



Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Policy – 2024

INTRODUCTION

“Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of death in Europe. Depending on the way SCA is defined, it affects about 350,000–700,000 individuals a year. Many victims of SCA can survive if bystanders act immediately while ventricular fibrillation (VF) is still present, but successful resuscitation is much less likely once the rhythm has deteriorated to asystole”.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide the Town Council with protocols all activities associated with the management and use of AEDs funded or part-funded by the Town Council.

Andover Town Council fully supports the supply and use of defibrillators across the parish of Andover Town.

THE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are:

- To ensure the appropriate support for acquisition of AEDs for the whole of Andover to ensure continuity of accountability and responsibility

ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Town Council will purchase defibrillators on behalf of organisations asking for matched funding (Responsible Organisation), or will provide £500 of funding towards the purchase, installation, or ongoing maintenance of an AED
- The Responsible Organisation will request matched funding from the Town Council. The AED will be passed to the Responsible Organisation who must then insure and register the AED with the relevant ambulance services.
- The AED is no longer the responsibility of the Town Council once handed to the Responsible Organisation.

It is important that an AED is installed safely and maintained to enable the best chance of survival. The Responsible Organisation installing an AED has the overall responsibility for the AED. This includes:

- Before installing the AED, checking the location desired. Check if consent from the premises owner or landlord is needed.
- Registration with the NHS via the national defibrillator network, The Circuit.
- Check the AED regularly, to establish that it is in good working order and that the defibrillator pads are in date. AED sites should have at least one guardian but preferably two. The guardian(s) where possible should check the site and make a log of their checks on The Circuit.
- It is advised that insurance for each AED is sought in case of damage including vandalism.
- Maintenance costs of the AED are covered, including new pads when they go out of date, or they have been used. Maintenance should be in accordance with the recommended guidelines and any manufacturer's instructions.
- Align to current UK's Resuscitation Guidelines (<https://www.resus.org.uk/library/2021-resuscitation-guidelines>)



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Should the AED require disposal, because it is no longer needed, the reverse installation process needs to be followed and the Responsible Organisation is required to dispose of the AED in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

LOCATION CONSIDERATIONS

The location of an AED is vital, and when installing an AED in the community, it is important to consider the following questions:

- Will the AED be clearly visible and easily recognisable, including enough light so people can see the device's cabinet in the dark?
- Will the AED be placed in a high-quality lockable box?
- Are there any other AED nearby (approximately 500 metres radius)?
- Is there an accessible power supply for the AED to remain operational?
- Is the AED be installed on the public highway, which is often a preferable option.
- Can the device be accessed 24hours a day, 7 days a week?