies to major energy, road, rail and airport networks and operators.

If you are tasked with preparing for or responding to emergency situations, then Ambition is an essential visit to see the equipment and services shaping your industry.

"The latest terror attacks across France and Belgium, not forgetting the recent Ebola and Zika virus outbreaks," says Event Manager, Sophie McKimm "remind us of the importance of a global forum for all EPRR professionals whereby thought-leaders can explore multi-agency frameworks, interoperability and establish common frames of reference. Ambition succeeds year on year in delivering a high-level exhibition and conference that focusses on the major challenges facing these communities today."

Aligned with the Cabinet Office & Civil Contingencies Secretariat

Unlike any other event of its kind, Ambition is directly aligned with the National Resilience Capabilities Programme and the National Respond and Rescue Strategy written by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat and supported by the Cabinet Office.

As in previous years, Ambition will bring together the policymakers, senior operational managers and industry professionals to focus on how multiple parties work successfully on an integrated emergency management plan in

"major incident" emergency scenarios.

World-leading education programme

At the heart of the exhibition sits the free-to-attend conference. Designed to educate all members of the EPRR community, the conference provides an in-depth review of resilience for major emergencies including challenges for rural communities, urban fire prevention and preparedness and resilience in the face of marauding firearms attacks.

Leading representatives from the NHS, ambulance and fire services, hospitals and police will present updates and case studies on how best to handle extremely challenging, mass casualty events.

The 2016 conference covered a wide variety of topics and included a number of keynote presentations from high profile thought-leaders in the industry including Campbell McCafferty CBE, Director, Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Cabinet Office, Chief Constable Sara Thornton, Chair, National Police Chiefs' Council and Luana Avagliano, Head of ResilienceDirect, Cabinet Office.

Co-located with the UK's leading national security event, Security & Counter Terror Expo

The recent attacks across Belgium and France remind us all of the threats we face, but even more so they highlight the importance of interoperability between security forces and the emergency services. Co-located with Security & Counter Terror Expo, the event offers visitors the unique opportunity to network and explore best practice amongst the wider community of serious security professionals.

• For more information about visiting and to register your interest, please visit the website.

www.ambitionexpouk.com

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The new Clinical Training Facility was officially opened by Ken Wenman (CEO, South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust). Pictured from left to right: Neil Bizzell, Owen Hammett, Bill Sivewright, Ken Wenman, Roger Morgan (DSAA Chairman of Trustees), Dr. Phil Hyde, Dr. Ian Mew and Paul Owen

From education to clinical excellence

A new Clinical Training Facility, situated at the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance's airbase has been officially opened by Ken Wenman, Chief Executive Officer of the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT).

The full facility; includes a

modern clinical training facility, a day/night aviation planning room, improved clinical storage and crew rest facilities. The whole project reflects the Charity's drive for clinical excellence and effectiveness and is designed to further build on the success of its award-winning education and training programme.

Funding for the project was

provided last year by the Association of Air Ambulances Charity (AAAC) after £5 million was allocated from the Banking Fines Fund (LIBOR) by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne in support of UK's air ambulances. After securing funding for the project, work began on August 15th 2016 and took approximately eight

weeks to complete.

At the official opening, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance Chief Executive Officer, Bill Sivewright thanked all those who had helped make the project a reality.

"We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to so many people. To our landlords Geoff Jarvis and Losan Ltd for giving us the opportunity to further enhance the hangar that they

so generously provide to the Charity. To Babcock International, who, as well as supporting our flying operations brought their wider industry expertise to bear and manage the build project. To the AAAC for helping to secure and distribute the funds and to SWASFT for their enduring support to the Charity's operations, especially during a significant period of change. Finally, to the air am-

bulance crew who have lived through a great deal of disruption with patience and flexibility and have done so without any drop in the life-saving service provided to the people of Dorset and Somerset."

Ken Wenman, Chief Executive Officer of the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust was then invited to cut a yellow ribbon which officially opened the new training facility.

Conference success

Expert speakers took to the stage at what has been said to be the best Pre-hospital Air Ambulance Conference yet.

The event, which took place on Monday 14th November at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel, London, has become a firm fixture in the events calendar for the European air ambulance community and delivered on its mission to inform, incite debate and provide a platform for the industry to come together and share ideas.

A new streamlined structure to the event's agenda focussed on the key subjects: Quality, Innovation, Resilience and Horizon. In addition to the popular Key Note address, experts within the key colleges of Clinical, Air Operations and Charity sector delivered presentations on the respective topics, followed by an oppor-

tunity for questions and answers.

