



Ein cyf/Our ref EM/13609/21

County Councillor Gwynfor Thomas
Chair - Powys County Council

steve.boyd@powys.gov.uk

9 November 2021

Dear Councillor Thomas,

Thank you for your email of 26 October asking for support to extend the availability of publicly accessible Automated External Defibrillators throughout Wales and to promote their use and training within the education system.

I recognise how effective defibrillators can be and the impact they can make in terms of survival in the event of a cardiac arrest.

Early Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and prompt use of a defibrillator can increase a person's chance of surviving a cardiac arrest. The Welsh Government wants to see good coverage of defibrillators across the country, as well as more people who feel confident to use them and to undertake CPR. To achieve this, the Welsh Government published our Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Plan and formed the Save a Life Cymru Partnership. We have provided funding to the Save a Life Cymru campaign, which is working with organisations across Wales to raise awareness of the importance of CPR training and the use of defibrillators through the 'Touch Someone's Life' campaign. Part of this work concerns the current and future management of defibrillators; as currently defibrillators are purchased by a range of organisations, including charities and community groups.

You may be aware of the recent update I provided to Senedd members on the progress implementing the Out of Hospital Cardiac arrest plan and also the work of Save a Life Cymru, which can be found at: <https://gov.wales/written-statement-update-progress-implementing-out-hospital-cardiac-arrest-plan>.

Communities and organisations which already have defibrillators are being encouraged to register them on [The Circuit](#) – more than 5,420 are registered. Just under 50 per cent of these defibrillators are registered with guardians who make sure they are ready for use with regular checks on batteries and pads. We recognise there are still a significant number of defibrillators within communities which are not currently registered and which do not have guardians and would encourage your council to work with Save a Life Cymru and the Welsh Ambulance Service to ensure that all the defibrillators within your council area are both

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

registered on The Circuit and have a guardian. There is an online mapping tool which can be publically accessed here:

<https://111.wales.nhs.uk/LocalServices/default.aspx?s=DefibrillatorLocations&locale=en>.

You may wish to note that Save a Life Cymru will shortly be advertising for community support officers to work locally with organisations within each local health board area, you may wish to work in collaboration with them once appointed. Should you wish to contact Save a Life Cymru to discuss joint working they can be contacted via:

SaveALifeCymru@wales.nhs.uk.

Finally, you might like to highlight to the community groups and organisations within your area that a further £500,000 is being made available this year for the purchase of more defibrillators across Wales. The application process for applying for one of the Welsh Government funded defibrillators is now open and further details can be found at:

<https://gov.wales/apply-for-a-community-public-access-defibrillator>.

I am grateful for the Council's support in taking forward this life saving initiative.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services