

DOWNLAND HEARTSTART 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Downland Heartstart was launched in December 2008. It is a registered charity whose Objective is to provide early first response by trained Community First Responders (CFRs) to local medical emergencies at the request of the South East Coast Ambulance Service. The objective is achieved in the following ways

- by recruiting CFRs and arranging training
- by raising funds to provide equipment for CFRs
- by promoting public awareness of the scheme

Since our CFRs went 'live' in December 2009 they have dealt with 372 medical emergencies. But when we started we had 9 CFRs although four of these worked in pairs so there were in fact 7. Now there are 5 fully trained, enthusiastic and committed CFRs, all of whom are volunteers, all of whom have other commitments and some of whom are employed.

During the year ended 31st March 2014 our CFRs have dealt with 46 'shouts'. The average response time to those in the village is about 2 minutes but of course it takes longer to get to Birling Gap or Crowlink or when a casualty is lost on the Downs. On average our CFR arrived over 9 minutes before the ambulance crew. This is particularly significant in the case of heart attacks and strokes when speed of treatment is vital.

The number of shouts is lower than last year when there were 69. This is mainly because the Ambulance service has adopted a new system whereby not all 999 cases are dealt with by an ambulance or paramedic and in which case a CFR would not be called upon.

The Trustees have agreed to fund the purchase of additional equipment for our CFRs. This extra equipment is to enable our CFRs to carry out more detailed observations of patients. However, our finances are in good order and we have an excellent team of CFRs. We would like more people to volunteer to be trained as one to enable us to provide better cover.

Rob Page
Hon. Secretary