



## **CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE - 16TH NOVEMBER 2015**

**SUBJECT: PROVISION OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED) IN  
COUNCIL PREMISES**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to inform Committee Members of the recent approval by the Corporate Management Team for the installation of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in identified CCBC premises.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The most common cause for a heart to stop (cardiac arrest) is a 'heart attack', if the heart attack results in cardiac arrest it is usually because it has interrupted the heart electrical impulses. The definitive treatment for this condition is to deliver a controlled electric shock through the heart, this is called defibrillation.
- 2.2 Currently 30,000 people in the UK each year have a cardiac arrest out of hospital, and NHS data shows just 18.5% of them survive.
- 2.3 A recent IOSH survey of 1000 businesses found that more than half did not possess these life-saving devices, and two thirds of those were medium-sized to large companies.
- 2.4 AED's have only been corporately provided in Leisure Centres, however there are a number of AED's sited in Council premises, most have been donated by charities. There is currently no corporate policy on the provision of AED's in Council premises.

### **3. REPORT**

- 3.1 Most cases of cardiac arrest are due to ventricular fibrillation, a condition where the electrical control of the heart becomes disorganised.
- 3.2 An AED is a safe, reliable, computerised device that can analyse heart rhythms and enable a non-medically qualified rescuer to safely deliver the life saving shock.
- 3.3 The administration of the shock from an AED is the only effective therapy for cardiac arrest caused by ventricular fibrillation, or pulseless ventricular tachycardia.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), on its own will not restart a heart in this condition.

- 3.4 There is numerous scientific evidence to support early defibrillation, the delay from collapse to delivery of a shock is the single most important factor influencing survival. If defibrillation is delivered promptly, survival rates as high as 75% have been reported. The chances of successful defibrillation decline at a rate of about 10% with every minute that a shock is delayed, after 12 minutes, the survival rate is less than 5%
- 3.5 Procurement Services have sourced an AED unit at a discounted rate which is suitable for use on an adult or child. The device has been reviewed by Health and Safety and meets the specification provided, its easy to use and is designed specifically for public access use. The AED will only permit the administration of the shock when it determines the heart is in failure. Health and Safety have training units which can be used for training staff in the use of an AED, to ensure staff feel confident when operating a unit, which will reduce the time taken to set up and administer defibrillation in an emergency.
- 3.6 The AED uses clear voice instructions and guides you through each step of defibrillation, including CPR coaching.
- 3.7 The AED is battery powered and does not require charging; the battery has a standby life of 4 years and comes with a 5 year warranty.
- 3.8 The AED requires daily checks to ensure it remains operational.

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The provision of AED's in corporate Buildings will assist with the emergency treatment in life saving situations of individuals who may have a diagnosed heart condition which would be covered by the Equalities Act.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Procurement have sourced suitable units via. an NHS framework the cost of each unit is approximately 50% lower than recommended retail cost, which provides excellent value for money.

The costs are detailed below, it is recommended that the cost of the equipment and training is to be covered by relevant service areas:-

AED	£452.78
Spare Battery Pack	£78.15
Spare Pads Pack	£19.67
AED Prep Kit	£9.32

- 6.2 The Health and Safety Division will provide initial training at a cost of £50 per person using the STA training package, costs will cover registration and handbook. Refresher training will be provided every six months at a nominal charge of £10 per person with discount for group bookings. Once an AED is installed in a workplace, there should be at least one person on site who has received the relevant training, with consideration given to leave an absence cover.

- 6.3 Leisure centers installed AED's a number of years ago due to the likelihood of a unit being required in an emergency. This was undertaken in consultation with Health and Safety, the required ongoing re-fresher training is being undertaken.
- 6.4 Following the tragic deaths of two Caerphilly pupils from undiagnosed heart conditions some secondary schools have already purchased or had an AED donated. It is not known if training has been provided and the required on-going re-refresher training being undertaken. Health and Safety will advise schools of the arrangements which should be in place to support the use of such devices.
- 6.5 Based on the information contained within this report it was recommend to Corporate Management Team that AED's are located in identified premises, these being:
- All Corporate Offices
  - Secondary schools
  - At other Council premises where approved by the relevant Head of Service or Headteacher & Governing Body
- 6.6 Health and Safety will advise on number of units required at each premises and their location. All AED units should be ordered via. Health & Safety, who will also provide training in the use of an AED on a six monthly basis to relevant staff.
- 6.7 Where AED's are provided First Aid staffing provision to be considered by Building Managers to ensure that a trained employee is on site during opening hours.
- 6.8 Where AED's are donated to CCBC premises where Council employees are located, relevant staff will be required to undergo training on a six monthly basis to ensure they are confident in using the AED.
- 6.9 Health and Safety to write to Heads of Service and Headteachers to advise of the recommendation and arrangements for purchasing, installation and training.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications other than to ensure that relevant staff, normally first aid trained personnel receive appropriate training in the use and maintenance of the AED. The training in the use of an AED is voluntary and some staff may not wish to undertake the training or be responsible for using an AED in an emergency.
- 7.2 Emotional support via. Carefirst to be provided to any employee involved in the use of an AED.
- 7.3 All instances of AED use to be recorded and reported on relevant paperwork.
- 7.4 Union Representatives have been advised of the plans and agree to the proposals.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The initiative was consulted upon prior to reporting to the Corporate Management Team.

## **9. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 9.1 There is no legislation in the UK that explicitly requires an employer to provide defibrillators, however, under both the law of negligence and the Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974, the Authority owe a duty of care to employees and others who might reasonably be affected by the control of our business or undertaking.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 Committee members to note the content of the report and support the initiative.

## **11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 To provide lifesaving equipment which can be utilised in the event of an emergency within public buildings.

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