

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Solihull Home joins UK-wide defibrillator trial to help save lives

The Royal Star & Garter Homes in Solihull is taking part in a new life-saving initiative.

The Charity is volunteering to take part in The Circuit: The National Defibrillator Network, which is being trial-run by The West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) and the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

The aim of the project is to create a UK wide network of defibrillators which will be accessed by all UK ambulance services. The trial is taking place in West Midlands, with The Royal Star & Garter Homes among the organisations registering in the area.



The BHF say the network will link ambulance services with the public in a bid to help save more lives from cardiac arrests. It will allow ambulance services to easily and quickly direct people to their nearest defibrillator so that more lives can be saved by members of the public.

Home Manager Cheryl Harbourne said: *“Our defibrillator is here for the community to use. By being part of this trial and working with West Midlands Ambulance Service and British Heart Foundation, we hope that if it should ever be needed, members of the public will have easy access to the device and put it to good use.”*

WMAS General Manager Nick Henry said: *“The Trust is so pleased and grateful that The Royal Star & Garter Home is able to assist in the first local trial session for The Circuit: National Defibrillator Network. It’s so important to get this project right for patients who need the automated external defibrillator quickly.”*

Bharat Solanki, Programme Manager at the British Heart Foundation, said: *“We hope the National Defibrillator Network will save lives by enabling the emergency services to locate defibrillators when someone goes into cardiac arrest. We hope this will prevent thousands of avoidable deaths in years to come.”*

The Royal Star & Garter Home in Surbiton purchased a defibrillator, which is registered with London Ambulance Service, earlier this year. Plans are also in place for a defibrillator at the Charity’s new Home in High Wycombe.

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Caring for the nation's military family since 1916

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Caption: Home manager Cheryl Harbourne with the defibrillator

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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, opened in April 2019.

We continue to expand our services to reach even more veterans. In 2018, we were able to support 186 residents in our Homes and 36 guests at 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.

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

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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.

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