



Ettington Community First Responder Scheme

Providing Emergency Care Until The Ambulance Arrives

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Ettington CFR Scheme announces its first AGM on 7th July 2010

Ettington CFR Scheme marks its first year of operation and announces its first AGM on 7th July 2010

Tuesday 1st June 2010 marked the first year of operation of the Ettington CFR Scheme. The Scheme launched on 1st June 2009 with just two Community First Responders (CFRs) and no officers (non-responding posts). One year on, we have six operational CFRs, one CFR in training, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Most importantly, we have attended 26 incidents - all 999 calls - in our first year of operation. Patients have range in age from 4 to 85 and we have responded to 999 calls covering a wide-range of medical conditions which have called upon the high-calibre of training which we have received from West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Our response rate in the first year was 67% (26 out of 39 callouts). In the first six months we had just 2 or 3 First Responders and, bearing in mind that calls can be received anytime day and night, this was a good start. Since November 2009 - when we grew the team to four First Responders - our response rate has increased to 82% with some months in 2010 running at 100%. November and December 2009 were very busy months for us with 6 and 7 callouts respectively. Two of the callouts in December were on Christmas Day.

In addition to our medical duties, the team has spent a massive amount of time fundraising. We do not receive any funding whatsoever from West Midlands Ambulance Service or the NHS. The Scheme is only able to operate as a result of

fundraising in the communities in which we operate and by other fundraising initiatives which the team have pursued; the most notable being a significant grant from the Big Lottery Fund (May 2010). All services are provided on a voluntary basis; the team - CFRs and non-responding members - do not receive any payment nor reimbursement for any expenses incurred (such as use of private cars, use of personal mobile phones, etc).

The team has also undertaken a series of further training modules, assessments and attended a various liaison meetings with West Midlands Ambulance Service. We are also delighted to have received an award from West Midlands Ambulance Service which recognised the team's achievements in its first year.

The team will talk about all of this, and other aspects of its operation, at its AGM on Wednesday 7th July 2010. It will be held at 8pm at Ettington Community Centre. This AGM is open to all. If you are thinking of attending, it would help our planning if you could let us know in advance by emailing info@ettingtoncfr.org.uk

Finally, the whole team would like to say a massive 'thank you' to everyone - individuals, parish councils, companies and organisations - who have supported us in our first year.