

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New defibrillator available to Surbiton community following purchase by The Royal Star & Garter Homes

A lifesaving defibrillator has been fitted outside The Royal Star & Garter Home in Surbiton.

The device, which delivers an electric current to restart the heart when someone is in cardiac arrest, has been placed in a prominent position by the main entrance of the care home, and is available for the community to use.

It can be seen from the busy Upper Brighton Road and bus stop near the junction with Langley Road, and has also been registered with the London Ambulance Service (LAS), meaning staff at the Home will be notified if someone nearby has collapsed.



The device is designed to be used by someone with no medical training, with an in-built speaker giving simple step-by-step instructions to operate.

It cost £850 and was purchased by the Charity following two incidents where members of the public collapsed on the road close to the Home.

On one occasion last year, Trainee Nurse Associate and Clinical IT Lead Michelle Nicholls (pictured), who works at Claremont Medical Centre in Surbiton, saved the life of a collapsed cyclist by administering CPR and mouth-to-mouth before paramedics arrived.

Michelle, who went on to work on a Trainee Nursing Associate placement at The Royal Star & Garter Homes in December last year, said: *“I’m very happy that there’s a defibrillator here. It’s good news for the whole community. Anybody can use it and it could save someone’s life.”*

Registration of the machine with the LAS means The Royal Star & Garter Homes will be notified if a 999 call for a cardiac arrest is made within 100 metres of the Home.

The Charity is alerting community organisations including schools, Scouts and churches of the defibrillator.



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Pauline Shaw, the Charity's Director of Care, said: *"Defibrillators save lives, so we're delighted to make this invaluable purchase. We're now letting the community know it's here so that if it's ever needed, people can come here for help."*

Chris Hartley Sharpe, London Ambulance Service Head of First Responders said: *"Public access defibrillators are safe and simple to use and give people who suffer a cardiac arrest in the community a chance of life. Every second counts in a cardiac arrest. It is vital the patient receives immediate life-saving attention in the form of chest compressions and early defibrillation. We applaud The Royal Star & Garter Home in Surbiton for purchasing a defibrillator and registering it with us and also for ensuring the local community have access."*

Tim Harrison, editor of the free Surbiton community newspaper The Good Life, said: *"This is fantastic news. The area is starting to build a vital network of defibrillators in key locations and it is great that The Royal Star & Garter Home is playing such a key part in this."*

END

For further information please contact:

Goolistan Cooper
Communications Officer
e: goolistan.cooper@starandgarter.org
t: 0208 481 7669 / 07391 868796

Cally Madden
Marketing & Communications Manager
e: cally.madden@starandgarter.org
t: 020 8481 7692 / 07881 017299

About The Royal Star & Garter Homes:

The Charity provides award-winning care for military veterans and their partners who live with disability or dementia.

The Royal Star & Garter Homes is a charity founded in 1916 to care for the severely injured men returning from the battlegrounds of the First World War.

Today our friendly, state-of-the-art Homes offer a pioneering approach to nursing, dementia and therapeutic care. We have award-winning Homes in Solihull, West Midlands and Surbiton, Surrey. Our third Home in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire opens in spring 2019.

We continue to expand our services to reach even more veterans. In 2018, we were able to support 185 residents and over 60 guests at the Star & Garter Club, our day care service. We also offer interim care for young disabled Service personnel. We provided 11,700 individual sessions of physiotherapy and speech & language therapy last year to support our residents' health, and over 5,600 places to residents for activities, outings and events, to promote well-being.



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We are proud to have enjoyed Royal patronage since our foundation, including that of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from 1953 to the present day.

Twitter: @starandgarter

Facebook: facebook.com/starandgarter

Website: www.starandgarter.org



The Royal Star & Garter Homes is a member of the National Care Forum – the leading voice for not-for-profit care providers. A national perspective may be available from info@nationalcareforum.org.uk or by contacting 02476243619. More details on NCF available at www.nationalcareforum.org.uk.

