



SARS team vehicle on night shift, Felixstowe

SARS provides specialist clinical responders who help treat critically ill or injured patients who require immediate or advanced medical care before they reach hospital . We aim to offer a local resource which can help those very sick patients who can really benefit from the additional skills, experience and specialist equipment of a SARS responder. Our responders include anaesthetists, consultants in emergency medicine and critical care paramedics. 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 47 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.

Five 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 solo responders based nearby, a SARS team car has also provided regular coverage for the Felixstowe area during this period.

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. Both our solo and team resources carry kit and drugs, not available on frontline ambulances, which can bring additional benefits to patients. The Town Council grant contributed to some of these equipment costs.

In the last year, we have recruited two new paramedics both from the Felixstowe area. One is helping crew our team vehicle while the other is helping raise public awareness of life-saving skills that can help give patients with potentially life-threatening conditions the best chance of survival. These include CPR sessions with schools and local groups and businesses. SARS is regularly mobilised to patients in cardiac arrest and we know the value of bystanders starting the "chain of survival" by giving CPR to these critically ill patients. If your group or business is interested in one of these awareness sessions please contact us via our head office.

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)