

<b>REPORT TO:</b>		Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>DATE:</b>		25 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>		Overview and Scrutiny Officer; Regeneration Manager	
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>		Defibrillators in Hyndburn	
<b>EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)</b>	<b>No</b>	Not applicable	
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<b>No</b>	If yes, date of publication:	

### 1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with background information relating to problems associated with publically accessible AED (defibrillators) in Hyndburn.

### 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the information in this report alongside that provided by NWAS and makes a recommendation accordingly.

### 3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

- 3.1 In 2016, Huncoat and Central/Springhill Area Councils authorised capital expenditure on 9 Defibrillators which were installed at publically accessible sites across these areas. These were installed on a mixture of Council, private and third sector buildings in strategic places in line with guidance from NWAS. As part of the installation process, the Council, with support from NWAS, produced an agreement which laid out the responsibilities of each party (Council, NWAS and building owner) with regards to the ongoing maintenance of each AED. Building owners agreed to supply electricity to the cabinet and to carry out regular visual inspections to ensure the AED was functional, and report any issues to the NWAS.
- 3.2 Area Councils provided the initial capital funding but no budget was identified at the time for ongoing costs. The battery and pads must be replaced on each AED every 2 years or whenever an AED is used (around £100 each time). In addition, AEDs can go missing or be damaged (£1,000 per AED). Foreseeing the potential for ongoing costs and lack of suitable council department identified to take responsibility for the AEDs, Leaders Policy Development board decided that any future area council applications

for the installation of an AED must come from a third party, who would purchase, maintain and be responsible for the AED themselves.

3.3 There are now 20 publically accessible AEDs in the Borough which NWAS have informed the Regeneration Manager that the Council should be responsible for as they have funded it in some way or are named as a responsible person. These can be split into 4 groups:

1. 3 x AEDs purchased by the Council for use on Council buildings (highlighted green)
2. 11 x AEDs purchased by the Council through the Area Council Grant Funding as requested by Councillors
3. 5 x AEDs purchased by third parties using a grant provided by Area Councils (highlighted pink)
4. 1 x AED funded by a Community Group but placed on a Council building (highlighted blue)

3.4 The list of the AEDs including location and ownership can be seen below

Location	Address	Number-CPAD
Griffin pub	Burnley Rd, Huncoat, Accrington BB5 6LD	
Whittaker's	322 Burnley Rd, Accrington BB5 6HG	
Mapleford Nursing Home	Bolton Ave, Accrington BB5 6HN	
Point control	Enterprise Ct, Huncoat Industrial Estate, Accrington BB5 6TS	
Railway pub	9 Station Rd, Huncoat, Accrington BB5 6NG	
Peel park	The Coppice, Avenue Parade Entrance BB5 2DQ	
Fryer ct	Friar Ct, Accrington BB5 1AJ	no number
Broadway	Town Hall, Broadway, Accrington BB5 1LA	
Market Hall	Market Way, BB5 1EJ	
Raza Jamia Masjid	39 Lower Antley St, Accrington BB5 0AB	
Al Hamza	161 Richmond Rd, Accrington BB5 0JB	
Sure start	The Beeches, 28-10 Rimmington Avenue, Accrington, BB5 0NP	
Scaitcliffe Community Centre	Hannah St, Accrington BB5 0QX	
Scaitcliffe	Scaitcliffe House, Ormerod Street, Accrington, BB5 0PF	
Woodnook	Woodnook Church, Royds St, Accrington BB5 2HU	
Baxenden	Baxenden Con Club, Manchester Road, BB5 2BE	No number
Haworth Art Gallery	Haworth Art Gallery, Hollins Lane, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 2JS	
Sandy lane	84 Sandy Lane, Accrington BB5 2AN	
Arthur Wilson Centre	Pickup Street, Clayton Le Moors, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 5NR	
Peel Park Hotel / pub	Turkey Street, Accrington, BB5 6EW	No number

It should be noted that there are several other public AEDs in Hyndburn which the Council have had no involvement with. These have generally been purchased by and are maintained by charities or community groups.

