

Committee(s): Health and Wellbeing board	Dated: 11 July 2025
Subject: First Aid Interventions including AED, anti bleed out and trauma kits	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Providing excellent services, vibrant thriving destination, flourishing public spaces
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Summary

Physical trauma and out of hospital cardiac arrest are two of the leading causes of death and disability in the UK. Reducing the time before first aid, including the application of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) can significantly increase survival rates by up to 50-70%.

Increasing training, awareness and confidence to use first aid skills amongst staff, businesses and members of the public along with increasing access to and use of first aid kits, trauma kits and AEDs can help reduce death and disability. This would support the delivery the City of London's Corporate plan objectives and the duties of the Health and Wellbeing Board to improve health and wellbeing.

The board is invited to consider the role of HWB partners in maximising the benefits of first aid interventions and, if additional resources are required, potential sources of funding or staff time.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the role that first aid interventions along with increasing awareness and confidence can have in reducing death and disability
- Consider how partners can maximise uptake of training and suitable provision of equipment for effective first aid interventions.

Main Report

Background

1. **Physical trauma:** is defined as serious injury to the body. Two main types of physical trauma are:
 - a) Blunt force trauma—when an object or force strikes the body, often causing concussions, deep cuts, or broken bones.
 - b) Penetrating trauma—when an object pierces the skin or body, usually creating an open wound.
2. Up to 59 per cent of deaths from injury may have been preventable if first aid was given before the emergency medical services arrived.
3. First aid was only attempted in around half of all cases (excluding where the person was found dead) despite someone being at the scene of the accident before the arrival of the emergency medical services 96 per cent of the time.
4. **Cardiac arrest:** is the abrupt loss of heart function, breathing and consciousness.
5. Fewer than 1 in 10 people will survive an out of hospital cardiac arrest. However, immediate initiation of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can double or quadruple survival, and defibrillation within 3–5 minutes of collapse can produce survival rates up to 50–70%¹.
6. Automated external defibrillators (AED) are portable medical devices that can analyse the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. AEDs can be used by any member of the public without any prior training.

Current Position

7. The London Ambulance Service (LAS) has established London Lifesavers which aims to increase CPR training and give members of the public the confidence to use a Public Access Defib (PAD). They also have the London Lifesavers schools programme, which focuses on delivering free training to all schools across the capital aimed at year 8 pupils.
8. LAS have identified 21 London neighbourhoods where there is no access to an AED device and 129 with limited access. None of these neighbourhoods are situated in the City of London, however a large number are in North East London.²
9. There are a wide range of providers who organise training to promote first aid, trauma awareness and anti bleed training in the City of London ranging from private providers, the City of London Police, charities to NHS organisations.

¹ <https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/cardiac-arrest-out-of-hospital-care/>

² <https://www.londonambulancecharity.org.uk/london-neighbourhoods-in-need-of-public-access-defibrillators>

However, there is currently no strategic approach to provision of first aid training available to members of the public, within schools or businesses or workplace.

10. The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 require employers to provide adequate and appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel to ensure their employees receive immediate attention if they are injured or taken ill at work. However, these Regulations do not place a legal duty on employers to make first-aid provision for non-employees such as the public or children in schools.
11. The Health and Safety Executive strongly recommends that non-employees are included in an assessment of first-aid needs and that provision is made for them.
12. Although AEDs have become increasingly available within workplaces, businesses and community settings there is currently no legal requirement to provide these, maintain them or record their location on databases that can assist emergency call handlers directing people to their location.
13. Following the outcomes of the Lord Harris review on how to improve London's readiness for terror incidents and recommendations from Lord Kerslake review of the Manchester bombing the City of London Police has developed a specification for Emergency Trauma Packs (ETPs). ETPs provide both first responders and members of the public with significantly more additional equipment than a traditional first aid kit in order to be able to provide life saving interventions to treat major and catastrophic injuries.
14. ETPs have been specified in conjunction with the London Ambulance Services and over 100 ETPs are located in businesses and major attractions within the City of London. Premises that have an ETP are provided with a window sticker to promote their location to members of the public and also the emergency services. 15 ETPs have also been located within the City of London car parks.
15. The City of London Police have also undertaken pop up tents across the City of London where bleed prevention techniques have been demonstrated. Over 300 kits containing a tourniquet, bandages and adhesive chest seals have been deployed in pubs and bars.
16. The City of London Corporate Safety Team have developed HSG 44 First Aid Guidance³ and HSG 51 Guidance on Defibrillators⁴ which sets out the duties and responsibilities of all City of London staff and premises controller of Corporation properties. All CoL staff also receive a CitizenAid app which includes information on how to locate and use an AED.

Recommendations

³ [HSG 44 First Aid Guidance](#)

⁴ [HSG 51 - Guidance on defibrillators](#)

17. Partners of the Health and Wellbeing board consider how training, awareness and provision of suitable equipment can be promoted and funded across the City of London.
18. Explore the potential role of local planning guidance in relation to encouraging AEDs and other suitable first aid equipment to be provided as part of new developments.
19. Explore options to encourage organisations to register their AEDs and other first aid devices on the LAS and BHF directories.

Corporate & Strategic Implications –

Strategic implications – Increasing first aid training, awareness and provision of suitable equipment is in accordance with the Corporations Corporate Plan.

Financial and resource implications- provision of training, provision of first aid equipment and maintenance all require financial resources. CIL funding could be explored to assess if this could be a suitable source of funding to support provision. Many buildings and organisations have purchased AEDs however the extent to which these are regularly maintained is unknown. Publicly available AEDs are listed on LAS and BHF directories and promoting more organisations to list AEDs can assist with quality assurance of maintenance and access.

Legal implications- there are general legal duties to provide and protect the health and safety of employees and people accessing facilities. Private member bills which specifically seek to expand the legal duties to provide first aid facilities such as AEDs have been tabled in several Parliamentary sittings but not progressed past 2nd reading stage

Risk implications- failure to provide adequate first aid facilities present a legal, financial and reputational risk to organisations

Equalities implications – The Lifesavers work of mapping of neighbourhoods without AEDs or poorer access to AEDs concluded that poorer more deprived neighbourhoods, which often have higher rates of cardio vascular disease, violent injuries have lower access to suitable devices.

Climate implications- Although AEDs require regular maintenance, recharging etc there is little or no climate implications from their deployment.

Security implications- First Aid training and devices has the potential to improve security through ensuring more resilience of response to mass casualty and security incidents.

Conclusion

20. First aid training and provision of suitable publicly accessible equipment can reduce preventable death and disability. The Health and Wellbeing board should consider how to make best use of these opportunities and in doing so promote the health and wellbeing of residents and workers

Appendices

None

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