

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 2 DECEMBER 2021

### PROCEDURAL MATTERS – QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

#### a Members' Questions

##### 1. Question submitted by Helyn Clack (Dorking Rural)

Over the last five years and more, defibrillators have been installed in many areas and communities across Surrey. They were installed and funded by the districts and boroughs, St John Ambulance, Parish Councils, businesses and some were funded by Surrey County Council Members Allowances and other local charities.

It is the general understanding that SECAmb holds a full list of all the defibrillator sites in Surrey, along with an up-to-date record of locally trained users, maintenance, condition and access codes. However, I have heard that SECAmb do not comprehensively hold this information and in certain circumstances the public having called 999, the ambulance services are unable to advise where the nearest defibrillator can be accessed and how.

I would like the Board's Chairman to ask the Health and Wellbeing Board to follow up on this and give reassurance on the process in place in responding to 999 calls where a local defibrillator will help to save lives.

#### **RESPONSE:**

South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmb) have confirmed that there is a total of 654 Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) sites in Surrey registered on their computer aided dispatch (CAD) system. Of these, 587 are privately owned and 67 are SECAmb owned. Although SECAmb maintain a database, they are not responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the 587 privately owned devices. That is the responsibility of the host where the defibrillator is stored. The database also includes the details of the guardians, who are responsible for maintenance, details of maintenance status and the access codes that would be needed in the event of their use.

There may be additional defibrillators available in the community that are not included on the database, because SECAmb will only record those that can be accessed 24/7.

Most of the community first responder teams in Surrey also carry defibrillators. These are volunteers who are trained to respond to energy calls in conjunction with SECAmb. In many cases these teams are required to secure funds to purchase their defibrillators.

In addition to the SECAmb database, The British Heart Foundation (BHF) are working on a national database, known as 'The Circuit', which should provide an up-to-date record of all the public access defibrillators. This is not currently available in Surrey but will provide a useful tool when it is.

SECAMB are also able to identify areas where priority calls have been missed. This may be used to identify priority locations for additional defibrillators. However, additional funding would be required to purchase and maintain the equipment.