

Risk Assessment for the Defibrillator

The fully automated defibrillator in the parish of Tasset & Greystead has been installed in a secure box, on the outside of the Village Hall at Lanehead, and is for use by any person needing it.

It's existence is recorded on the Great North Ambulance Service's computer, and access to the defibrillator is by a code given to the originator of a '999 emergency' call, together with the defibrillator's location. On receipt of a 999 call, the operator will, where possible, direct the operation and maintain contact with the caller throughout the emergency pending the arrival of a Paramedic or Ambulance.

The design of the device (an iPad defibrillator) is such that it can be used by totally untrained persons, as it issues instructions itself as to its use, monitors the condition of the patients heart and decides whether or not to 'shock' the patient.

Four 'Community Guardians' have been appointed, their duty being the routine inspection of the equipment, and the reporting of its condition. The recipient of those reports is the Stephen Cary Trust who oversee the operation of the unit and procure new pads and battery as needed.

Initially, some twenty five parishioners have undertaken a short training course, to teach them how to recognise symptoms of Sudden Cardiac Arrest, and how to deal with a situation involving it. The course was run by the Stephen Cary Fund, and will be repeated annually.

Attendance on the course does NOT imply, however, any responsibility for the use of the defibrillator. It is simply furtherance of the Trust's objective to enable members of the general public in Northumberland to be aware of the steps for the handling and initial treatment of Sudden Cardiac Arrest victims, such that if faced with a situation, they have some background to help them maximise the chances of the victims survival.

Conclusion: As the defibrillator is fully automatic, offering self-initiated guidance to the operator, and available **ONLY** under the Ambulance Services' direct control, there is little or no operational risk to the Parish Council.