



EAST DEAN RESPONDERS

Community First Responders

For East Dean, Friston, Birling Gap & Crowlink

Basic Life Support Provided By Local Volunteers

Registered as a Charity No. 113744

edresponders@gmail.com

Annual Report - 2016/17

East Dean Responders is a registered Charity with the objective:-

To provide, at the request of the Ambulance Service, early first response to local medical emergencies primarily in East Dean, Friston, Birling Gap, Crowlink and surrounding areas by volunteer Community First Responders.

We meet our objective by recruiting, supporting and managing a team of Community First Responders (CFRs) who are all volunteers. The CFRs are local people who aim to get to a medical emergency before the ambulance crew. An early response can sometimes save a life. Because our village is somewhat remote this is especially important in bad weather when the main roads might be closed.

CFRs are trained and regularly assessed by the South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmb). Anyone of 18 years and above may become a CFR; and no previous experience is needed. The only requirement is that he/she has access to a car and can commit to at least 4-6 hours per week.

CFRs log-on to an on-line rota system trying to cover as many hours as possible. Should a local medical emergency arise SECAmb will contact the CFR who is on duty and request that he/she responds.

The past year has seen the CFRs being called out 76 times compared with 68 the previous year. For 2016/17 average response times to reaching the patient within the parish was around 4 minutes and average response times to reaching the patient in all locations was around 8.5 minutes. Under both scenarios the CFRs reached the patient some 8 minutes before the ambulance. The following table provides an analysis of shouts, and the figures prove the benefits of the EDR operations. We are all proud of our CFRs and what they achieve.

2016/17		2015/16	
	Number of Shouts		
45	Arrived before ambulance/paramedic	46	
14	Arrived same time as ambulance/paramedic	10	
17	Stood down once mobile	12	
76	Total	68	
	Call Locations		Since 2012
34	East Dean & Friston Parish	53	216
9	Beachy Head	5	21
1	Jevington		8
8	Seaford	4	23
24	Eastbourne	6	33
76	Total	68	301
	Average Response Times (total)		
8mins 25secs	Average time to patient	6mins 8secs	
7mins 57secs	Average time before ambulance	8mins 12secs	
	Average Response Times (Parish)		
4mins 9secs	Average time to patient	4mins 31secs	
8mins	Average time before ambulance	6mins 41secs	

The figures show a significant rise in the year in the number of shouts outside the parish probably reflecting the availability of near-by ambulance crews at the time. We will monitor this trend over the coming year.

For most of the year we had five CFRs but it has been a difficult and demanding time for the team owing to a number of pressures at both personal and organisational levels. However, we are pleased to say that towards the end of the year two new recruits passed their training and are now operational and have received their equipment. Further on-job training and experience will see them progress from 'Echo' to full operational status. Plus, someone further has expressed an interest in becoming a CFR. If this comes to fruition we will have eight CFRs. We will then allow a period of consolidation and review the optimum number during 2017.

New refresher training standards are being introduced by SECamb and these would include the use of a computerised mannequin. CFRs will start experiencing the new training standards later in the current year. The CFRs all have full sets of kit including defibrillators, and the Trust also owns the two defibs at the Village Hall and the Barns Stores. All this equipment needs to be maintained and updated periodically, and although we are pleased that we have adequate funds for any immediately foreseeable expenditure, on-going funding will be an issue we will be reviewing in the coming year.

At the year end the EDR Trust had nine trustees, five of whom were the CFRs; this helps ensure a close working relationship within the organisation.

At the start of 2017 we sadly lost Rob Page who was instrumental in setting up the East Dean Responders (then Downland Heartstart) and was the Trust secretary. He will be fondly remembered.

We are here to serve the local community and our thanks go to the CFRs for their dedication and commitment in meeting our objective. Thanks also to the other Trustees and the Parish Council for their continued support, and to all the residents who actively support us in our endeavours

And finally

Numbers do Count!

Is your house number displayed so the emergency services can find you when you need them? If your house number is not easily seen it can cost precious time in an emergency. Every second wasted because the first responders or the ambulance service can't find the right house has a profound effect on the outcome, so please think about doing something about it.

Stewart Fuller
Chair, on behalf of the Trustees of EDR
April 2017