



BRANSGORE COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Registered Charity No. 1049778

Bransgore, in the New Forest, Hampshire
England

Parents/Grandparents/Carers of pupils at Bransgore Primary School

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED- Could you help save a life?

Bransgore Primary School has kindly agreed to let us approach parents/carers and grandparents of pupils for some help, by way of this letter home with pupils.

We are seeking some new members to join us. If you live in Bransgore (or Burley) could you give a few hours a week to be part of our team. ***Our service saves lives!***

Community First Responders are local people, just like you, who are volunteers trained and despatched by the ambulance service to patients with a life threatening medical emergency, to provide basic life support care until the arrival of the ambulance response. No previous experience needed as you will receive all necessary training over one weekend. You must be of good character and have use of a car. Once you have attended your first couple of calls and subject to a driver assessment, use of the group's response cars may be possible. You will attend 999 calls where a life may be at risk within a 5-8 minute drive of the village centre, within speed limits and without blue lights or sirens. You will be supported by the other group members until confident to work alone or with another. This work is extremely rewarding, and the calls are not too frequent. When "on-call" you are at home doing all things you might be doing normally until you are alerted to a call by the ambulance service. Our friendly and supportive group are there to assist you with refresher training and the odd meeting to exchange information. You will have the opportunity to observe and assist paramedics and ambulance crews

Hours - as many as you wish, when you wish but we ask for a minimum commitment of 20 hours a month as we invest in training and time for you and provide you with the uniform and equipment you need.

Rewards - You are not paid but you will incur little or no expense. You will be the sort of person who gets the satisfaction of knowing you have helped someone at a time of medical crisis.

Most people, with the excellent training provided, can be an effective community first responder.

You are never knowingly sent to a call where you may be in any danger so no road traffic collisions, no assaults, no calls involving drugs or suicide.

Types of calls a Community First Responder might attend:

- Cardiac Arrest
- Stroke
- Diabetic emergencies
- Traumatic emergencies (not road traffic collisions)
- Heart attack
- Choking
- Unconscious patients
- Chest Pain
- Patients suffering from seizures
- Breathing difficulties
- Paediatric/child emergencies.

In case of cardiac arrest, for every minute that passes without cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation, a patient's chances of survival decreases by 10%. Community First Responders answer calls in their neighbourhood, therefore, the potential for them to arrive on scene before an ambulance, especially in rural areas, is vital in providing immediate life-saving treatment. These extra minutes do help to save lives.

For more information visit our website at www.brangorecommunityresponders.org.uk or contact our co-ordinator Mike Jukes via our answerphone **0844 500 9699** and we will get back to you for a "no commitment" chat or Email us at enquiries@brangorecommunityresponders.org.uk

What is a Community First Responder?

"A person trained as a minimum in basic life support and the use of a defibrillator, who attends a potentially life-threatening emergency.

What does a Community First Responder do?

Community First Responders(CFRs) use life-saving skills, such as the use of the automated external defibrillator (AED), to provide early and often vital intervention for patients suffering life-threatening emergencies in the immediate vicinity of where they live or work. Once an ambulance crew arrives at the scene, CFRs work alongside a clinically qualified practitioner.

How do they know what to do?

Community First Responders are trained by the ambulance service to provide life-saving treatment at a recognised level and they are always backed up with the nearest available ambulance resource. Every six months, there is a compulsory training to refresh skills.

Types of calls a Community First Responder might attend can be seen on the first page

Why are CFRs so valuable and vital?

Because minutes really can save lives in many cases.

How we started

Bransgore Rotary Club raised enough money to start us off in 2005. The money was needed to purchase the emergency life support equipment bag and the all important defibrillator, and to pay for and kit out the individual volunteers. Because the group is required to be self sufficient and receives no direct funding from the NHS or government, fund raising is necessary to pay for the equipment and other costs. This equipment includes the defibrillators, equipment bags, replacement batteries, uniform etc.

From Bransgore we cover Burley, Neacroft, Holmsley, Sopley, Avon, Bisterne, Beckley. We can reduce response times and improve our service for residents in Sopley, Burley and Burley Street if we had local volunteers already in those areas, so we are seeking volunteers for those areas too.

Being a CFR is very rewarding and satisfying. It can be demanding on occasions but both our group and the ambulance service are there to support you. However we know it may not be for everyone so if it's not for you, please share this letter with others in the village as there will be some others who may be able to help. This is a commitment so if you only want to join to improve your CV please think carefully as we will expect that minimum 20 hours per month (in small bits as you prefer) when you are ready to "respond" if required.

Not sure if it's for you? Why not give us a call on **0844 500 9699**, leave your details and we will call you back and explain more. It really is worth it.

Did you know that our colleagues from "*Heartstart Bransgore-New Forest*" offer a FREE two and a half hour training session to teach ordinary members of the public how to save a life using simple skills. We can show you how to save a life in cases of cardiac arrest, serious bleeding, unconscious patients, heart attacks and choking. The life you save may be one you love. Leave your details on **0844 500 9699** and we will add you to our list. Max 12 persons per session and its FREE!.

Please consider helping us “*Make a Difference*” in Bransgore. Thank You

