

PE1707/D

St Andrew's First Aid submission of 25 March 2019

St Andrew's First Aid wholeheartedly support the effort to have as many public access defibrillators as possible available across Scotland. As part of our sales strategy for AEDs, we strongly recommend to clients making purchases that every defibrillator is registered on the Scottish Ambulance Service database and available for public use. St Andrew's First Aid's aspirational goal is for every responder to be no further than 60 seconds away from an AED in built up areas in Scotland. Every minute is crucial in dealing with a casualty who has suffered a cardiac arrest and their chances of survival can be as high as 70% if an AED can be used within three minutes of the person having the cardiac arrest.

St Andrew's First Aid is committed to making Scotland a safer place to live and that no-one should die because they needed first aid and didn't receive it. To enable this vision, we believe that age-appropriate first aid should be taught from early years primary school and continue through to secondary school education to ensure that Scotland's future generations are cared for by life-savers in every community.

Our support comes with a few suggestions however to make public access defibrillators more known in Scottish cities and towns:

- clear, visible signage showing the actual location of the AED
- accessible cabinets
- planned maintenance checks by installer/owner
- partnerships with local first aid organisations to deliver awareness/training sessions.