



Health & Safety Committee

Council Defibrillator Policy Draft

Date: 24 May 2023

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Rich Clarke, Head of Assurance. Corporate Health & Safety Team.

Outline and recommendations

This report sets out the draft policy guiding the Council's purchase and use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) intended for installation on Council premises. The Health & Safety Committee is recommended to:

- Review and comment on the draft policy.
- Agree a response to provide to Mayor and Cabinet supporting a decision to adopt the policy.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

No other public reporting to date. Internal consultation through Directorate Health and Safety meetings and the Corporate Assurance Board.

If so recommended by this Committee, the policy will be submitted for inclusion in Mayor and Cabinet decision-making. Based on current agendas, this will likely be in late summer/early autumn.

1. Summary

- 1.1. This Policy – which we believe is a first among London Boroughs – aims to support effective acquisition and use of defibrillators across the Council. There is nothing in the policy that Council services cannot do already but it seeks to instil and support best practice in setting out:

- The nature and role of defibrillators.
 - When a service might seek to get a defibrillator.
 - Proper siting and maintenance procedures.
 - Keeping central oversight of defibrillators on Council property.
 - Procedures for linking to local and national networks to help ensure they are available for broad use.
- 1.2. The Policy does not direct when a service should get a defibrillator. This decision should spring from a locally-assessed risk. This risk assessment should include evaluating needs of service users and visitors. The Policy also does not earmark any central or extra funding. Council services will continue to buy defibrillators from existing budgets in response to assessed risk.

2. Recommendations

- Review and comment on the draft policy.
- Agree a response to provide to Mayor and Cabinet supporting a decision to adopt the policy.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. This report aligns with Lewisham's Corporate Priorities, as set out in the Council's [Corporate Strategy \(2022-2026\)](#):
- Cleaner and Greener
 - A Strong Local Economy
 - Quality Housing
 - Children and Young People
 - Safer Communities
 - Open Lewisham
 - Health and Wellbeing
- 3.2. In particular, this report closely aligns to our priority on Health and Wellbeing. Put simply, defibrillators save lives. The best chance of successful resuscitation is with minimum delay; ideally within the first three minutes with up to a 75% survival rate reported. The chances of resuscitation fall by 10% with every minute delayed. There is a real advantage in having defibrillators available.
- 3.3. The Policy seeks to maximise the benefits for residents as well as staff by making sure any defibrillators we buy are part of The Circuit. This is a national arrangement led by the British Heart Foundation in collaboration with local ambulance services. It makes sure emergency call handlers have up-to-date

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information on defibrillator locations so they can direct members of the public in an emergency. Emergency call handlers will also contact the owner with instructions on where they are needed.

4. Background

- 4.1. This Committee has an existing interest in provision and effective use of defibrillators across the Borough. The Corporate Health and Safety Team have drafted this Policy with the aim of encouraging colleagues across the Council to buy defibrillators where prompted by risk assessment, and then helping to ensure continuing effective use.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. There are no additional financial implications in the draft Policy.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. There are no notable legal implications in the draft Policy.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1. There are no additional equalities implications.

8. Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1. There are no climate change or environmental implications.

9. Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1. There are no crime and disorder implications.

10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1. Health and wellbeing implications are considered in the body of the report.

11. Background papers

- 11.1. The Draft Policy at Appendix A incorporates links to other documents about the use of defibrillators and the British Heart Foundation's "Circuit".

12. Report author(s) and contact

- 12.1. Rich Clarke, Head of Assurance. rich.clarke@lewisham.gov.uk.

13. Appendices

- Appendix A – Draft Policy

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