



**East of England Ambulance Service**  
NHS Trust

## **Grafham Water Community First Responder Scheme**

We would like to make you aware of an impending initiative to establish a Community (Ambulance) First response scheme in this area. Once fully established, we hope the scheme will benefit five Parish Council areas, which cover the General Practitioner Surgery areas of Great Staughton and Buckden.



The Grafham Water Community First Responder Scheme will be made up of volunteers who, within the community in which they live or work, have been trained to attend emergency calls received by the East of England Ambulance NHS Trust and provide 'first aid' until an emergency ambulance arrives.

They will be tasked and deployed through the Ambulance Service Emergency Operations Centre.

The idea behind the scheme is a simple one; local people with the appropriate training and equipment can get to local emergencies quickly because they are just around the corner. Time in responding is a very important factor and ambulances can't be everywhere at once.

Sudden cardiac arrest claims around 150,000 lives each year within the United Kingdom, with survival rates being around 3 - 5% outside of a hospital setting. If a person's heart has stopped due to an accident or heart attack and is in a rhythm called ventricular fibrillation, the only way to get the heart into a more regular sustaining beat is to pass an electrical charge through the heart muscle. The first eight minutes are the most vital for the collapsed person and if first aid and a defibrillator are on hand, then the chance of survival will increase considerably.

In Cambridgeshire, thanks to Community First Response Groups working with the ambulance trust, the survival rate is between 21 – 23%.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a Community First Responder and live (or work) in either Great Staughton, Dillington, Perry, Buckden, Grafham, Ellington Thorpe or Ellington, please contact Richard or Phillipa Winsor via E Mail: [kingfisher.10@btinternet.com](mailto:kingfisher.10@btinternet.com)