



# Suffolk Accident Rescue Service

Honorary President: Dr Andy Mason

Registered Charity 1168764

Unit 1B, Woolpit Business park, Windmill Avenue, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 9UP

Main Office Tel: 01359 244186  
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## UPDATE ON SARS ACTIVITY

### **Call-outs**

During the last 12 months, SARS volunteer doctors and paramedics responded to nearly 300 call outs requesting specialist medical assistance for patients before they reached hospital.

We have attended incidents during the course of the last 12 months in the locality which includes your parish, and we continue to remain active in the area.

SARS specialist volunteers are mobilized to a wide variety of serious medical incidents but responding to serious road traffic collisions and to patients suffering cardiac arrests remain our most common call-outs. In 25% of the incidents attended by SARS responders we were the first medical resource on scene.

This highlights the value of a local volunteer network with an expertise in emergency medicine and it is a testament to the commitment of our clinicians that they continue to give their time and expertise without charge to the patient, the ambulance service or the tax payer.

### **Preventive work and best practice**

Apart from our direct activity, we also increased our focus on preventative initiatives during this period. It is unfortunate that the number of people willing to give bystander CPR in the UK remains way below areas such as Scandinavia and the USA. SARS is mobilized, on average, to at least one patient in cardiac arrest a week. Therefore, we are keen to raise awareness of how important this basic life-saving skill can be in reducing the level of fatal cardiac arrests in our local communities. We have been in contact with several Suffolk schools and colleges during this period and have undertaken sessions with students around the county. The aim was to demonstrate that anyone can learn this skill and help save a life!

We also continue to collaborate on road safety projects to try and reduce the numbers of people being killed on our roads. This includes working with Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service and again talking to young people. We provided Basic Lifesaving Skills and Road Safety sessions for nearly 300 students last year. As with everything else we do these sessions were conducted free of charge and in our volunteers' spare time.

### **What did we spend your donation on?**

SARS receives no statutory funding and we rely on voluntary grants and donations to help maintain our life-saving activity. Your donation helped fund vital equipment and training for our volunteer doctors and paramedics. The benefit of our voluntary resource is that our specialist responders carry equipment and drugs which are not available on front-line ambulances. It is equipment costs which forms the most significant area of our expenditure.



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In the last 12 months, we have purchased a second automated chest compression system to use on patients suffering prolonged cardiac arrests. We have also funded new personal protective equipment, specialist painkilling drugs, essential monitoring equipment and also a second rapid-response vehicle for our team-based resource. This will prove an invaluable investment and enable us to grow this relatively recent part of our clinical activity in the coming years. This team car has responded to call outs in the Mildenhall area.

This equipment combined with a SARS specialist's additional skills and experience means that our volunteers can make interventions at the scene of an incident which wouldn't normally be possible outside the hospital environment.

Our local responders include some of the most highly skilled prehospital clinicians in the region and the benefit they can bring to an incident scene saves lives, reduces the chances of patients suffering permanent disability and facilitates a patient's speedy transfer to hospital.

Over the next 12 months, we want to purchase more life-saving equipment and continue to upgrade and replace the equipment and drugs which are used by our responders, on a day-to-day basis, as they help treat patients in need within their local community. We are also continuing to bring new clinical volunteers into the charity who need specific training in the prehospital environment we work in.

We cannot make investments in our volunteers without the support of all sectors of the local community including our local councils. Grants from this sector make an important difference for a small charity like SARS which doesn't outsource fundraising to professional companies and doesn't employ teams of fundraising staff.

The voluntary commitment given by our doctors and paramedics equates to thousands of pounds in time and expertise. They give up their time because they are passionate about providing additional pre-hospital care for people in need. There will always be patients who will benefit from the enhanced medical care that a SARS volunteer can provide and we want to help as many of them as possible.

Thank you for your continued support for Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.

If you would like some more information about SARS please visit our website [www.sars999.org.uk](http://www.sars999.org.uk) or facebook page (Suffolk Accident Rescue Service).

You can also download our annual report at the charity commission site [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk) – charity number 1168764.