Key note speaker Sir Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) delivered a powerful presentation focussed on the charity sector. Sir Stuart explained how charities play a valuable part of the UK economy, but goes further in providing invaluable services such as air ambulances. He highlighted how the credibility of charities had been tested over the last year and that it was the charities turn to be scrutinised; resulting in the formation of the new Fundraising Regulator which needed to be funded correctly.

A total of 12 other high-level speakers gave presentations on the day including Richard Stephenson, Communications Director from the Civil Aviation Authority. He talked

on the topic of 'Resilience' and explained how the CAA does not always get things right but they are ready to work with all their stakeholders to continue a journey of improvement and it was reassuring that Richard gave positive news on several of the AAA's Key Issues.

Clive Dickin, National Director of the AAA said: "The event has grown year on year and has become the pinnacle event to attend within the sector. With this in mind, next year's National Air Ambulance Conference and Awards of Excellence will take place at a new venue and is set to be even bigger and better. This will be held on 13 November 2017 at the Chelsea Harbour Hotel, London.

• **More information can be found by visiting:** www.aaaa.org.uk



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Security and First Aid



Whether it is an assault, a drug overdose or an unfortunate accident, there are many instances where Security Professionals are required to act to preserve the health of an individual.

This is why AoFAQ, alongside security industry professionals have launched a new series of license-linked security qualifications.

The Door Supervisor is a prime example of these qualifications in action. When violence breaks out in a nightclub the Door Supervisors are the first on scene. The Door Supervisor must act

fast to get the situation under control and ensure the safety of the people at the scene. An understanding of First Aid techniques enhances the performance of the Door Supervisor and improves the outcome for any individual who finds they require urgent medical attention.

While in some cases the enhanced knowledge of First Aid held by Security Professionals may remove the need for emergency services being dispatched altogether; it enables a smoother

handover when they are called upon. Security Professionals capable in First Aid will be able to take immediate action to preserve life, identify symptoms, brief the emergency services, and facilitate an efficient handover to paramedics.

A competent briefing and handover to the emergency services ensures that precious time is not wasted. Crucially, this prevents resources being unnecessarily deployed to emergencies complicated by a lack of First Aid knowledge.

This is why SIAQ (Security Qualifications arm) of AoFAQ, who are regulated by the Security Industry Authority and Ofqual - the government body that regulated qualifications are optimally placed to launch these licence-linked qualifications.

• **For more details contact AoFAQ qualifications via e-mail marketing@aofaqualifications.org or visit the website: www.aofaqualifications.org**

60,000 Scots trained in CPR

More than 60,000 people across Scotland have been given life-saving CPR training in the last 12 months - as part of an unprecedented national collaboration of more than a dozen organisations including emergency services, defence and third sector - to improve the response to out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

The figure was published last month in a Scottish Government report reviewing progress in the first year of Scotland's Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy.

The five-year strategy aims to save 1,000 extra lives by 2020 and equip an additional half a million people in Scotland with CPR skills.

Minister for Public Health, Aileen Campbell, launched the review on a visit to Beeslack High School in Penicuik, where she joined P7 and S1 pupils in a CPR training session.

Ms Campbell said: "Each

year in Scotland there are around 3,000 cardiac arrests out-of-hospital which is why CPR training and education is so vitally important.

"Indeed we know that over three-quarters of people believe that everyone should be trained in CPR, although only half of people have had the training.

"Our strategy aims to equip as many people as possible with these life-saving skills as well as looking at how our healthcare and emergency services can support a rapid and effective response to out-of-hospital cardiac arrest."

The report, Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest - A Strategy for Scotland Review 2015-16, details a series of key results achieved in the strategy's first year as well as setting out the priorities for 2017.

The key achievements include:

- The establishment of Save

a Life for Scotland as the banner under which all partner organisations are raising awareness of CPR activity and signposting to, and delivering training activities.

- The training of over 60,000 people in CPR skills since the strategy launched in October 2015.
- The British Heart Foundation supplied 'Call-Push-Rescue' training kits to all 356 Scottish Fire and Rescue stations, which local communities can access.
- In November 2015, the Scottish Ambulance Service and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service began trialling a co-response system for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest at ten stations. Initial evidence suggests that this has contributed to a reduction in response times and improved patient outcomes.
- Numerous CPR training events held in schools,

shopping malls and at major events like the Royal Highland Show and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Actions in 2017 include:

- The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will be trialling an initiative in three pilot areas across Scotland to raise awareness and provide information on how to assist someone experiencing an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest during Home Fire Safety Visits.
- Save a Life for Scotland will launch a social media campaign with Young Scot to explore young peoples' knowledge and attitude towards CPR - including how best to engage them in training opportunities.
- Police Scotland will begin trialling the use of defibrillators by roads policing units in Grampian, with a view to inform the option of a further roll-out.
- Scottish Ambulance Service is in the process of



mapping the locations of all Public Access Defibrillators (PADs), to be completed next year.

