

Appendix 4 – Information related to AC423P50 on the provision of bleed kits

In the first formal meeting, the Area Committee requested that Great Western Air Ambulance Charity develop a full project proposal with a higher budget (£80,000) in order to incorporate bleed kits alongside the defibrillators, working with BCC Public Health and Safer Communities colleagues in order to identify the most suitable locations for these.

Great Western Air Ambulance Charity has declined the additional funds and provided the following response on bleed kits:

“Great Western Air Ambulance Charity is proud of its work teaching people in our communities lifesaving skills through our Great Western Hearts programme, over many years. Equipping people with CPR and emergency life support skills is a well-researched and recognised way of improving survival rates amongst those people who have experienced an out of hospital cardiac arrest.

Since 2022, GWAAC has also worked with local communities and stakeholders to identify publicly accessible locations for defibrillators. Our work involves finding where defibs are most needed, helping communities fund them, installing them, training people in their use and ensuring that they are and remained ‘rescue ready’ and their location is known to 999 call handlers. Again, the evidence base for the use of defibs is extremely strong, and there is a national mechanism for ensuring that defib locations are known by the emergency services.

Increasingly, members of the public and community groups are advocating placing ‘bleed kits’ alongside defibrillators in the community. This is motivated by the tragic loss of many lives due to stabbing and similar injuries, which obviously makes this a cause that many people feel passionately about.

However, GWAAC is an organisation that prides itself on having the highest standards of clinical care and uses data and evidence in order to allocate our resources and help us decide where to focus our time. We are confident that CPR, emergency first aid and the use of defibs is incredibly unlikely to cause harm to patients, but we do not have the same level of confidence in the use of bleed kits. Our clinical governance is overseen by South Western Ambulance Service (SWASFT), and so we take their views into account when deciding our approach.

SWASFT’s current position is: Medical directors of ambulance services have discussed the implementation of bleed kits and are generally supportive of their use but have concerns that there is currently no national system of governance or funding for the roll out of the bleed kits. There is no national system to ensure that all ambulance services are aware of the availability and site of a bleed kit to be able to ask for the person calling 999 to find it and use it. More work is needed to understand the clinical benefits of publicly placed bleed kits, and around the governance required to ensure a robust process for use of the bleed kit.

Until there is stronger evidence for the use of publicly available bleed kits and more certain support from SWASFT, GWAAC has decided not to use our very limited resources to fund or install bleed kits, and does not wish to have them located inside our defib cabinets or have our branding to appear on them. However, we are very happy for other organisations to locate bleed kits alongside our defibrillators, and are happy to work collaboratively with other organisations who are wishing to do this. We would however suggest that bleed kits are considered after CPR training and defibs in terms of prioritisation of funding and people’s time, as the evidence base for their effectiveness is clearer.

We would be more than happy to talk about this and/or signpost you/councillors to suppliers of the kits should you wish to proceed with them.”

Further to this exchange, BCC Safer Communities confirmed that through a grant from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner they have been able to secure the installation of bleed kits at 26 locations around Bristol. These are currently being scoped and installed by the Police. This work ties in to a regional roll out of bleed kits by the Police, to minimise duplication and benefit from economies of scale. The location of the sites was identified using a number of data sources, including:

- Police data (number of knife incidents plus sightings of knives)
- Public consultation via the BCC Communities Team
- Utilisation of current defibrillators
- Locations of high pedestrian convergence e.g. the bus station and the police station
- Professional opinions from Youth Services and Communities Team.

The list of bleedkit locations is available to Councillors upon request.