

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



## **COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

### **REGISTRATION AND ACCESS TO DEFIBRILLATOR**

#### **REPORT BY INTERIM HEAD OF HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES**

##### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report presents Council Executive with information relating to the registration and access to defibrillators across West Lothian and seeks agreement to register all council devices on the British Heart Foundation national register.

##### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

Council Executive is asked to :-

1. Note the content of the report and
2. Agree that all Council Defibrillators are registered and maintained in a National register with the British Heart Foundation,
3. Note that community access to devices and awareness raising of the location of devices and availability of training will be maximised as far as practically possible.

##### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>Council Values</b>	Making best use of our resources Working in partnership Providing equality of opportunity
<b>II</b>	<b>Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	None
<b>III</b>	<b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None
<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None
<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	This report may have a positive impact on the SOA indicators as they reflect on Health and wellbeing outcomes
<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	None
<b>VII</b>	<b>Consideration at PDSP</b>	Public and Community Safety PDSP 26 October

2022

**VIII Other consultations** Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, St John Scotland

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D.1 Background**

At a meeting of West Lothian Council on 27 September 2022, the Council unanimously agreed a composite motion, set out in Appendix 1, which instructed the Chief Executive to bring a report on access to defibrillators for the West Lothian community and identify areas of concern with little or no coverage.

Officers were also asked to investigate potential funding from the Scottish Government to increase coverage, availability and training and report to the meeting of the Public and Community Safety Policy and Development Scrutiny Panel on 26 October 2022.

### **D.2 Community Safety Partners**

Scottish Fire and Rescue Services, Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service direct members of the public to the British Heart Foundation website which contains a link to allow the user to find the nearest 10 defibrillators to the search location. <https://www.defibfinder.uk/> The website relies on groups registering their defibrillator.

Currently, there are approximately 30 police station defibrillators registered with "The Circuit" which is the UK national database. [circuit.uk](http://circuit.uk) They also have created a map site to easily find registered defibrillators which is, [www.defibfinder.co.uk](http://www.defibfinder.co.uk)

Police Scotland currently have defibrillators in:

- Broxburn Police Station
- Livingston Police Station Custody Centre
- Armadale Police Station
- Whitburn Police Station
- West Calder Police Station

Although there is not one in Bathgate Police Station, this is actively being pursued.

Livingston Police Station is mentioned in the next National Police Project, although it is understood that consideration is being given to procuring a device which would be fitted to an external heated cabinet and be made public access 24/7. Partners have not identified any known gaps in provision.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have offered West Lothian businesses and communities the facility to utilise SFRS buildings. This will enable partners and community members the opportunity to organise the fixing of public accessible Defibrillators externally to the wall of SFRS buildings, providing 24/7 access. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service can also offer CPR awareness sessions which will support early access to defibrillators to improve the Scottish out of hospital cardiac arrest survival rates.

The Community Safety Partners recognise that it is essential that we encourage as many registered defibrillators to be located externally so that they are accessible 24/7 to all members of the public and not only within buildings for internal staff to access when the buildings are opened.

### **D.3 Procedure**

When calling 999, there is a prompt asking if anybody has an automated external defibrillator (AED) or they will alert to where a defibrillator can be accessed. From there the caller will be given an access code for that specific defibrillator. The defibrillator must be registered with the British Heart Foundation in order to be identified during the 999 call.

### **D.4 West Lothian Council Community Facilities**

There are 20 community centres which currently have a defibrillator on site. Details are set out in Appendix 2. The location of the nearest defibrillator has been identified. In addition, Newton, Philpstoun and Uphall management committees are actively looking into getting a defibrillator installed. There are no concerns currently being expressed in relation to known gaps in provision.

### **D.5 Awareness Raising**

It is recommended that the location of and arrangements to access defibrillators across West Lothian is promoted and communicated by the Council, making use of traditional communication methods and also promoting messages across our social media pages. It is also proposed that all defibrillators which are located in council buildings are registered with the British Heart Foundation to support the bank of identified locations and to aid the use of these in any emergency situations.

### **D.6 Funding for Defibrillators**

Funding for community access defibrillators is available from St John Scotland Community Defibrillator Scheme. Through this scheme a community group, charity or individual who can raise £1,000 funding will be provided with the remainder of the costs to provide a defibrillator and external storage cabinet. St John Scotland will also provide advice and support on installation and free CPR and defibrillator training: -<https://www.scottishambulance.com/your-community/automated-externaldefibrillators/purchasing-an-automated-external-defibrillator/>.

The British Heart Foundation can also part fund an AED, provided the device will be available to the public 24/7 and will be placed in an external unlocked and un-coded cabinet. There must be a clear need for the device, for example., high footfall. The scheme is not available to profit making organisations or other groups such as GP surgeries, schools or colleges.

Officers have investigated potential funding from the Scottish Government to increase coverage, availability and training but have not identified any funding available from Scottish Government.

