

Arden Area

A summary of 2019

- A new scheme car, fully equipped, responded to 331 emergencies
- Over 400 CFR responses to 999 calls
- 5 successful resuscitations



Arden is one of five areas within the Charity FastAid Solihull & Birmingham. It is one of three within Solihull. There are six Community First Responders (CFRs) living within Knowle, Dorridge, Hockley Heath, Monkspath and Balsall Common. The team comprises Alice, Alison, Olwen, Debbie, Mark and Terry and we are often joined by CFRs from nearby localities, just as we support other areas within the Borough. All members of FastAid are volunteers. With 999 calls there are no boundaries, and we are often tasked to Solihull, Shirley and beyond.

During the year Arden Team recorded over 400 CFR responses to 999 emergency calls. These calls included 12 cardiac arrests where 5 patients were taken to hospital having a cardiac output restored. The national average for survival of a cardiac arrest is less than 10%. Responding in the local community makes a big difference in time critical situations. CFRs are first on scene in 90% of calls. Age ranges of patients treated in 2019 spanned 3 months to 104 years.

In September, we received a letter

"I am writing to thank you for all that you did for me following my cardiac arrest. Without exception, all of the medical staff at the QE including my surgeon confirmed that without your timely and professional intervention I would not be here to thank you. I am looking forward to thanking you personally someday soon but in the meantime please accept not only my gratitude but also that of my wife and whole family."



RC 439 Discovery Sport

In February, Jaguar Land Rover presented a Discovery Sport, fully liveried. This was the only vehicle awarded by their Motorvate committee across the whole of the UK and we are extremely proud to be the recipients. It is perhaps fitting that the very first call for RC 439 was to a patient who had been employed at 'The Rover' for 40 years and had even met his wife at the plant!



West Midlands Ambulance (WMAS) provided the radio communications and Solihull Lions generously funded new equipment for the car. It went into service at the end of February and by the close of the year it had already been deployed to 331 emergency calls. It is FastAid's busiest scheme car with 40 calls in September alone. In December, it could also be seen as a substitute for Rudolf, taking Santa on his tours.



The equipment carried includes the ambulance radio; a defibrillator with ECG and visual heart tracing capacity; electronic suction; a portable patient monitor with blood pressure, oxygen saturation and three lead ECG with printer; safety helmets; neck collars; sterile water for use after an acid attack; triage cards; burns and major trauma dressings; adult and paediatric resuscitation equipment; oxygen; airways and delivery masks; even smoke escape hoods. Because of the high visibility markings and safety lighting, only scheme cars are sent to road traffic collisions and are part of the West Midlands Major Incident Plan. WMAS has provided an electronic patient report tablet for a more efficient and paperless handover.



Medical Event Cover

As well as responding, throughout 2019, FastAid volunteers have also supported community groups at local events, such as Knowle Fun Run, Heart of England Bike Ride and The Festive Walk, all run by Knowle and Dorridge Lions; Solihull Lions' Solihull Carnival; Shirley Lions' Shirley Carnival; Barston Village Fete; Solihull Soroptimists Fun in the Park; Balsall Common Lions' Bonfire and Fireworks; Shirley Round Table Donkey Derby; Silhillians' Mini Rigby Festival; Temple Balsall Heritage Weekend; Balsall Common Fun Run and Balsall Common Festival. Our Discovery Sport has been on show throughout. FastAid has also invested in specialist treatment tents and further specialised equipment.



HeartStart Courses and Defibrillators

During 2019, we continued with our two hour training courses in life saving skills both in Knowle, Hampton in Arden, Barston and with Dorridge and District Residents Association, in Dorridge Village Hall. These are very popular and we have more planned in 2020. Once again, in October, as part of the 'Kids save Lives' initiative, we trained 300 pupils at Arden Academy in life saving skills as well as a host of other schools.



We continue to be guardians of public access defibrillators around Knowle and Dorridge on behalf of Knowle and Dorridge Round Table and Dorridge and District Residents Association. Further afield, we also look after sites for Solihull Lions and I was pleased to respond with a colleague to Mell Square to find one where the Lions had sourced the site and funded the cabinet had been used to good effect. WMAS had supplied the defibrillator.



Working with West Midlands Ambulance Service

Once again, FastAid was asked to represent Community First Responder Groups at WMAS AGM and Arden Team had on display both car and equipment. Andy Jeynes, Community Response Manager WMAS said



“FastAid is a group of incredibly dedicated volunteers who give their time freely to serve the communities where they live and work. They are there for everyone, often at a time of greatest need. They do make a real difference and they do save lives. What better gift can there be but the gift of life. FastAid is the only charity in Solihull that is supported by West Midlands Ambulance Service because they excel in their support for our Ambulance Service”

At the Excellence in the Community evening in March, Alice and I received our 10 year certificates, joining Mark with the long and distinguished service awards. We were delighted when both Solihull Lions and Jaguar Land Rover received special awards from the Chief Ambulance Officer for their continued and very valuable support to FastAid.

I was also asked by WMAS to provide a testimonial for inclusion on their web site. <https://wmas.nhs.uk/cfr-terry-flower/>

Funding

We receive no external funding and to carry out our commitment to the communities within Arden Area, we are entirely reliant on the generosity of local groups such as The Lions, Round Table and Rotary with whom we have built a great and mutually beneficial relationship. Thank you.

We did make an application to Solihull Council CIL fund in September for training equipment, but, despite receiving support from local Councillors, we were not successful.

We have to insure our car, trailer and event equipment as well as maintain the kit, fuel etc in RC 439. We pass on our thanks to all who have donated to us and also our immense gratitude to Jaguar Land Rover and its employees. We are a very proud and dedicated group.

Support

As area coordinator, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to our CFRs who constantly train and deliver excellent patient care often at a time of someone's greatest need. The many hours of volunteering would not be possible without the support of family members and I am also grateful to them, just as I am grateful to all who know and support us.

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