

Clun Valley AED Scheme

Making Life Safer in Clun Valley

AED Statement

The original idea was the initiative of a local businessman and the parent of a First Responder; his belief was to create a mechanism whereby Automated External Defibrillators (AED) could be applied to a patient of a suspected cardiac arrest as quickly as possible. Evidence has proven that for every minute defibrillation is delayed, chances of survival decrease by around 10%. Sudden Cardiac arrest claims over 75,000 lives in the United Kingdom every year, over 80% of those who suffer a cardiac arrest can be treated by a defibrillator. If a defibrillator arrives quickly enough 85% of these patients could have survived, this action is of the utmost importance in towns, villages and rural dwellings in South Shropshire where emergency services would be delayed. Following discussions with the community response section of the West Midlands ambulance service, which gave it their support the scheme, progressed to forming the Clun Valley AED Scheme Steering Committee, whereby these units could be located in a variety of public buildings within the area. Volunteers would be familiarised with the use and trained by specialists to use them. The proposed units are pieces of sophisticated equipment that analyses the hearts rhythm and will advise the user when a shock is necessary. It also gives step-by-step instructions on what to do and has a small image on the pads to show where they should be placed on the patient. Following a cardiac arrest, the information that has been recorded within the AED can be obtained by an officers from the Ambulance Service so that healthcare professionals can see what events have occurred and take this into account when planning the patient's ongoing care. The machine will never administer a shock when it is not necessary to do so.