

# AED for HILTON – some facts from Health Professionals

- 30,000 per annum in UK suffer sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) outside of hospital environments – it includes ALL age groups.
- A patient's chance of survival decreases by 10% PER MINUTE following cardiac arrest.
- 1 in 10 people survive when no CPR or Defibrillation is applied; 4 in 10 survive when CPR and Defibrillation are provided.
- If defibrillation is delivered promptly, survival rates as high as 50%, even 75% can be achieved.
- SCA can be reversed only by defibrillation – conditions are optimal in the first few minutes (3-5 mins ideally).
- CPR helps keep the patient alive until professional help / defibrillation arrives. If an erratic heart is not corrected within 3-5 mins, the chances of survival diminish significantly.
- The UK Resuscitation Council suggests that an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) should be available where medical treatment is more than 5 minutes away.
- Typical experience locally of Ambulance Service responses is approximately within 7 minutes.
- The Ambulance Service target for responses is 8 minutes. Current performance in East of Anglia is 75% achieved Sept 2015.
- The Ambulance Service offers for sale Defibrillators and AED Packages.

# AED for HILTON – responses to some issues raised

- Rarely needed or used – thankfully true in Hilton!
  - “It will never happen to us / here” is an understandable, common human perspective.
  - When it does happen to someone you know – **what price for a life?**
  - A GP in Hilton is so keen he volunteered to have the AED placed on his gate post.
- You need to be qualified to operate CPR and a defibrillator.
  - The UK Resuscitation Council and British Heart Foundation jointly state: “Time should not be wasted if trained staff are not immediately available. Untrained people have used the devices successfully to save life and lack of training (or recent refresher training) should not be a barrier. Provided someone is prepared to use the AED they should not be inhibited from doing so.”
- I could be sued for using it and the patient dies.
  - “it is very unlikely that a potential rescuer could be sued”. While there is no UK legislation on this, “the courts have tended to look favourably on those who try to help others”.
  - No one has been sued in UK or USA for using a defibrillator.
- We don't we know what to do / how they work.
  - A condition of the BHF grant scheme is that training is made available to local groups – they provide the materials and information to train groups of 10 at a time.
  - Suppliers of the AEDs mostly offer free demonstrations for a local group.
  - The AED provides specific and detailed ‘live’ guidance, evaluates what is happening and advises on what is needed.
  - The AED is linked to the Ambulance Service who must be contacted and will guide you.