

Bath and North East Somerset Council Defibrillators

Bath and North East Somerset Council have worked with organisations across the district to provide defibrillators are managed on a platform called Webnos and are linked into the Ambulance Service. The Community Heartbeat Trust provide Bath and North East Somerset Councils with replacement of consumables and servicing requirements.

Our installations as of September 2023 covers fifty-five sites and these are located at variety of buildings: churches; doctors' surgeries; supermarkets; local convenience stores; public houses and adopted telephone kiosks.

Each external cabinet has a reference number, when the ambulance service receives a 999 call, they are able to identify the nearest device by postcode, give the caller the code to open the cabinet and ask the caller to take the device to the patient. The first responder or paramedic take over at their arrival.

These machines are made to be used by any member of the community and when opened they talk the user through the defibrillation process. A defibrillator cannot harm anybody. If the patient is not in cardiac arrest, the machine will identify this, and the user will not proceed with defibrillation.

Below sets out the process used that helps maintain an accurate record of defibrillator availability and ensures that the devices are regularly checked and ready for use when required what needs to happen to maintain access to the sites.

1. Cabinet Locations: Bath and North East Somerset Council has a number 24/7 sites where defibrillators are located.
2. Key Code Access: The cabinets are secured with key code locks. When someone needs to access a defibrillator, they must call the ambulance service using the emergency 999 number.
3. Access Code: Upon calling 999, the person requesting access to the defibrillator will be provided with an access code by the ambulance service.
4. Recording Site Usage: Once the access code has been provided, the system records the site as being used. This ensures that the availability of the defibrillator is taken offline and not listed as available for use by others.
5. Volunteer Check: After the defibrillator is used, a volunteer is responsible for visiting the site and checking its status. The volunteer will receive a notification from community heartbeat trust asking them to carry out a site check.
6. System Update: The volunteer will visit the site and either record that the site is fine to be reactivated and the community heartbeat trust will inform the ambulance service the site has been checked and is available for use again.

7. Restoring used units: If the volunteer reports that the site has been used, they will take necessary action to replace consumables through contact with the community heartbeat trust and only once this is completed will the site be put live with the ambulance service.

The Community Heartbeat Trust operates a [National Defibrillator Database](#) enabling you to search for additional locations that are not managed by Bath and North East Somerset Council. You may find locations that do not appear on the database. This will be because these sites are either private or run by other supporting organisations.

When purchasing a defibrillator for community use there are numerous organisations that can offer various plans to manage sites.

For community use sites that do not have a managed solution but need to register defibrillators [The Circuit](#) – the national defibrillator network, provides the NHS ambulance services with vital information about defibrillators across the UK so that in those crucial moments after a cardiac arrest, they can be accessed quickly to help save lives.

Mark Hayward

September 2023