

Report to Felixstowe Town Council 2024



SARS critical care paramedic, Liam, who lives locally and helps provide a voluntary response for SARS in the Felixstowe area.

SARS is a Suffolk-based emergency medical charity that provides specialist volunteer clinicians to 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 volunteers include anaesthetists, consultants in emergency medicine and critical care paramedics. SARS clinicians can undertake complex procedures including surgical skills and advanced airway management that would not normally be possible outside the hospital environment.

SARS members volunteer in their spare time and offer their service without charge to the patient.

Our charity has operated for over 51 years and since 1972, SARS volunteer clinicians have helped saved countless lives and treated thousands of critically ill patients in and around our county.

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

The town council grant contributed to equipment and training costs for our volunteers. Our thanks go once again to the council for their continued commitment to our charity.

Local activity

In 2023-24, SARS was mobilised 23 times to Felixstowe including being the first medical resource on scene. Team resources SMED26 and SMED27 both attended incidents as well as three SARS solo responders. We also attended the 999 emergency services day in Felixstowe in 2023.



SARS responders can make truly life-saving interventions as well as helping reduce the chances of patients suffering permanent disability. Both our solo and team resources carry equipment, not available on frontline ambulances, which can bring additional benefits to patients. This includes ultrasound, automated CPR systems, ventilators and specialist drugs. These were utilised in the incidents that we attended in Felixstowe this year and in some instances, SARS responders accompanied the patient to hospital.

SARS continues to 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.

Around 25% of SARS mobilisations are 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 (admin@sars999.org.uk)