

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board	Date: 28 February 2020
Subject: Access to defibrillators in the City of London	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director - Community & Children's Services (DCCS)	For Decision
Report author: Dr Andy Liggins, Consultant in Public Health, DCCS	

Summary

This report updates the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board on progress since this matter was last discussed in February 2019.

Recommendations

Members are asked to support that the City of London Corporation:

- continues its focus on the detection and prevention of heart disease (including the promotion of smoking cessation, physical activity, healthy eating and better air quality);
- encourages the registration of all defibrillators on the LAS accreditation scheme / The Circuit <https://www.thecircuit.uk> in order to maximise access for the public and first responders;
- reconsiders whether to increase the number of public access defibrillators at members' discretion, if suitable funding were identified, noting that the current density of defibrillators is already high within the City.

Main Report

Background

1. In February 2019 at the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board, Members considered a report of the Directors of Human Resources and Community and Children's Services in respect of the findings from a Corporate Survey on external defibrillators. The Chairman advised, and Members agreed, that they were often approached in respect of the provision of defibrillators and were very supportive of them.
2. In response to a suggestion that the City Corporation should publish a map showing the location of defibrillators, Members noted that an internet company was working with the British Heart Foundation in order to achieve this. Officers

also advised that coverage in the City was very good, particularly during working hours. However, it was suggested that coverage in the Eastern cluster could be better and there should be 24-hour availability in areas supported by the night-time economy. Members suggested that officers contact the relevant voluntary sector organisations and offer support where required.

3. Members RESOLVED, that:

- The continued development of a corporate defibrillator policy and action plan, building on the lessons learned from the defibrillator survey and good practice guidance, be supported. NB. This will ensure that installation of corporate defibrillators is based on first aid needs assessment principles.
- The City Corporation take no further action regarding the installation or promotion of additional public access defibrillators in the City, where there is no identified first aid need.
- The City Corporation be supported in encouraging specialist organisations and the London Ambulance Service (LAS) to take this forward locally, as they are better placed to address this issue.
- The City Corporation be supported in exploring the London Ambulance Service accreditation and whether there would be an appetite for engaging with City organisations that have their own defibrillators.

Progress since February 2019

4. Since the Health and Wellbeing Board decisions above, the following action has been taken.

Internal / City Corporation defibrillators

5. The Corporation Health & Safety team have continued to work internally with stakeholders, to maintain and update the survey of corporate defibrillators (re-surveyed during 2019).
6. As a result of this survey, additional defibrillators have been installed at four Corporation sites based on first aid need, leading to a total of 43 corporate defibrillators across all sites.
7. Accreditation with the LAS requires further internal discussion (see also below).

Public access defibrillators

8. The Cardiac Arrest LAS Annual Report (2018/2019) shows that the overall 'cardiac survival to hospital discharge' rate in London is approximately 11%. However, where a defibrillator is available and used, then this survival rate

increases to 57%. This shows the importance of having defibrillators in public places within the City of London.

9. Mapped defibrillator data shows that, in terms of defibrillator density, central London is the 'safest' place in the UK to suffer an 'out-of-hospital' cardiac arrest, with readily available defibrillator units positioned in key areas. In addition:
 - TfL has defibrillators installed in Tube stations in the Square Mile;
 - The City of London Police operational sites each have defibrillators;
 - Portable defibrillators are carried in all police response vehicles;
 - London Ambulance Service responders all carry defibrillators;
 - Many City businesses have defibrillators installed for their staff, although these are not currently accessible for the public.
10. The LAS Defibrillator Database shows that approximately 91 defibrillators are located within the City of London, predominately within the EC2, EC3 and EC4 postcode areas.
11. Although it is challenging to accurately capture all incidents of defibrillator use in the City of London, according to the LAS database there were 8 'out of hospital' cardiac arrests during the period January to December 2019.¹ Of those patients, six had successful Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) achieved and were conveyed to hospital. Two patients were certified dead at the scene. Although a small number of cases, this demonstrates the value of public defibrillators, with a 75% success rate being a very positive outcome for patients.
12. There are currently two defibrillator accreditation schemes available:
 - The LAS defibrillator accreditation scheme – this registers all defibrillators in the London area and directs public to the nearest defibrillator to help save lives, in the event of an incident;
 - The Circuit <https://www.thecircuit.uk> is a national defibrillator network, being developed by British Heart Foundation, in conjunction with the Resuscitation Council (UK) <https://www.resus.org.uk> and the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) <https://aace.org.uk>
 - Currently the LAS system is arguably the more sophisticated, with automatic alerting features but all ambulance services are working with The Circuit to mutually exchange location data, in order to create seamless and effective coverage across the country.
 - Further registration will be progressed within the City Corporation, private sector and other public sector organisations via discussions with the internal H&SW team, with businesses via Business Healthy and with LAS / The Circuit / TfL and other emergency responders.

¹ To reiterate these incidents are the number of incidents that the LAS Community Defibrillator Team were made aware of and subsequently attended to give the patient, public and staff support.

13. Planning guidance / work with developers:

- Provision of publicly accessible defibrillators cannot be mandated by the City Corporation but the draft City Plan 2036, includes wording to encourage commercial developments to provide defibrillators:

“Major commercial developments should seek to reach outwards into the community by providing services and facilities which can benefit wider health and contribute to ambitions to reduce single use plastics and other waste through the use of public drinking fountains, as well as providing defibrillators and publicly accessible toilets, for example through membership of the Community Toilet Scheme. Signage at the front of buildings should be displayed to make the public aware of the availability of these facilities.”

- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) guidance for developers is being developed this year by the City Corporation and will include defibrillators as one element that would constitute a successful HIA.

14. ‘Free’ defibrillators - this has been investigated during 2019 but those available have two drawbacks. They are unlikely to meet planning permissions (due to their appearance and bulk) and also cannot guarantee compliance with our pledge on HFSS (healthier food) advertising, the latter which supports their business model.

Recommendations

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Appendices

- None

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