



SARS team vehicle on night shift, Felixstowe

SARS provides specialist doctors and paramedics who help treat critically ill or injured patients who require enhanced medical care over and above that which can be provided by the statutory ambulance service. We aim to offer a local specialist resource which can help those very sick patients who can really benefit from the additional skills, experience and specialist equipment of a SARS responder. All our members volunteer in their spare time and offer their service without charge to the patient, the ambulance service or the tax-payer.

Our charity has operated in Suffolk for 46 years and has helped saved countless lives and treated thousands of critically ill patients in and around our county.

It is very much a local charity which aims to benefit the whole community.

Seven different SARS responders were mobilised to incidents in the Felixstowe area last year. The majority of incidents attended were serious or life threatening. As well as two local solo responders, a SARS team car has also provided regular coverage for the Felixstowe area during this period. This team resource responded to most of the Felixstowe incidents attended by SARS.

Both our solo and team resources have an enhanced capability over and above the ambulance service. Our responders carry kit and drugs that are not available on frontline ambulances. The Town Council grant contributed to some of these equipment costs.

SARS responders can undertake advanced procedures at the scene that would not normally be possible outside the hospital environment. These can be truly life-saving interventions as well as helping reduce the chances of patients suffering permanent disability.

We have been very grateful for the support given by the Town Council over the years. We receive no central government funding and therefore rely on voluntary grants and donations to support our activity.

The fact that we continue to get regular support allows us to plan with confidence. Over the course of this year, we aim to set up new solo responders and increase our number of team shifts and, by achieving that, treat more patients in our local community.

Thank you once again for your support.

Ben Hall
Operations Manager
Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS)