



# **Wrentham & District**

## **Community First Responders Report**

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### **Community First Responders**

Community first responders are volunteers who are trained by the Ambulance Service to attend certain types of emergency calls in the area where they live or work. Their aim is to reach a potential life-threatening emergency in the first vital minutes before the ambulance crew arrives.

Their role is to stabilise the patient and provide the appropriate care until the more highly skilled ambulance crew arrives on scene to take over the treatment.

It is a voluntary role that was initially set up as a lifesaving force and for which the training now enables attendance at paediatric, mental health and first aid emergencies. Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults training also enables

the detection and reporting of abuse at all levels. CFRs also now undertake 'Prevent' training and how to deal with violence and aggression.

Practically every day Responders from the area attend emergencies within the local communities. CFRs attend types of medical emergencies where it is essential for the patient to receive immediate life-saving care. This includes conditions such as:

- Cardiac arrest.
- Chest pain.
- Breathing difficulties.
- Unconscious patients.
- Fitting.
- Stroke.
- Catastrophic bleeding

CFRs in this area all carry a full range of emergency equipment including an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and an oxygen cylinder.

When a 999-emergency call is received by the Ambulance Service, the call is prioritised to establish if it is suitable to send a community first responder. If so, the nearest available First Responder is alerted and then may be dispatched. As far as possible an ambulance will be mobilised at the same time although recent times have seen considerable delays. Each community responder group has a mobile phone to communicate at the point of any alert/call and beyond. First Responders are also now equipped with GPS technology to identify their exact location and pinpoint the destination to the patient with greater accuracy.

Once an ambulance car, ambulance or in some cases an air-ambulance arrives, the Responder hands over to the crew and may be asked to assist.

There are six CFRs in this locality covering a radius of around 20 miles.

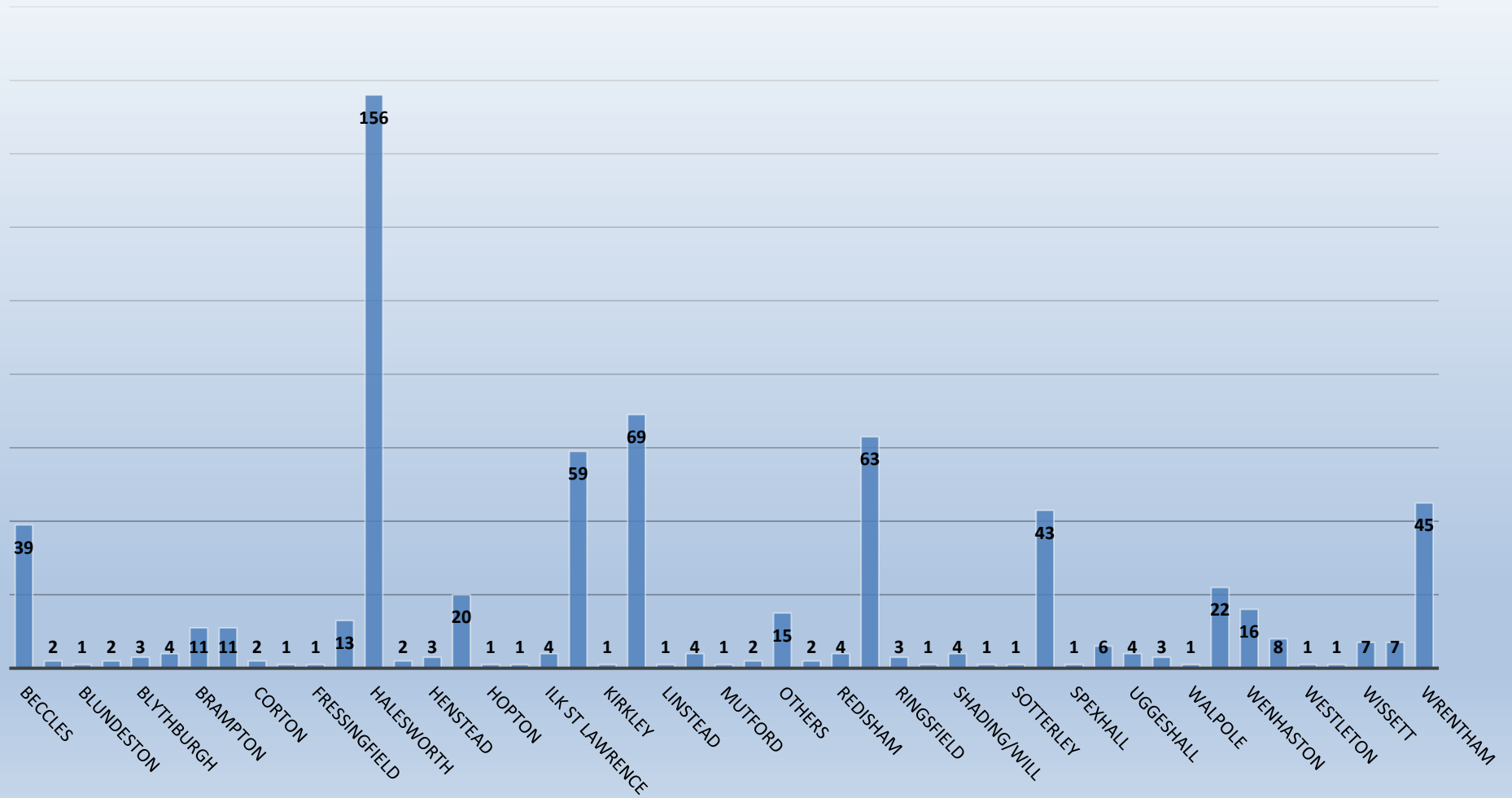
Between January 2022 and December 2022 the group have provided **13,723 hours on call and attended 557 call outs, which included 36 cardiac arrests. Plus 100 stands downs (stood down before arrival at scene).**

**There were 36 call outs to homes in Wrentham, 2 of which were cardiac arrests.**

The importance of a fast response to an emergency in such a rural area is crucial as early intervention can literally make the difference between life or death, especially as the Ambulance service and hospitals, at times, continue to experience long handovers for patients.

The ambulance trust is very keen to use CFRs to teach the public life saving skills of doing CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) and the safe use of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) If any group in Wrentham would like a free short training session please contact Chris Levett CFR on 07340816913 who will be happy to oblige.

# CFR Call outs Apr 21 - Mar 22



Number of CFR Callouts per month

