



*"The London Ambulance Service (LAS) believes it is important to keep in touch with GPs. We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and we welcome your feedback."*

March 2014

## Defib Accreditation Scheme

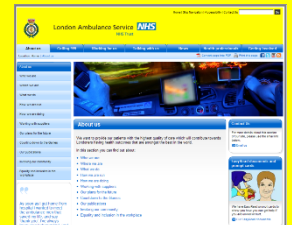
Every year over 10,000 people in London suffer an out of hospital **cardiac arrest** and the only effective way to restart the heart is to use a defibrillator.

The LAS has launched a defibrillator accreditation scheme offering guidance and support in buying, storing and using a defibrillator, and it is the first of its kind in the UK.

We have contacted all **GP surgeries** in London to find out if they have a defibrillator and provided them with the information on how to join our scheme.

Ambulance Operations Manager Chris Hartley-Sharpe said: "In 2011 in London, 56 people died from a fire compared to 10,000 people who suffered an out of hospital cardiac arrest, yet fire extinguishers are statutory in every building and defibrillators are not. Londoners' chances of **survival from a cardiac arrest could be doubled** if they had a quick access to a defibrillator and people knowing CPR. Our campaign will encourage more of the lifesaving machines and skills in the capital."

For further details or to join our scheme, please visit: [www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/defib](http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/defib)



Visit our website  
Read more about  
the subjects covered :  
[www.londonambulance.nhs.uk](http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk)

## LAS to recruit paramedics from overseas

The Service has been granted permission to recruit overseas to help tackle the national shortage of paramedics.

The UK Border Agency has approved the LAS's application to sponsor work visas for non-European paramedics and the Service is looking to countries such as Australia and New Zealand.

Once paramedics are recruited from overseas they will undergo a short conversion course enabling them to treat patients in the UK.

The LAS currently has around 250 vacancies for registered paramedics.

Further details:  
<http://tinyurl.com/p8ptbqx>

## Flu Bus Award



Despite challenging operational pressures during the winter period, the London Ambulance Service achieved its highest ever flu vaccination uptake this year. A total of **1983 staff** were vaccinated across the service, equivalent to 45% of all LAS staff or 48% operational (patient facing) staff.

The success is mostly attributed to the vast number of proactive Paramedics across the trust who were trained to

administer the vaccine, as well as flexibility of **ad-hoc vaccine clinics** and **mobile units** in the form of 'flu buses'. A flu bus was particularly effective in the West sector, pioneering the idea of **taking the vaccine to the staff**, rather than expecting staff to attend planned clinics during their busy shifts. The West 'flu bus' has since won an award for 'Innovative Flu Fighter Campaign' at this years National Flu Awards.

## NHS 111 update - SE London

Staff working on the London Ambulance Service's NHS 111 contract in south east London have been providing some of the quickest call responses to patients in the country.

During December and January a total of **98% of calls were answered within 60 seconds**. In the same period, only 2% of patients had to be called back as their query could not be directly dealt with at the time of it being received, and when this happened more than 80% were carried out within 10 minutes – well above the national average of around 54%.

Director of Business Development Mike Evans said: "The figures certainly show that we are doing very well, and even against the high standards being achieved across London. It is especially pleasing given the higher than expected levels of calls being received and we had a busy Christmas and New Year period."

He added: "We want to continue to develop and expand the service we are providing over the next few months, and look to see how we could **work with GP commissioners** and others to help further improve patient care and make it easier for Londoners to get the right treatment for their urgent care needs in the right place at the right time."

