



Suffolk Accident Rescue Service

Registered Charity Number: 1168764

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SARS UPDATE

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT 2020-21

SARS receives no central government or NHS funding and we rely on voluntary grants and donations to maintain and expand our clinical resources. SARS clinical volunteers have been operational in Suffolk since 1972 and your support ensures that they can continue to have a positive impact on time-critical patients within the local community. Our clinicians are some of the most experienced pre-hospital clinicians in the region and include Consultants in Emergency Medicine, Consultant Anaesthetists, Critical Care Paramedics and Advanced Clinical Practitioners. This skill-base means that they can utilise specialist equipment and drugs which are not normally found on frontline ambulances. A SARS team or solo responder can therefore often undertake complex procedures which would not normally be possible outside the hospital environment. These can be truly lifesaving interventions as well as reducing the chances of patients suffering permanent disability and providing fast relief from pain.

Over the last financial year (April 2020 – March 2021) SARS volunteer responders were mobilised 356 times. This represents nearly a call a day despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic. Calls attended included serious road traffic collisions, cardiac arrests, serious falls, equestrian and sporting incidents, psychiatric episodes and stabbings. Interventions undertaken by SARS responders included anaesthesia, sedations, surgical procedures, and advanced airway management. The most critical patients were often accompanied by a SARS clinician to hospital to ensure their condition remained stable throughout.



SARS RRV at the scene of a serious road traffic collision

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Our solo network of 13 clinicians volunteered over 4,000 hours of on-call coverage and responded to 256 calls for assistance in numerous locations across Suffolk. Our mobile critical care team vehicles SMED20 and SMED26, which carry doctor and paramedic teams, were mobilised to a further 100 incidents. In total, SARS clinicians volunteered over 6,000 hours of their spare time during the most challenging period of our charity's history.



New SARS responders undertaking advanced training in March 2021

The new financial year has seen our activity increase even further with nearly 100 calls responded to already since April 2021. At the beginning of April we also received an amazing donation from a local business, Smarter Metering Services in Newmarket. They have given us another team rapid response vehicle SMED27! This has allowed us to accelerate existing plans to permanently base a SARS team vehicle in East Suffolk as well as one at our existing Woolpit HQ. We are now running team shifts from both sides of the county which will allow us to help even more patients.

"I fully appreciate that I am still here thanks to your team's efforts. Thank you so much for everything you did, I will be eternally grateful." Harvey, SARS patient 2020

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2020-21 - FUNDRAISING & EXPENDITURE

Our accounts are currently being independently verified but we estimate that we raised around £144,000 and expended just under £145,000 resulting in a small deficit. Considering the extreme pressure many charities have faced over the last 14 months, almost breaking even feels like a positive outcome for which we are very thankful to all our supporters, particularly our local councils who have historically supported SARS through thick and thin. Your donations helped us cover our running costs throughout this very challenging period. They also helped us equip two new rapid response vehicles, set up a new solo responder and take on eight new team clinicians who are now crewing on our team vehicles across the county. This represents a significant increase in our resources which is already having direct benefits for local patients.



Colin Treece, Critical Care Paramedic, became a new SARS solo responder in November 2020. He has already responded to over 40 incidents.

2021-22 – STRATEGIC AIMS

We are keen to invest as much of the funding that we receive on projects that will help us achieve our aim of treating more patients and improving their outcomes. This financial year we need to raise around £144,000 to maintain and expand our existing clinical resources. This will enable us to commit significant expenditure to training for new and existing SARS responders as well as investing in support for their health and wellbeing. It will also allow us to cover the running costs of all our team vehicles and solo responders and ensure that we can continue to maintain an essential stock of critical equipment and spares. These projects cost many thousands of pounds but have an immediate impact and will provide benefits to patients for years to come.

We are truly grateful for your continued support and very appreciative of any assistance you can give us this year. We hope that you and your communities stay safe.

For further information, please contact us at SARS HQ, admin@sars999.org.uk, 01359 244186. Our annual report can be found on the charity commission site, [charity number 1168764](#).