



Media release



Local people helping to save lives

Community support allows team to purchase new life saving equipment

Tuesday 16 July 2011

Every second counts when someone has a serious illness and simple interventions performed by Community First Responders (CFR) can save lives or prevent disability.

The Kings Sutton Parish Council and regulars at the White Horse Public House in Kings Sutton, South Northamptonshire, have each donated significant sums of money to enable their CFR team to purchase vital life saving equipment.

The Kings Sutton Community First Responder Scheme was launched in February 2011. Elaine Cross is co-ordinator of the scheme and gratefully accepted the £1200 Parish Council donation and £324 donation from the White Horse. She said: "We help the ambulance service to save lives. When someone has had a serious illness in our community, the on-call CFR is dispatched at the same time as an ambulance and because we are already in the village we can be providing essential treatment whilst the ambulance crew travels to the scene.

"We give a fast response to people who suffer a cardiac arrest (heart attack), have chest pains, people who are unconscious, or who have severe breathing difficulties. We arrive on scene with a kit bag which contains an Automated External Defibrillator (a machine that delivers an electric shock to the heart), aspirators, breathing masks and basic first aid equipment.

"The generous donations from the Parish Council and regulars at the White Horse have enabled us to purchase all the equipment we need to respond to such emergencies. On behalf of the people who will need a response from us in the future, we thank them for their continued support and valuable donations."

This week the Kings Sutton CFR scheme, supported by East Midlands Ambulance Service wants to recruit more volunteers so the scheme can make a real difference to local people.

EMAS provides the necessary training and support and because CFR schemes are financially self supporting they are grateful for any input from local businesses and community groups. On average it costs £2000 to set up a scheme and purchase a life saving kit bag. Each scheme requires a minimum of two kit bags and equipment sets to cover the local villages.

People interested in joining a scheme need to be over 18, physically fit, have a full driving licence and access to a car and be a good communicator.

EMAS community defibrillator resuscitation officer, Sarah-Jayne Parsons, said: "Community First Responders can help us save lives. Nobody knows when they might need emergency assistance, and so I encourage local businesses and community groups to support the Kings Sutton Community First Responder Scheme. They will make a real difference to local people and we thank them and other volunteer schemes for the support they give to our service."

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer CFR or sponsoring the scheme should contact Sarah-Jayne Parsons on 07970 740641.

ENDS

Photograph:

A photograph is available to accompany this story – please credit Philip Lucas. It can be accessed via our website (www.emas.nhs.uk/news) or Melanie Wright (contact details below). It features - standing L-R: Ros Hartshorn and Elaine Cross (Kings Sutton CFRs), Cllr Walter Mullis (Chair of Kings Sutton Parish Council), Carol Flynn (Kings Sutton CFR). Seated L-R - Crista Payne and Frankie Martin (Kings Sutton CFRs)

EMAS Communications Sharing our news with our communities

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Notes

1. East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EMAS) provides emergency 999, urgent care and patient transport services for the 4.8 million people within Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Lincolnshire (including North and North East Lincolnshire), Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire.
2. We employ over 3,500 staff at more than 70 locations, including two control rooms at Nottingham and Lincoln, with the largest staff group being our accident and emergency 999 crews. Our overall annual budget is £158 million.
3. We operate a fleet of around 850 vehicles, including emergency ambulances, patient transport vehicles and fast response cars.
4. Every day we receive around 2,000 calls from members of the public calling 999 - this is the equivalent of receiving a 999 call every 45 seconds of every day. Our accident and emergency crews respond to over 670,000 emergency calls every year.
5. Our Patient Transport Service (PTS) and volunteer ambulance car drivers provide care and transport on over 5,000 journeys to and from routine health appointments each day.