

Minutes of Meeting - Carradale Community First Responder Scheme

Thursday, 14 April 2016

Attendees

Scottish Ambulance Service: Murray McKewan and Mark
Carradale Surgery: Dr M Elder, E Black, T Muscroft
Fire Station: R Strang, G Strang, J Durnan, K Semple, G Semple
Carradale Community: 16

Apologies

Carradale Surgery: M Gemmill, S Stanfield, J Denton
Carradale Community: 3

Welcome

Dr Elder welcomed Murray and Mark from the Scottish Ambulance service to Carradale.

Background

Dr Elder informed the attendees that he tried to set up a Responders Scheme approx. 10 years ago but was unable to get it off the ground. However, due to recent events and fresh impetus from the community it was decided to try again. With the strong backing of the Carradale Surgery, Carradale Fire Station and several community members there was an enthusiastic base to invite the Scottish Ambulance Service to present to the community.

Scottish Ambulance Services Presentation

Mark and Murray provided an excellent presentation as follows. Items marked in blue are specific to Carradale.

What is a First Responder?

The Resuscitation Council (UK) states that a First Responder is “a person, trained as a minimum in basic life support and the use of a defibrillator, who attends a potentially life-threatening emergency.”

Who is a Community First Responder?

A Community First Responder is a local volunteer who agrees to undertake training in Basic Life Support. This then enables them to provide lifesaving treatment to those people within the community who are critically ill, in the first few minutes prior to the arrival of an ambulance.

Why do we need Community First Responders?

In 1990 Dr Richard Cummins from Seattle, USA discovered if a series of events took place, in a set sequence, a patient suffering from a heart attack stood a greater chance of survival. These events are now known as the 'Chain of Survival'



- Early Recognition & Call for help
- Early CPR
- Early Defibrillation
- Early Advanced Care

Community First Responders are an integral and valued link in the 'Chain of Survival' in areas that experience an extended journey time, as they can provide essential simple treatments in those crucial first few minutes prior to the arrival of the Ambulance.

Do Community First Responders replace Ambulances?

NO, as with the 'Chain of Survival', Community First Responders can provide the early CPR & Defibrillation but in order to complete the sequence and increase the patient's chance of survival, Early Advanced Care or an Ambulance Response must also be dispatched to the incident.

What type of incidents do Community First Responders get sent to?

Community First Responders can expect to be sent to:

- Chest Pain,
- Cardiac Arrest
- Difficulty in Breathing or Choking
- Medical Collapse or Unconscious Patients

Community First Responders will not knowingly be sent to:

- Assaults or Incidents of a violent nature
- Incidents in a Public house
- Road Traffic Collisions
- Children under the age of 16 years old
- Traumatic Injuries

What is a Community First Responders scheme?

Community First Responders volunteer as part of a team, and as such are collectively known as a 'Community First Responder scheme'. A local volunteer co-ordinator will organise an 'on-call or 'on-duty' rota between all the volunteers in the scheme. Each scheme will aim to have 24 hour cover seven days a week.

Note: SAS agreed it takes time to build up to 24/7 and welcome any level of coverage from the Carradale area. It was also noted that volunteers are required for administration and running the scheme (checking equipment etc) therefore not all roles are for fully trained responders who attend call outs.

How are the Community First Responders called out?

The Ambulance Control Centre (ACC) will identify incidents that are appropriate for the First Responder to attend, and then contact the 'on-call' First Responder via a mobile phone.

Note: Carradale Community First Responders will be provided with suitable communication system eg 'Airwave' due to the poor mobile signal. SAS advised that a likely call out of Carradale First Responders could be 4/5 times a year on past experience.

How big an area are Community First Responder schemes expected to cover?

The Scottish Ambulance Service will agree with the Community First Responder scheme an area that they can safely respond to within a set time.

Note: This will be decided by the Carradale First Responder Scheme at their meeting prior to full training as could be the immediate village area or including surrounding districts.

What equipment do Community First Responders use?

The Scottish Ambulance Service will identify particular items of equipment the Community First Responder scheme will require, this will depend upon their certificated skill level. Self-Funding Community First Responder schemes will be expected to purchase their own equipment; this may be done through fundraising activities or sponsorship. In areas that have been identified by the Scottish Ambulance Service as communities who would benefit from having a Community First Responder scheme, they will directly fund all equipment.

Due to Carradale's very remote and rural location the SAS have confirmed they will provide all equipment for First Responders except the defibrillators. It was also advised to have two responders on duty at each time and SAS agree to fund the equipment for two should the community wish this

What training do Community First Responders receive?

All First Responders will undergo IHCD (Institute of Health Care & Development) FPOS (First Person on Scene) Basic training. This course has been devised in association with the Royal College of Surgeons.

[Note: By the time Carradale First Responders complete the training this will be a certified SVQ qualification. SAS have also confirmed they will pay for hall hire and lunch/refreshments for the training held in Carradale Village Hall.](#)

Are Community First Responders exempt from any driving laws?

All First Responders will undergo a driving and driving licence check, but on no occasion will Community First Responders be driving with blue lights or sirens nor will they be exempt from any Driving Laws.

Who is responsible for the First Responders?

As volunteers within your community, acting on behalf of the Scottish Ambulance Service, an appropriate level of conduct must be adhered to at all times. Only when a Community First Responder has been dispatched by the Ambulance Control Centre to a specific incident, are they then acting on behalf of the Ambulance Service. At all other times they are responsible for their own actions.

What Happens Now

With agreement at the meeting to set up a Carradale First Responder Scheme a suggested timeline is outlined as follows:

- STEP 1
All who are keen to sign up to complete a Scottish Ambulance Service Application Form and return to SAS by end of May 2016. Application forms can be obtained from Dr Elder at Carradale Surgery.
- STEP 2
A funding application will go to the East Kintyre Wind Farm Trust for 2 public defibrillators (these are kept in the First Responder equipment bags). SAS will provide ongoing batteries and pads.
- STEP 3
SAS will return to Carradale in June/July for a meeting of all approved First Responders (after disclosure checks etc). At this meeting the Carradale Scheme will decide on how they wish to run the scheme:
 - What area to cover
 - What hours to cover
 - Who will be the co-ordinators
 - Set dates for the 4 days training
 - Answer any queries
- STEP 4
Carradale First Responders to attend the 4 days of training – likely to take place over two weekends in September/October in Carradale Village Hall.
- STEP 5
Launch Carradale First Responders
- STEP 6
Attend monthly training to ensure keep skills are kept up to date.

Dr Elder thanked Mark and Murray for their excellent presentation and enthusiasm and to all attendees for attending the meeting and supporting the scheme. Until the group is up and running and a Chairman appointed all enquiries to be directed to Dr Elder at Carradale Surgery 01583 431 376.