The next phase of the strategy will prioritise engaging with, and training young people in CPR as well as building links with communities that have disproportionately poorer outcomes from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest to increase skills and awareness.

Background

The Save a Life for Scotland partnership includes a wide range of organisation from the public and voluntary sec-

tors: The Scottish Ambulance Service, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Defence Medical Services, Police Scotland, The British Heart Foundation, The British Red Cross, St Andrew's First Aid, Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland, The Royal Life Saving Society Scotland, Trossachs Search and Rescue, Lucky 2 B Here, The Resuscitation Research Group at the University of Edinburgh, and affiliated supporters including BASICS Scotland, NHS Scotland, Higher Education Institutions, Heartstart (BHF) and Council representatives.



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Team work saves Diane

Possibly one of the worst places to suffer a cardiac arrest could be in a narrow house barge moored at low tide.

But a remarkable team effort by crews from South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmb) saw 68-year-old Diane Savage not only resuscitated but well enough to personally thank them at a reunion at Medway Ambulance Station.

Diane and husband David, from Bermondsey, were visiting daughter Johanne and their son-in-law at the barge moored at Castle View Marina in Strood for the weekend on May 15 earlier this year when she suddenly

collapsed inside the boat with breathing difficulties.

Diane had suffered a pulmonary embolism caused by a blood clot and first on scene within minutes of the 11am 999 call were Technicians Darren Jensen and Adrian Roberts from a private provider contracted by SECAmb.

They were busy assessing her when Paramedic Michael Fothergill, a Clinical Team Leader, arrived to take over management of the scene.

"Diane was still conscious at this stage but with severe breathing problems," said Michael. "She was clearly in danger of having a cardiac arrest and with the difficulties of the location.

I quickly called in our Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) from Ashford."

More support came from Paramedic Tom Landers and Emergency Care Support Worker Gareth Jordan and within minutes Michael's fears were realised when Diane went into cardiac arrest.

CPR was started by the crews in the tight conditions while Diane's family could only watch helplessly from the deck as the crews battled to save her.

Critical Care Paramedic Dave Hawkins arrived to provide advanced life support and, crucially in Diane's case, was able to thrombolise her with blood thinning

drugs giving essential early treatment on the scene.

He was also able to set up a Lucas device which gives consistent automatic chest compressions and releases the rest of the crew to concentrate on other tasks.

"The crews had done an amazing job giving mum CPR and were exhausted," said Diane's daughter Johanne.

The crews worked for the best part of an hour just to stabilise Diane and get a return to spontaneous circulation while the HART team set about planning to extricate her from the boat.

Team Leader Al Crawford and his team, Karen Simons, Nick Walker, Sean Simmonds and Alex Clark, had to remove a barge window to enable them to stretch her, secured by ropes, up a plank to the bank while still moni-



toring her condition.

Diane was taken to Medway Maritime Hospital where she spent a week mostly in an induced coma to speed recovery.

Medway Clinical Operations Manager Terry Baker said: "It was an extraordinary piece of teamwork involving so many of our sections from the private ambulance

providers, to our crews working in difficult conditions, the HART team and Critical Care Paramedic Dave Hawkins providing additional advanced care."

Diane and David are keen motorcyclists and it was a delight for the crews to see her back on the bikes after their visit to Medway Station.

Ambulance 'heroes'

A Suffolk man has thanked his ambulance "heroes" after his heart stopped for 20 minutes.

Neil Ayers had his heart shocked seven times after he collapsed and went into cardiac arrest at his Ipswich home on 24th August.

Last month, the 53-year-old was reunited with Jacob Allison, Kim Sage, James Fisher, Joanna Sach, Sarah Sims, David Sexby and university student Thomas Atwell.

The crane driver, who has returned to work, said: "I cannot thank them enough for what they did for me. They are brilliant.

"It is great to see the people who saved me. It was another job for them, but it was a lot bigger for me. Each and every one of them was fantastic."

His wife Carol called 999 just after 10.30pm after he collapsed and within four minutes Kim and Jacob were on scene.

