



THE NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK

March 5th, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

We hope that you are all keeping well.

Please see Community First Responders updates below.

Please circulate

Please circulate this correspondence with all your members reactivated or not reactivated, communities wishing to form a CFR scheme and neighbouring PAD schemes.

1.

Respond 

The National First Responder Conference 2022

Saturday 17th September, Mullingar Park Hotel

The sense of normality returning to our communities is truly refreshing and it is great to see people coming together again and enjoying one another's company. Whilst it is great to reconnect, we also need to be mindful of Covid 19 and be conscious of people's anxieties. For many people this is an anxious and worrying time, and we need to be courteous and respectful of everyone. It is also still a time of some uncertainty.

Therefore, it is with regret that we are postponing Respond 2022, scheduled for March 26th.

The new date scheduled is Saturday 17th September 2022 in the Mullingar Park Hotel.

We hope that this new date allows us the time to plan and deliver the Respond conference that our delegates, speakers, and traders have come to expect.

We regret any inconvenience caused.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Mullingar this September.

On behalf of the CFR Ireland Committee

2.



Correspondence from Ger O’Dea Community Engagement Manager – National Ambulance Service

Please follow the link below for the full correspondence.

There are a few details mentioned in Ger’s correspondence that we wish to bring to highlight.

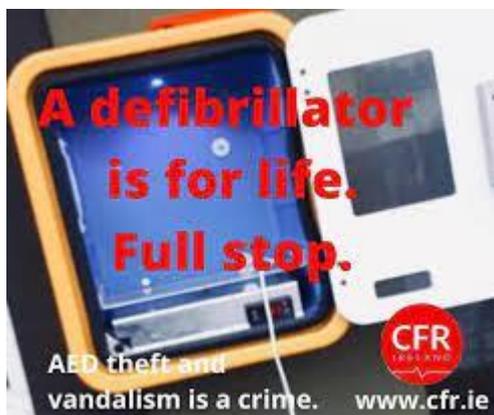
1. *“There are now 137 CFR resources on the system with over 1000 calls responded to since December 2020 and since December 2021 over 200 CFR enhanced calls were also responded to”.*
 - (i) If you take it that 135 CFR resources is about half the pre-pandemic resources.
 - (ii) Within those groups, anecdotal evidence tells us that there is circa 50% of those group members reactivated.
 - (iii) The OHCA Report 2020 informs us that the EMS attended 2,638 cardiac arrests. It would be fair to say the between December 2020 and December 2021, CFRs will have attended between 35% and 40% of all cardiac arrest calls nationally.
 - (iv) That is phenomenal. Well done all.

2. The National Ambulance were able to extract this information because CFRs are using the communication procedure (TEXT Back). It is NAS Policy and imperative that CFRs use the TEXT Back procedure. So NEOC can inform the persons on scene that there is a CFR on the way, in case the clinical requirements on scene exceed the CPGs of a Community First Responder, for CFR safety and to inform national data collection.
3. There is a new “Online” incident feedback form. (This does not replace the CFR Patient Report Form, CFRs must complete it too). This new incident feedback form can be accessed by clicking [FILL OUT FORM](#) . Though it is not mandatory it is very important that every CFRs that attended an emergency call makes an effort to complete this “Online” form.

Please follow this link to view Ger O’Dea Community Engagement Manager – NAS full correspondence.

[CFR Letter Jan 2022 \(1\).pdf](#)

3.



Community First Responders Call for Cross Party Support for Strict Penalties for those who steal or damage Defibrillators

Since Christmas 7 attacks on Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) or their storage cabinets have been reported. We would like to thank all the communities for reporting the attacks and allow CFR Ireland to promote the “Life Saving Bill 2017” on their behalf.

We still have work to do to get this Bill through the Dáil, but we need your help. Keep reporting any attacks on PADs in your community or indeed any damage to PADs that you may come across.

Please follow the link below to view the full Seanad Eireann Debate.

<https://fb.watch/bvNVgBn7aX/>

4.



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CFR Ireland Strategic Plan

The Covid 19 Pandemic has had a devastating effect on so many aspects of our lives. But it has also highlighted what is so good about us, e.g., the way communities rallied round to help the vulnerable in our societies. It really demonstrated how effective we can be when we work together as a nation.

CFR Ireland is network of CFR schemes. CFR schemes

As the Covid 19 restrictions start to ease and we learn how to live with this virus, we need to plan for Community First Responders, a road map of where we would like or think we should be in 5 years' time.

CFR Ireland are developing a 5-year Strategic Plan. We need your help. We would like your thoughts and views on what you and your members think how we can best serve CFR Schemes and CFRs volunteers. To help us develop our plan, please ask all your members to complete the short survey below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5W6RP6G>

5.



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

Community first response and out-of-hospital cardiac arrest: Identifying priorities for data collection, analysis, and use via the nominal group technique. *Resuscitation Plus 9 (2 0 2 2)*

Key stakeholders (e.g., CFR volunteers, clinicians, EMS personnel, cardiac arrest survivors/their relatives from across Ireland) were canvassed to be part of a nominal group technique (NGT) to explore data gathering by, for and of Community First Responders.

The nominal group technique (NGT) is a structured process where key stakeholders develop and decide on a set of prioritised recommendations. This study employed the NGT, using an online survey and online consensus meeting, to identify:

- 1. The most important CFR data to record and analyse and*
- 2. The most important uses of CFR data*

The top priorities were selected during the consensus meeting. Stakeholders were provided with a list of responses from the online survey for each topic and voted on what they considered to be the top 10 priorities for each. **Table 3** in the paper shows the top 10 responses for each topic.

For example, the top response voted by the stakeholders for Topic 1 – The most important CFR data to record and analyse, was “**What was the response time of the CFR volunteer?**”

The top response voted by the stakeholders for Topic 2 – The most important uses of CFR data, was “**To provide feedback to CFR volunteers**”

These results help us to identify and understand what information is important to collect during CFR activities and the best way to use this information to improve the CFR service.

The research was carried out by Discipline of General Practice, Clinical Science Institute, School of Medicine, NUI Galway

Please follow link to view the full report [Resuscitation Plus](#)

Fan Slán

On behalf of the CFR Ireland Committee