

Report on	Mid Ulster Council Area Community Resuscitation Group Action Plan 2019 – 2023
Date of Meeting	16 th November 2023
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
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Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members on the “Creating a Community of Lifesavers in Mid Ulster Council Area, Community Resuscitation Group, Action Plan 2019 – 2023”.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>The Community Resuscitation Strategy for Northern Ireland was launched in July 2014 with a vision to increase survival for those who suffer an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. The objectives set out in the Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raise public awareness of the importance of early recognition of an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, and the importance of early intervention; • encourage members of the public to intervene in the event of an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest; • increase the availability of, and access to, appropriate and effective CPR training provision across Northern Ireland; • achieve high uptake of CPR training; • make the most efficient use of the resources available to support community resuscitation training • improve the availability of, and access to, the automated external defibrillators that are in place across Northern Ireland, and enhance the capacity of information systems to capture and provide key data on out-of-hospital cardiac arrest and patient outcomes.
2.2	The Creating a Community of Lifesavers in Mid Ulster Council Area, Community Resuscitation Group and Action Plan was established in 2019 and is due to end December 2023.
2.3	The Mid Ulster Plan sets out the priority actions to be taken forward over the period 2019-2023 with an emphasis on CPR/AED and PAD related actions.

2.4	During 2019-2023 and although heavily disrupted by Covid the Mid Ulster Council Area Community Resuscitation working group continued its work where possible to identify and develop the Community Resuscitation themes across district area.
2.5	This required collaboration by all partners to avoid duplication of effort, pool resources and expertise. This collaborative working enabled a Community of Lifesavers to be created within the MUDC area.
2.6	The 2019 – 2023 Action Plan had 6 themes and 17 objectives (further details enclosed within the appendix). Whilst all 17 objectives in the plan commenced in terms of delivery, due to the Covid pandemic and the subsequent reduction in the capacity of all partners involved, some objectives had to be stalled and were unable to be completed. In the end 11 objectives were completed and 6 stalled.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	This 3-year plan is now coming to its natural finish. Lack of capacity and available funding from its key partners will bring this project to an end to this stage but it is felt by all partners that community resuscitation is well embedded now within the District through the Community 1 st Responders, locally based AED's and the ongoing Schools programme.
3.2	As the plan was due to cover 2019 – 2023 and with the plan due to end December 2023, a meeting took place recently with a Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) representative to discuss future options. The NIAS are facing resourcing and capacity challenges and has had to withdraw from implementing and sustaining many aspects of this plan and likewise in other Council areas. The NIAS have advised they don't envisage this position to change in the near future and therefore are not in a position to develop a further community action plan including the provision of training.
3.3	During Covid, the British Heart Foundation ended its Heart Start Programme. This Programme has been the foundation for the Community Defib Programme. NIAS explained this was a major contributing reason why themselves and some other Councils were now not considering reestablishing their group(s) or preparing new action plans. NIAS also confirmed that the loss of the British Heart Foundation Heart Start Programme limited any possible training to CPR and defib training only and not first aid training.
3.4	At present NIAS only has the capacity for a School Programme and is continuing to concentrate on it but has welcomed Councils involvement in it. NIAS did confirm they are still willing to work in partnership and were possible support but at this time are unable to take a leading role.
3.5	The proposed Community training within the Action Plan was disrupted by Covid, the Train the Trainer training did not take place. The funding of equipment for the Train the Trainer Program which was being provided by Sport NI was also disrupted by Covid.

3.6	At present there are four community first responder units in Mid Ulster – they are Mid Ulster, Killeeshil & Galbally, Carntougher & Armagh & Tyrone. NIAS confirmed there has been interest in establishing a group in Cookstown / Killdress area.
3.7	<p>There are Automatic Defibrillators (AEDS) distributed across Council facilities. A list is enclosed with the appendix. Forty (40) AEDs are located on council property. Staff assigned to each AED location have responsibilities to ensure the AEDS are maintained, managed and registered with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service. Groups, organisations/businesses across the District are still actively encouraged to register their AEDS in the Mid Ulster area. At October 2023, there are 236 AEDS registered with NIAS.</p> <p>In order to continue to help raise awareness, Council will maintain updates where it can on the Council website – this includes a link to the Northern Ireland Ambulance map of all registered AEDs: https://www.midulstercouncil.org/resident/health-wellbeing/community-life-saving</p>
3.8	It is however felt that, despite this current plan coming to a natural end in December 2023, that the objectives and actions within the plan period are well embedded now within the District and that local groups still have a mechanism to engage in projects via the community planning process and as part of Council's AED policy and the ongoing documenting mapping and maintenance of local defibs.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council Policies and Procedures included the Councils AED policy.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: Creating a Community of Lifesavers in Mid Ulster Council Area, Community Resuscitation Group, Action Plan 2019 – 2023