



# Suffolk Accident Rescue Service

Registered Charity Number: 1168764

Unit 1b, Woolpit Business Park, Windmill Avenue, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds IP30 9UP

Main Office Tel: 01359 244186 - Email: [admin@sars999.org.uk](mailto:admin@sars999.org.uk)

## SARS UPDATE

### THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT 2021-2022

SARS receives no central government or NHS funding and we rely on voluntary grants and donations to maintain and expand our clinical resources. SARS clinicians have been volunteering 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 responders 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 immediate relief from pain.

Since the beginning of this financial year (April 2021) SARS volunteer responders have already been mobilised over 300 times. This represents more than one call out every 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 team RRV SMED27 responding to life-threatening incident on Southwold beach 2021**

# Suffolk Accident Rescue Service



Our solo network of 13 clinicians have already volunteered over 4,000 hours of on-call coverage, this financial year, responding to over 200 calls for assistance in numerous locations across Suffolk. Our mobile critical care team vehicles SMED20, SMED26 and SMED27, which carry doctor and paramedic teams, have also been mobilised to nearly 100 incidents with regular shifts due to take place throughout the winter period.



SARS solo responder vehicle on scene



SARS team RRV SMED26 responding to a serious RTC



*“My husband suffered a sudden cardiac arrest at home, SARS was one of the first on scene. We were completely stunned when we later found out that SARS responders volunteer in their own time. There are no words to express how grateful and thankful both my husband and I are.” Bernie Cleland, 2021*

Bernie and Dave Cleland who was treated by a SARS volunteer critical care paramedic in 2021.

# Suffolk Accident Rescue Service



## RECENT EXPENDITURE

Considering the extreme pressure many charities have faced over the last two years, we are pleased to report that your donations have 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 has enabled us to directly benefit many more patients over the last 12 months. We are very thankful to all our supporters, particularly our local councils who have historically supported SARS through thick and thin.



**SARS clinicians undertaking advanced prehospital training in 2021**

## 2021-22 – STRATEGIC AIMS

SARS invests the funding that we receive on projects that will help us achieve our aim of benefiting more patients and improving their outcomes. This financial year we have a target of raising £144,000 to allow us maintain and expand our existing clinical resources. We have already achieved an increase in our team assets with an additional vehicle, SMED27, donated by Smarter Metering Services in Newmarket. This amazing act of generosity has meant that we can base rapid response vehicles in both East and West Suffolk increasing our coverage and volume of shifts and enabling us to treat more patients.

We are also committed to significant expenditure on training for new and existing SARS responders to ensure the long term sustainability of the charity. We want to create the next generation of SARS clinicians as we look towards our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2022. Finally we need to maintain an essential stock of critical equipment and spares, particularly key assets such as monitoring equipment. These items of kit cost many thousands of pounds but are essential to our work as they facilitate those advanced interventions which help improve patient outcomes in serious medical emergencies.

We are truly grateful for any support you can give us. We hope that you and your communities stay safe.

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