- 3.5 At the current time, there is no single Council department with overall responsibility for the AEDs which is causing several problems, as outlined below:

### **AEDs purchased by the Council for use on Council buildings**

These AEDs are maintained by the Health and Safety Officer and are regularly monitored. There is an existing budget for any repairs, maintenance or replacement pads.

One of the 3 units is missing and needs replacing. There is also an additional unit at Willows Lane but this is not registered as a public AED as it is stored inside the offices where there is no public access.

### **AEDs purchased by the Council through Area Grant Funding as requested by Councillors**

No Council department has responsibility for these AEDs. When purchased originally several Councillors agreed to take responsibility for the monitoring of the defibs, supported by the building owners at the defib locations. Building owners signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to regular visual maintenance checks and reporting of any issues. Historically, any problems went back to the Area Councils department and any costs for maintenance and repair came from additional area grant applications. However, several issues have no arose:

- The Area Council no longer operates and there is no remaining budget
- Several buildings are now closed or have transferred ownership and revised agreements have not been arranged
- Faults are not being reported to NWAS, meaning it is unlikely that building owners are carrying out visual checks on the AEDs as agreed on a weekly basis
- Of the 11 area council purchased AEDs, 6 are currently unusable for various reasons
- There is no Council budget for any repairs, maintenance or replacements

### **AEDS purchased by third parties using a grant provided by Area Councils**

Although purchased using area council funds, these AEDs are not owned by the Council but instead various community groups or charitable organisations. Several issues have arisen with these:

- It appears as though the majority of these AEDs are not being maintained by the current owners as most are currently offline. NWAS records have these defibs listed as owned by the Council, as they purchased them by issuing a grant (However this is not correct, these defibs are owned by the organisations who received the grant)
- The Area Council grants provided to third parties were one off grants for the purchase and installation of AEDs. There are no further grants available for continued maintenance and replacement.

- As the Council does not own these assets, we cannot be responsible for maintaining/replacing them
- Of the 5 AEDs purchased with a grant, 3 are currently unusable for various reasons

### **AED funded by a Community Group but placed on a Council building**

This is currently situated within Haworth Park and HBC check it is available for use, however this was funded by a charity and as such required it to be accessible at all times so it is in an unlocked box in the park. There is no budget for replacing the pads or the item should it go missing.

3.6 The defibrillators cost around £1,000 each, to install one on a site is around £2,000 in total to include the safe and the electrical installations required. The defibrillators are then registered with the Ambulance Service for the general public to make use of in an emergency situation. Without someone taking the overall responsibility for checking them on a weekly basis, and then tracking down any defibs that may have been deployed and replacing any pads that are required, they can become a liability as the Ambulance service could be sending a member of the public to a box with no defib in it, or with out of date equipment in it. Weekly checks need to be made on the defibs because recently it took 5 weeks to locate the defib from Broadway after it was deployed to a town centre emergency. The longer it is before the Ambulance Service are contacted following a 999 call the less chance we have of being able to track down where the defib is and this would mean having to replace the full unit, as happened at Woodnook Church. This was previously given as a grant to the organisation who managed it but then the unit could not be tracked down and was replaced with Area Council funding earlier this year.

3.7 The Committee are asked to give careful consideration to the ongoing issues and the options provided and make an appropriate recommendation.

## **4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 **Not applicable to this report**

## **5. Consultations**

5.1 Not applicable to this report

6. **Implications**

<b>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</b>	Financial implications will vary dependant on which option the Committee chooses to recommend. If the responsibility falls to the Regeneration Team the Facilities Maintenance Officer would take over the role of checking the equipment and this would mean he is able to carry out less repairs which will mean an increase in the costs of general repair and maintenance as contractors will need to be brought in to carry out the repairs at a higher cost than being done in house.
<b>Legal and human rights implications</b>	Possible legal issues with third party owned defibs. The NWAS would need to liaise with the owners of that equipment directly as opposed to via the Council as they are currently, because the owners have the responsibility of maintaining the equipment, not the Council.
<b>Assessment of risk</b>	Not applicable
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b> <i>A <a href="#">Customer First Analysis</a> should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Not applicable

7. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:**  
**List of Background Papers**

7.1 *None*