They began advanced life

support and James arrived with a Lucas 2 - an automatic chest compression device. After seven shocks from a defibrillator, the team managed to resuscitate Neil. Meanwhile, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service fire officers had removed a window to stretch him out of his home from his first floor bedroom.

Neil was rushed to Ipswich Hospital and after a fortnight was transferred to Papworth Hospital where he had an implantable cardioverter



Neil Ayers with his life-saver

defibrillator (ICD) implanted in his chest.

He added: "The physical recovery has been really good,

but the emotional side not so good because I keep imagining what my family went through. I am a better person

for it. I was a miserable person before and now I'm a lot calmer and do not get wound up about things."

Reunited with a champion

Respiratory arrest survivor and disability gymnast, Natasha Coates paid a very special visit to North West Ambulance Service's (NWAS) Emergency Operations Centre last month to be reunited with the emergency team who

saved her life just three months ago.

Inspirational 21-year-old from Warrington, Natasha suffers from a very rare condition called Mast Cell Activation Syndrome meaning that she has severe allergic reactions to almost anything including changes in tempera-

ture, smells, chemicals, certain foods and even exercise!

Developing the condition in 2013, Natasha has used over 250 EpiPens and learnt to manage the illness, however in August of this year things took a turn for the worse.

Emergency crews rushed to Natasha's house as she had

developed chest pain, felt uneasy and her tongue had begun to swell. First on scene in a Rapid Response Vehicle was Paramedic, Leon White along with Student Paramedic, Natalie Gardner who worked with Natasha's family to stabilise her condition before the ambulance arrived.

Ambulance crew made up of Paramedic, James Owens and Emergency Medical Technician, Peter Taylor took over care as they travelled to

Warrington General Hospital. During the journey, Natasha deteriorated significantly, suffering from a seizure followed by a respiratory arrest which the crew, along with Natasha's boyfriend who is also an NWAS Paramedic, again managed to stabilise before pulling up at the hospital.

Just 27 hours later, Natasha was discharged from hospital and just four weeks later competed in the Disability Gymnastics British Cham-

pionships where she was named all round British Champion for the third year running.

During the emotional reunion, Natasha thanked the emergency team for their life-saving efforts that day.

Paramedic, James Owens said: "After meeting Natasha again, we were all in awe of her spirit, confidence and positive outlook on life, something which is very humbling."

One year on

One year on from the introduction of Wales landmark system of deemed consent for organ donation, First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones and Health Secretary

Vaughan Gething have celebrated the first year anniversary of the new system.

On 1 December 2015, Wales became the first part of the UK to introduce a soft opt-out

system.

People aged 18 and over who have lived in Wales for more than 12 months and who die in Wales are now regarded as having consented to organ donation unless they have opted out. This is called deemed consent.

People who want to be organ donors can register a decision

to opt in or do nothing, which will mean they have no objection to being an organ donor. Those people who do not want to be organ donor can opt out at any time.

A year on, the latest figures show that 39 organs from patients whose consent was deemed have been transplanted into people who are in need

of replacement organs.

In the two years prior to the introduction of the new system of deemed consent, the Welsh Government made significant efforts to inform the public of the exact nature of the upcoming changes in respect of transplantation activities. During this period the number of organs transplanted increased each

year, from 120 between the 1 December 2013 and 31 October 2014, to 160 between 1 December 2015 and 2016.

First Minister Carwyn Jones said: "No other country in the rest of the UK is doing what Wales is doing when it comes to organ donation. We're extremely proud of what we've achieved so far."

New dementia strategy

An ambitious strategy has been launched by the region's ambulance service to improve the care and experience for people with dementia.

Bosses at the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) say it will develop a skilled and effective workforce able to champion compassionate person-centred care and recognise the early signs of dementia.

And it has pledged to become a dementia-friendly organisation.

The strategy was launched at the latest Board meeting on Wednesday 30th November, by one of the service's area clinical leads Duncan Moore, with support from the Alzheimer's Society.

It's been implemented to support the Government's National Dementia Strategy to ensure all people living with dementia and their carers should live well with dementia. Dementia is incurable and symptoms can in-

clude severe memory loss, mood and personality changes and behaviour that challenges others such as serious confusion, agitation and aggression.

The work over three years will be done in partnership with charities and health and social care statutory dementia care providers, as well as clinical commissioning groups and voluntary organisations.

Duncan said the collaborations will aid and support the work and contribute to improving the health and outcomes of those with dementia, and their carers: "Dementia is one of the greatest challenges facing our ageing society - there are more than 82,500 people in the East of England living with a diagnosis of dementia.

