

Scottish Ambulance Service FIRST RESPONDERS



Press Release – Newtown and St Boswells Community First Responders receives essential money from Awards for All.

Date: 30th November 2013

Newtown and St Boswells Community First Responders are a small group of volunteers who operate day and night to support the Scottish Ambulance Service, providing early intervention in the event of life-threatening heart conditions. The group is delighted to announce that they have been awarded a grant of £6,590 by Awards for All, part of the Big Lottery Fund, with which to purchase vital equipment. The money will allow the group to buy the most up to date defibrillator (FR3) used by First Responders, a medical response bag and uniforms, and a range of vital training equipment which the group can use to train themselves and others in the community.

As a result of this grant, more people may well have a better chance of survival in Newtown and St Boswells, and the surrounding areas. Volunteer First Responders help to reduce emergency response times and provide life-saving first aid. Every second counts when dealing with cardiac arrest and other life-threatening conditions, which is where the First Responders can help. When an ambulance is called to such an incident and a First Responder is available in the area, they will also be called out, often arriving ahead of the ambulance so that they can administer necessary treatment. Defibrillators play a huge part in this – the sooner a patient experiencing cardiac arrest is treated with a defibrillator, the better chance of survival they have. Basic skills, such as those used by Community First Responders prevent patients from deteriorating ahead of the arrival of paramedics.

Newtown and St Boswells Community First Responders has been operating for about 6 months, with 4 fully-trained volunteers providing on-call support whenever they can. However, with such a small group it is impossible to be available all the time, so they are looking to recruit more volunteers from the local area. If you are interested in becoming a Community First Responder, or want to find out more about Heart Start training in Newtown and St Boswells, then please email boswellsfr@operamail.com, or telephone 07881 647818.