



## Valley Community Council

### COMMUNITY PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR POLICY

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#### Introduction

Valley Community Council supports the Welsh Government's drive to improve community access to defibrillators and boost out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival rates.

The key aim is to ensure that each defibrillator can help the maximum number of people and to enable access to strategically placed defibrillators on community buildings or sports grounds which will provide maximum benefit within communities.

#### Background

Defibrillators have historically been placed in busy public areas, workplaces and other locations and have been purchased by organisations, including charities, local communities, businesses and commercial companies, gyms, schools and dental surgeries. Some, but not all of these are available for public access, are not registered on The Circuit and many are not available 365 days per year and at all times of day or night, so do not provide the public with optimal access.

It has also been the case that some defibrillators may never get used because emergency services don't know where they are or how to access them. That is why they need to be registered on The Circuit enabling the Welsh Ambulance Service.

Organisations may contact the Customer Care Department at the Circuit for practical guidance and they can register their defibrillator on The Circuit Website:-

[The Circuit - the national defibrillator network](#)

To register on The Circuit, the defibrillator must have an electricity supply in order that The Circuit can notify and alert the Guardians if any item needs to be replaced or the defibrillator has been used.

## **Valley Community Council's Approach**

### **Provision of defibrillators on Community Buildings**

Valley Community Council manage Parc Mwd and as the pavilion is the only community building/sport ground within the village, the Council is committed to providing a defibrillator within this area, subject to available resources or an application being submitted by an organisation, e.g. charity, local community group or sport club. The criteria for consideration is as follows:-

- identified with rationale the best place to site a defibrillator (there is currently no defibrillator within 500m of the proposed site)
- have purchased or fundraised for a heated defibrillator cabinet and it has been installed on an external wall in an area which is accessible 24/7
- have an electricity supply so that the defibrillator is maintained at the right temperature, to prevent the battery and pads from deteriorating. (This cost shall be met by Valley Community Council.)
- ensure the defibrillator will be available for public use 24/7
- register the defibrillator on The Circuit database
- appoint a defibrillator guardian (for regular maintenance) in conjunction with the Community Council.
- have a backup guardian to cover absence
- ensure they hold awareness sessions for individuals involved in the organisation/group on CPR/defibrillation skills

### **Provision of defibrillators by organisations for sitting within the Community but not on public buildings.**

Valley Community Council shall not take responsibility for seeking consent for fitting, management or maintenance of defibrillators on buildings/locations for which they are not already responsible. This responsibility shall lie with the acquiring organisation.

Community organisations who are considering acquiring a defibrillator, are strongly recommended to first seek guidance which is freely available from both The Circuit and the Welsh Ambulance Trust. They may wish to consider the eligibility criteria currently set out by the Valley Community Council as a guideline for organisations wishing to acquire a defibrillator to be placed on a community building. This replicates the eligibility criteria set out by the Welsh Government as part of their Community Public Access Defibrillator Application and is considered to be good practice:-

- identified with rationale the best place to site a defibrillator (there is currently no defibrillator within 500m of the proposed site) and obtained the site owner's consent to install a defibrillator in the identified location.
- have purchased or fundraised for a heated defibrillator cabinet and it has been installed on an external wall in an area which is accessible 24/7
- have an electricity supply so that the defibrillator is maintained at the right temperature, to prevent the battery and pads from deteriorating
- ensure the defibrillator will be available for public use 24/7
- register the defibrillator on The Circuit database
- appoint a defibrillator guardian (for regular maintenance)
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