



Since the closure of Midhurst Ambulance Station in 2016 South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) has been unable to maintain its promises to keep a fully manned Ambulance Response Post at the Fire Station and as a result this has left Midhurst area residents in a lottery situation as to response times when it comes to calling for an Emergency Ambulance.

As SECAMB was forced to close Ambulance stations across the county, they stepped up their efforts for volunteer support, and as such, the role of Community First Responder (CFR) was born. CFRs are local people, who are trained, and equipped by SECAMB to provide a quick, local response to life-threatening 999 emergencies and are able to provide vital Life Support, Defibrillation, First Aid and Oxygen Therapy prior to the arrival of an ambulance.

As with many volunteer groups, CFRs groups have had varying successes, and the most successful ones have a company or charity structure rather than being a simple group of volunteers

Who we are

Midhurst MEDS (***Medical Emergency District Support***) is a not for profit, Community Interest Company who's members Respond to 999 medical emergencies as Community First responders (CFRs) on behalf of the NHS SECAMB Trust in the Midhurst area. We also assist, manage and recruit new NHS Community First Responders, provide Free CPR and BLS training, maintain PAD sites and serve the local community with improved response times to emergencies and better overall patient experiences

Our founder & director, Oliver Wheeler, is currently our full time responder, that attends emergency calls as a volunteer, but who is paid for the management, promotion, administration and non-responding tasks of the Community Interest Company. By being paid for the "back of house" tasks, it allows him to be "on call" for an average of 300 hours per month. On call times include day shifts, night shifts, weekends and other peak times (Bank holidays, local events etc) as dictated by the demands of South East Coast Ambulance Service.

Oliver has lived in the Midhurst area since 2001. Having spent a number of years in the construction industry, he moved onto property development where he felt his career would remain, until in 2018 he was unexpectedly first on scene at an accident. In the vital minutes he was alone on scene he not only saved a persons life, but it also changed his. Immediately afterwards he signed up for Advanced First Aid courses, Paediatric first aid courses and began looking for a new challenge. After continued training in the First Aid field he then joined SECAMB in 2020 and qualified as a CFR. He is also a qualified Covid Vaccinator and a member of St Johns Ambulance, however due to his time in developing Midhurst MEDS he is no longer in active service with SJA.

Oliver was recently appointed a full time position with London Ambulance Service as an Assistant Ambulance Practitioner (AAP), but has chosen to pursue the role with Midhurst MEDS and continue working within our community. In his personal development he hopes to continue his training within SECAMB to become a CFR assessor and tutor and possibly onto expanded clinical qualifications in the coming years.

In his "spare time" he is the Chairman of 1st Easebourne Scouts & Guides and a member of Cowdray Golf Club

Our Goals

The goal is to now grow the team by adding 4 x part time responders to increase our response coverage to 500 hrs per month within the next 12 months and provide Emergency Ambulance Support cover for Midhurst

Area Residents 24hrs a day 365 days per year by the end of 2024, adding a second dedicated response vehicle to the fleet at that stage.

In rural areas such as ours, a MEDS Responder will be on scene much sooner than an Ambulance can be ,with equipment that can greatly improve the patient's chance of survival and long term quality of life as we are dispatched directly by the South East Coast Ambulance Service 999 call centre to appropriate Category 1&2 emergency calls so we are where it matters, when it matters !

MEDS responders are qualified in the use of defibrillators as well as the administration of Oxygen, Salbutamol, Airway Adjuncts, Suctioning and immediate life support techniques. The training is provided by South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust to a minimum of FROS level 3 and all Responders are re-certified annually, as well as undertaking periodic training to keep their skills up to date and relevant.

MEDS responders also complete a minimum of 2 x 12 hour shifts per year on SECAMB front line Ambulances working as crew to further test and maintain their individual skill set.

Midhurst MEDS receives no National funding and relies entirely on donations, grants and support from local businesses and residents to provide our local lifesaving service

What we do

We currently respond to :

- Cardiac Arrest
- Respiratory Arrest
- Chest Pains & Heart Attacks
- Loss of Consciousness
- Breathing Difficulties
- Collapse
- Seizures
- Shock or Allergic Reaction
- Diabetic emergencies
- Stroke or TIA
- Non violent trauma & Bleeding
- Falls
- Emergency First Aid



Alongside our Emergency Responding, we also :

- Periodically check and maintain SECAMB PAD sites (AEDs)
- Advise and install new PAD sites within our catchment area
- Offer FREE Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Basic life support (BLS) training to local schools, colleges and uniformed groups (Scouts/Guides/Cadets etc)
- Run FREE monthly Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Basic life support (BLS) training for local residents and businesses

Our hopes are to also:

- Gain CQC registration as a stand alone Ambulance response service provider for Midhurst
- Gain full charitable status
- Provide or support SECAMB with a dedicated Falls team

Where we do it :

We provide 999 Emergency Ambulance Support within a 5 mile radius of Midhurst to support our town and the surrounding villages

What have we done so far:

Since launching on 12th May 2021, MEDS has attended 74 emergency 999 calls and been first on scene 68 of those times. We have assessed and treated patients in their own homes, work places and in public outside spaces and we have also been called to support Sussex Police at two safeguarding incidents involving children.

We currently have one fully qualified responder, one "visiting responder" from another CFR group, one volunteer fundraiser and 2 x hopeful CFRs have recently made contact with us

We have secured a dedicated response vehicle (that should be operational by the end of July)

We have also already made a huge impact on patient outcomes with the average time we are on scene before an ambulance being:

8 minutes for Category one calls (Cardiac or respiratory arrest / Seizure / Un-consciousness)
17 minutes for Category two calls (Heart Attack / Stroke / Breathing difficulties)
30 minutes+ for Category 3 calls and falls

What we need:

To provide our services within a 5 mile radius of Midhurst currently costs around £45K per year , and we need to secure regular local funding for this .

"If every household in our catchment area gave 30 pence a week, it would generate the income we need "

Our annual running costs include:

- Wages for non-responding tasks / Accountancy / Administration etc
- Insurances
- Vehicle maintenance
- Advertising and Marketing
- Website fees
- Uniforms
- Training & Development
- Non medical Equipment

AS A NOT FOR PROFIT COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY, ALL SURPLUS FUNDS ARE RETAINED FOR FUTURE USE OR DIRECTLY REINVESTED INTO IMPROVING AND EXPANDING THE SERVICES WE OFFER . WE PAY NO DIVIDENDS, NO BONUSES TO STAFF ETC

Help us:

We are currently recruiting for the following voluntary roles with the anticipated hours per month noted:

- Independent Trustee/director- 8 hours per month - A non Emergency responding volunteer. Ideal candidate would be of high standing in the community such as Local councillor or similar . To provide independent , non clinical reporting & transparency to local donors.

- Responders x 4- providing a minimum of 20 hours each per month ,Responders are recruited in partnership with SECamb and must be able to satisfy the requirements set out by the ambulance trust. In the first instance, interested parties must contact Midhurst MEDS and we can take you through the process and introduce you to South East Coast Ambulance Service .Interested parties can come a take a tour of what we do and how we do it so we can answer any questions they may have

If you are unable to fulfil one of our volunteer roles, you can help by donating to us by visiting our website and giving a one off donation, or a regular monthly amount at

www.999MEDS.com

Email: help@999MEDS.com

Call : 07896 218561

In partnership with



NHS

**South East Coast
Ambulance Service**

NHS Foundation Trust