

## **Community Defibrillation Officer's post makes a difference on the Island.**

Two years ago, the Department of Health set up the National Defibrillator Programme, and trialled 700 community-based defibrillators across various sites throughout England. They were placed in strategic places e.g. airports, train stations, supermarkets etc. Within the first year, there were over 60 successful VF conversions. Following this success, the British Heart Foundation applied to the Big Lottery Fund for £6 million to provide a further 2700 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) across England. The funding also enabled the BHF to appoint 32 experienced paramedics as full-time Community Defibrillation Officers, one for each Ambulance Service. The Isle of Wight Ambulance Service was supported in their application and was awarded ten of these life-saving machines.

The complex geography of the Isle of Wight often challenges the Ambulance Service to meet the 8-minute response time for life-threatening calls. This, together with the knowledge that defibrillation is only successful if applied within the first 5 minutes, led them to enter into a partnership with St John Ambulance, and to set up Neighbourhood First Responder Groups. Neighbourhood First Responders are ordinary members of the public who volunteer to be trained by the Ambulance Service and St John Ambulance in Basic Life Support and Defibrillation, and who can then be sent to potentially life threatening calls in the areas where they live or work. As they are already in the area, they are very likely to arrive before the ambulance, and therefore are able to carry out the first three stages of the Chain of Survival. Four groups are currently operating in East Cowes, Bembridge, Brading and Brighstone, with others to follow. Since June 2005 when Ian Yeo took up the Community Defibrillation Officers post, four patients have been successfully resuscitated and transferred to hospital with spontaneous circulation.

A new support system for the Responders will be the implementation of the *FastText2* system from Winchester based Tel Trak Technologies Ltd. The Isle of Wight Ambulance Service has been successful in a bid to us to buy this system. *FastText2* enables the Ambulance Communications Centre to send location and incident details to an individual or group of Responders, and also enables the Responder to inform the Communications Centre of their status (mobile, at scene, clear, etc) with a couple of clicks on a mobile phone. This system will not only ensure a faster mobilisation of Responders, but also improve safety and security as urgent police assistance can be silently summoned. The system also accurately captures important performance information such as 'At scene' times, as each status message is accurately time stamped.

For further information please contact:

### **Press Contacts**



Contact:  
Richard McPartland

Mob : +44 7791 081 583  
Tel: +44 1962 883 262  
Email: richard@teltrak.com  
Web: www.teltrak.com