"Our patient transport services routinely work with people living with dementia, and of course we have to make emergency responses in the community to affected families and individuals so in

our capacity as an ambulance service and seeing people living with dementia every single day we needed to put it at the centre of our work. It's the right thing for us to put a massive emphasis on developing our organisation to become dementia-friendly."

There are 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK; by 2021 there will be more than one million. (Dementia UK - Update Report, Alzheimer's Society, 2014)

Dementia is a collective term for diseases of the brain that can affect reasoning, perception and memory (Banerjee 2009). Dementia is progressive and there is no known cure. It predominantly affects older adults with 7.1% (Dementia UK Update report, Alzheimer's Society, 2014). This is 1 in 14 people over the age of 65. Within acute hospitals, older adults occupy 60% of all beds and 40% of those are considered likely to have a dementia diagnosis (NAO 2007).

Superbike Legend returns to Bike4Life



Carl Fogarty. Picture credit Nigel Harniman

Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, organiser of the much-anticipated Bike4Life Ride Out and Festival 2017, has announced former World Superbike champion and racing legend, Carl Fogarty, is returning to lead the Ride Out on Sunday 30th April 2017.

Now in its seventh year,

Bike4Life has grown to become one of the country's most popular biker events. Now over 6,000 bikers take part in the Ride Out which runs 23 miles from Meole Brace in Shrewsbury to RAF Cosford, home to the Bike4Life Festival, which attracts a further 6,000 people.

Carl Fogarty was the star of Bike4Life in 2015, and is

returning in 2017 as part of his continued commitment to Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, which sadly airlifts motorcyclists on a regular basis.

Carl said: "Bike4Life is one of the best biker events in the calendar, and it's all in aid of a very important cause. I'm really looking forward to once again leading the Ride Out, and as registration is now open, I'd urge people to sign up as there are limited places in the Ride Out."

To take part in the Ride Out, led by Carl Fogarty, simply visit www.bike4lifefest.com. It only costs £10 per motorbike (pillion ride for free) to register with all proceeds raised going to Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. For those who don't take part in the Ride Out, entrance to the Bike4Life Festival is £5 per person and under 16s go free.

Bike4Life is run in collaboration with Safer Roads Partnership and West Mercia Police who work tirelessly to promote road safety and to help reduce the number of road traffic collisions across West Mercia.



Cohorts from new Leadership programme

Leaders of the future

A new leadership programme to support ambulance service managers of the future has celebrated its first successful group of graduates.

The leadership and management programme, which began a year ago, aims to give future leaders at the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) the tools to undertake their role effectively, engage with their colleagues, and support and value them through a variety of leadership practices.

A celebration of learning

event was held on Friday, 18th November at EEAST's headquarters in Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, to celebrate the achievements of Cohort 1, the pilot group.

As part of the internally-run programme cohorts work together to complete a group project, the aim being to demonstrate the leadership skills developed and utilised on the programme. This includes self-awareness, communication skills, valuing staff and the diversity they bring, the importance of positive appraisals, how to have difficult conversations, exploring attitudes and be-

haviours, and developing integrity and credibility as leaders for the future, to name but a few.

Jill Page, EEAST's Organisational Development Manager, congratulated the group, adding: "It is important to appreciate this fantastic cohort have all come from different starting points, all experiencing very different and sometimes difficult journeys along the way - each with their own individual challenges. I am immensely proud of them all and look forward to working with them in the future."

"All of Cohort 1 have been instrumental in shaping this programme for EEAST's future leaders".

Custom-built airbase

Wiltshire Air Ambulance (WAA) has been awarded £1 million towards its new airbase.

The £1 million is from the LIBOR fund and was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Philip Hammond, during the Autumn Statement in the House of Commons on 23 November 2016.

The LIBOR fund is monies from fines levied on the banking industry for manipulating the LIBOR rate.

The charity is proposing to build the airbase on land at Outmarsh Farm, Semington, near Melksham. It will consist of an Operations Centre for its helicopter and aircrew and base for the Charity Team.

The charity has already been granted outline plan-



3D image of the external view

ning permission for the Outmarsh Farm site and has submitted its detailed plans for the project to Wiltshire Council.

David Philpott, Chief Executive of WAA, said: "We are delighted to have been awarded this £1 million grant from Her Majesty's Treasury towards our new airbase.

The funding will be used to complete the building, equipping and fitting out of our purpose-built Operations Centre and will bring together the aircrew, helicopter and charity team onto one site for the first time. Having a purpose-built facility will enable us to have full control over our future."

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