



Cambridge Student & Community First Responders (SCFR)



Who is a Community first responder?

A Community First Responder is a volunteer who is trained by the ambulance service to attend emergency calls. Their aim is to reach a potential life threatening emergency in the first vital minutes before the ambulance crew arrives on scene.

Participating in this schemes provides Junior Doctors with an excellent opportunity to increase their experience of Pre-Hospital Medicine at a junior level whilst helping out in the local community. There will also be opportunities to mentor and teach medical students.

Why have we founded this scheme?

The Student and Community First Responders scheme (CSFR) is set up in memory of Douglas Gray Stephens, a keen First Aider both at work and at home.

This is Student Responder 2nd scheme of its kind in the country, and 1st joint services care offering a collaboration between Students and Community Responders. Instead of volunteering from home, personnel respond from a strategic standby point in pairs, in a Dynamic Response Vehicle (DRV). The DRV carries a range of basic medical equipment, including oxygen, airway devices, and crucially an Automated Electric Defibrillator. It is dispatched to Category A emergencies to provide immediate medical care until the ambulance service arrives on scene.

How do I become a SCFR?

You just have to be physically fit and be willing to contribute to a worthwhile cause.

All participants signing up for the scheme undergo an enhanced CRB check and driving test (for those wishing to drive the DRV) before receiving 1.5 days of training from the Ambulance Service. The next training weekend is 18-19th April.

After training, you simply sign up for a shift online. You collect the marked vehicle from Addenbrooke's Hospital Ambulance station and are sent to an on-call area from where you may be dispatched to any Category A emergencies in and around Cambridgeshire.

What are the commitments?

SCFR asks for a minimum commitment of 10-12 hours per month, averaged over 6 months, and attendance of a refresher evening every 3 months. Shifts are available 24 hours a day, for a minimum of 4 hours duration.

How else can you help out?

Become a volunteer supporter of the East of Ambulance Service and help us to raise funds. It costs £5000-£6000 per year to run this scheme including the car, equipment and training.