

# South Central Ambulance Service

Last year Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council kindly awarded a £900 grant towards the South Central Ambulance Service Community First Responder scheme in Wolverton. Community First Responders (CFRs) are volunteers who are trained by South Central Ambulance NHS Trust to respond to 999 calls in their local community and they provide emergency lifesaving treatment until an ambulance arrives. CFRs do not receive any funding from the ambulance service for their equipment and therefore the grant provided by Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council contributed towards the purchase of the equipment needed.

Since I became a CFR in September 2015, I have attended over 150 incidents in and around the Wolverton and Greenleys area. These range from cardiac arrests and chest pains to breathing difficulties and strokes for people of all ages. Living in Wolverton means that I am often able to arrive and support the patient before the ambulance arrives. Once the ambulance arrives CFRs then handover to the arriving ambulance crew and support them further if necessary. CFRs are dispatched to an emergency call by South Central Ambulance Emergency Control Centre if they feel it is appropriate via a pager.

The equipment I carry as a CFR includes a defibrillator, airway management, oxygen and a range of other medical equipment. The defibrillator alone costs £1000. Recently I have undertaken a new course delivered by the CFR team which now allows me to commence a range of additional observations including blood sugar monitoring, blood pressure and temperature checks. This additional observation equipment alone cost over £200. Therefore the grant from Wolverton and Greenleys Town council was used alongside additional funds collected by the scheme to purchase all of this equipment.

CFRs have to commit to a minimum of 20 hours a month on call, have their own transport and be physically fit. Across the South Central Ambulance

region there are over 1300 active CFRs. If you are interested in becoming a CFR you can find out more information from the South Central Ambulance NHS Trust website or contact 0800 587 0207/ [cfr@scas.nhs.uk](mailto:cfr@scas.nhs.uk).

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