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Press Release

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Saturday 19th April 2008 saw the launch of Worth Valley Community First Responders Service (WVCFR).

This new service is a partnership with Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust, and provides trained volunteers who are dispatched (by the ambulance service) to Category A 999 calls, which are the most serious, life-threatening calls. The aim of the scheme is to provide early medical treatment to prevent deterioration of the patient, prior to the arrival of an Emergency Ambulance.

Community First Responders are volunteers who provide immediate life-saving care to members of their local communities in an emergency medical situation such as heart attack, breathing difficulties or collapse, in the vital minutes before the ambulance arrives.

They are trained in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which delivers a controlled electric shock to restart the heart.

This new service will in no way negate the need for an Ambulance to attend the call.

Worth Valley Community First Responders will attend any person aged over 18 years, who is suffering from heart problems, heart attacks, breathing difficulties, convulsions, unconsciousness, cardiac arrest (heart & breathing stopped), diabetic emergencies, strokes, choking patients and anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions). These calls are classified as Category 'A' automatically by the ambulance services computer system. The team cannot attend calls involving persons under 18, trauma, road traffic collisions or calls involving violence. Members must comply with road speeds, and laws at all times, and do not use blue lights or sirens.

They are activated by a pager message and are mobile within 1 minute of the call being received.

WVCFR is the result of over 3 years work by Cllr Peter Hill. Cllr Hill dedicated his time to setting up the team and securing the initial funding from local Parish Councils – to whom WVCFR are extremely grateful. Cllr Hill remains a committed, responder, heavily involved with the team.

NHSDirect: 0845 46 47 - In emergency dial 999 for Ambulance

Haworth Parish Council in Partnership with Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust



Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust 

Members of the team are also available to give talks to local groups on the work we do.

Team Coordinator, James Lee said “I was delighted to be asked by Cllr Hill to lead this committed and dedicated team, who as well as working fulltime also give so much of their personal time for the benefit of the local community. I am proud of the difference the team is making already, and the professionalism they are showing to each patient they treat.

He continued “Whilst the actual equipment (defibrillator, Oxygen and emergency equipment) is supplied as part of the ongoing support from Yorkshire Ambulance Service, we rely on grants and public donations for things such as Training venues, training equipment, Hi-visibility jackets, printing costs and other sundry items. The people of the Worth Valley will see us at local fetes and galas, and are welcome to find out more about what we do and how they can help. Collection tins are also planned for local businesses and we would welcome invitations to ‘home’ one of our boxes.”

WVCFR is always on the lookout for more volunteers, so if you can spare a few hours each week and are over 18, with either a vehicle or access to a vehicle and driver, please give the Team coordinator a call on 07528 067870 or email: worth.responders@yahoo.co.uk. No previous experience is necessary, as Yorkshire Ambulance Service provides full, free training.

Notes to Editors

- First Responders are volunteer members of the community who are trained to respond to emergency calls through the 999 system, in conjunction with the Ambulance Service.
- Responders provide immediate care to patients in rural areas where distance may delay the prompt arrival of an ambulance, and work in partnership with, and are dispatched by, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust.
- They are trained to deliver Basic Life Support and defibrillation to patients in Cardiac Arrest and other appropriate calls including oxygen administration to patients suffering from a range of conditions.
- Worth Valley Community First Responders were formed in January 2008, and went operational in April 2008.
- Worth Valley Community First Responders currently have 8 Fully Trained Responders, with 4 more due to undergo training, although new members are being recruited and trained all the time.
- We cover the whole of the Worth Valley Electoral ward, an area of approximately 40 square miles, with a population of around 17,000 people. Typically this means Worth Valley Community First Responders provide cover to the villages of Oakworth, Stanbury, Oldfield, Haworth, Lees, Crossroads, and Oxenhope
- First Responders do NOT replace the Ambulance Service, or negate the need for an ambulance to attend the call. They also cannot stop an ambulance from attending.

For more information, please visit: www.worthvalleyresponders.webs.com

Or contact James Lee, Team Co-ordinator on 07528 067870

