



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Fire & Rescue Service

Creating Safer Communities

Dear Stakeholder,

From Tuesday 1 November 2016 firefighters at Carlton, Edwinstowe and Worksop fire stations will become the latest to join an Emergency First Responder (EFR) trial in support of colleagues at East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS).

The trial, which will run for three months, will see firefighters utilising specialist skills, competencies and equipment, to provide life-saving support to patients suffering cardiac arrest, chest pains or unconsciousness in their local area. They will be mobilised at the same time as an ambulance crew, but due to the close proximity of fire stations to their local community a fire crew may be able to get there more quickly, saving vital seconds while the ambulance crew makes its way to the patient.

Firefighters at Newark and Harworth are already participating in a national EFR trial and it is envisaged that this latest scheme will help maximise the amount of information that can be fed back nationally, as well as enhancing the valued services already provided to the community in Nottinghamshire by dedicated Community First Responders (volunteers who are trained and supported by EMAS to provide a fast response to people in life-threatening emergencies, whilst the ambulance travels to the scene).

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Wayne Bowcock said: "Since the start of the national trial in 2015 we have been looking at ways in which we can further support our colleagues in EMAS, by using the specialist skills that firefighters have to give patients the best possible chance of survival in the communities we serve.

"It makes sense that we would want to help patients in our communities in this way, during those critical moments while an ambulance makes its way to the scene."

Pete Ripley, EMAS Associate Director of Operations said: "The community focused response model is something we have been doing for a number of years. We have Community First Responders (CFRs) and retained fire responders across the whole East Midlands and benefits are seen for those patients in a time critical emergency such as cardiac arrest.

"Having someone there who can provide basic life support, including defibrillation and CPR, within minutes of the collapse happening will improve the patient's chance of survival."

Key facts:

- Fire crews will respond to Red 1 & 2 emergency calls in their local communities and will be mobilised at the same time as an ambulance crew.

- Crews will deliver non-invasive medical treatment, including the use of defibrillators, to patients aged 12 years or older who are suffering cardiac arrest, chest pains or unconsciousness.
- The EFR scheme will enhance the services already provided to the community by dedicated volunteer Community First Responders, including firefighters at Eastwood, East Leake, Southwell and Misterton who operate as Co-responders, and firefighters at Newark and Harworth who are already part of the National Joint Council trial.
- Based on the evaluation of current EFR schemes both in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere in the UK, there has been no detrimental effect on the standard of fire cover provided in the area. Firefighters will respond as a crew in their fire appliance so that they are available to respond to other emergencies once the ambulance crew has arrived.
- The trial will run for three months and will be continually monitored and evaluated by all parties to ensure it remains effective and continues to offer quality patient care in the local community.

If you require any further information or would like to discuss the EFR trial, please contact Group Manager Damien West on 07967 661513.