#### **D.7 St John Scotland Community Defibrillator Scheme - Training**

Members of the St John Scotland Community Defibrillator Scheme can provide advice, training and funding to communities wishing to install a Public Access Defibrillator. Through their Community Defibrillator Scheme, they will:

- work with the public to establish the best location for a defibrillator
- set a fundraising target of £1,000 for a defibrillator and external storage cabinet, and cover the remaining costs
- offer advice and support around installation
- offer free CPR and defibrillator training in the community after installation

Modern Public Access Defibrillators are designed so that any member of the public can use them in an emergency, with no training required. When switched on, they will read aloud instructions to the person using them. St John Scotland volunteers do however find that it helps for people in the community to be able to see a demonstration of how a defibrillator works. St John Scotland volunteers offer free CPR and defibrillator training as part of their Community Defibrillator Scheme.

#### **D.8 Public and Community Safety PDSP**

The Public and Community safety PDSP considered the report at the meeting on 26 October 2022. The Panel were supportive of the recommendation in the report. The Panel noted that it was important that all groups be encouraged to keep the details in the National register up to date. The Panel also considered whether the Council should keep a register of device locations but agreed that it was better to encourage registration on the British Heart Foundation register, to ensure that there was clarity for groups on where to register and there was a single point of reference for the emergency services and the community.

#### **E. CONCLUSION**

This report provides information to Council Executive on the availability of defibrillators across West Lothian and notes that it is important that devices are registered in order to support the bank of identified locations and to aid the use of these in any emergency situations.

#### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

For further information: members of the public can email:  
[defibs@stjohnscotland.org.uk](mailto:defibs@stjohnscotland.org.uk)

In Edinburgh and the surrounding areas, volunteers run the St John and the City defibrillator project. For more information, contact St John and the City Defibrillator Project.

Appendices/Attachments: 2

1. Meeting of West Lothian Council 27 September 2022 - Composite Motion
2. Community Centres Defibrillators

Alison Smith, Housing Management & Community Safety Manager,  
Housing, Customer and Building Services  
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**Julie Whitelaw**  
**Interim Head of Housing, Customer & Building Services**

Date of meeting: 15 November 2022

## Appendix 1

**Agenda Item 14 - Access to Defibrillators – Cllr P Heggie & Cllr C Meek – 27 September 2022**

Deemed a 'healthcare crisis', there are around 60,000 out of hospital cardiac arrests that occur every year in the UK.

According to the British Heart Foundation, less than 1 in 10 people survive a sudden cardiac arrest.

The survival rate for someone suffering a sudden cardiac arrest decreases by 10% every minute.

With such advanced technology, defibrillators work cleverly to 'shock' a person's heart into restarting after suffering a cardiac arrest. If used within a few minutes of a cardiac arrest, often a victim can make a full recovery.

We need to make searching for the nearest defibrillator easier for all members of our community to potentially save lives in West Lothian.

I would ask officers to update me on current access to defibrillators for the West Lothian community and identify areas of concern with limited or no coverage. I would also like officers to investigate potential funding available from the Scottish Government to increase coverage, availability, and training in our communities on this vital piece of equipment across West Lothian.

Council agrees to instruct the Chief Executive to bring a report to the next meeting of the Public and Community Safety PDSP

## Appendix 2

Neighbourhoods	Defibrillator Available
Armadale Partnership Centre, North Street, Armadale	Yes
CraigInn Community Centre, Main Street, Blackridge	Yes
East Whitburn Community Centre, Hen's Nest Road, East Whitburn	Yes
Fauldhouse Partnership Centre, Langrigg Road, Fauldhouse	Yes
Stoneyburn community centre, Main Street, Stoneyburn	Yes
Whitburn partnership centre, Armadale Road, Whitburn	Yes
Blackburn Partnership Centre, Ashgrove, Blackburn	Yes
Seafield community centre, Main Street, Seafield	Yes
Jim Walker Partnership Centre, Lindsay House, South Bridge Street, Bathgate	Yes
Dechmont memorial community centre, Main Street, Dechmont	Yes
Strathbrock Partnership Centre, 189A West Main Street, Broxburn	Yes
Linlithgow Partnership Centre, High Street, Linlithgow	Yes
Bellsquarry Village Hall, Calder Road, Bellsquarry	Yes
Carmondean Community Centre, Fells Rigg, Livingston	Yes
Crofthead Community centre, Templar Rise, Dedridge, Livingston	Yes
Dave King Partnership Centre, Main Street, East Calder	Yes
Kirknewton Village Hall, Main Street, Kirknewton	Yes
Lanthorn Community Centre, Kenilworth Rise, Dedridge, Livingston *	Yes
West Calder Community Centre, Dickson Street, West Calder	Yes
Murieston, Livingston South Rail Station, located near lift at North side	Yes

\*currently closed