



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR POLICY

Version	1
Author	E Brown
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1. Introduction

Community Access Defibrillators (CADs) are life-saving devices that can be used by any member of the public in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest. CADs deliver an electric shock to restore normal heart rhythm and provide voice/visual prompts so that people without medical training can use them safely and effectively.

The Council (BTC) recognises the importance of rapid access to CADs — every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces survival chances by approximately 10%. The Council therefore aims to improve community safety by ensuring CADs are appropriately installed, maintained, and accessible across the town.

2. Scope and Purpose of the Policy

This policy covers:

- CADs provided by BTC and installed by partner organisations
- The maintenance, inspection, record-keeping, and disposal of CAD equipment under BTC responsibility

Purpose:

To establish clear, safe, and effective procedures for the acquisition, installation, management, and use of CADs within Blyth, ensuring accountability and maximising community benefit.

3. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to ensure:

- Safe, prompt, and effective operation of CADs
- Accurate and reliable record-keeping
- Clear accountability for maintenance, inspection, and reporting
- Equitable and strategic CAD coverage across Blyth
- Access to CADs in high-risk, high-footfall and high-exertion areas

4. Current CAD Provision

As of the latest update, BTC provides and maintains the following CADs:

- Defibrillator located to the left hand side of main entrance into Post Office. Post Office, 19 Brierley Road, Cowpen, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 5PP.
- On the police station building, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 2AS
- On the toilet block, Blyth Market Place, Blyth, NE24 1BG

- Dave Stephen's Centre, by the beach, Links Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 3PL
- Ridley Park Toilet Block, Ridley Park, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 3HF
- Between Newsham Fruit Shop and Julies Sandwich shop facing the COOP, Delaval Street, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 4AA
- Defibrillator is located to the right-hand side of the main door to the Sports Pavilion, Sports Pavilion Broadway Park, Plessey Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 3JE
- Defibrillator located to the left-hand side of main entrance into Post Office, Post Office, 19 Brierley Road, Cowpen, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 5PP

Additional CADs exist in the town and are provided and maintained by local community groups, sports clubs, and voluntary organisations.

5. Criteria for Installing or Approving a New CAD

5.1 High-Footfall, Community-Focused Locations

CAD installation proposals will be prioritised in areas where:

- Large numbers of people gather or pass through.
- Vulnerable populations or increased risk of cardiac incidents are present.
- Physical exertion is common.
- Gaps exist within local coverage.
- Clear compliance with the siting criteria e.g. electric supply in place.

Examples include shopping areas, public parks, community hubs, beaches, leisure centres, busy streets, sports grounds, and transport or commuting routes.

5.2 Accessibility and Visibility

All our CADs must:

- Be accessible 24/7 or as close as practicably possible.
- Be visible and recognisable with appropriate signage.
- Be positioned where emergency services can easily reach them.
- Be sited where vandalism risk is manageable or mitigated.
- Be registered on 'the Circuit.'

Locked cabinets may only be used if they are 999-code accessible.

5.3 Mandatory Electrical Power Supply

All CADs installed by or on behalf of BTC must be connected to a reliable electrical supply, because heating and lighting are required to maintain battery and cabinet functionality. A suitable and safe power source must be available on-site and electrical installation must be carried out by a qualified electrician.

5.4 Training and Community Readiness

Although CADs can be used by untrained members of the public, training improves community confidence. Where possible:

- Training should be offered to staff/volunteers associated with the host location.
- CPR/CAD familiarisation events should be encouraged within the local community.

6. Legal Considerations

BTC recognises:

- There is no statutory duty to provide CADs, but doing so forms part of promoting community wellbeing.
- Liability could arise if a CAD is not maintained and this causes harm.
- CADs should be installed and maintained in line with manufacturers' guidelines.
- The "no blame" principle applies to users in emergencies.
- The Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Act 2015 protect well-intentioned rescuers.

7. Accountability and Responsibilities

- Installation, insurance, registration, maintenance, reactivation, and replacement will be arranged by the Town Clerk or designated officer.
- Weekly checks will be completed and recorded.
- The CAD will be registered with *The Circuit / ambulance service.
- A maintenance budget will be allocated annually.
- Where power supply is required, BTC will ensure connection (or confirm arrangements with host organisation)

*The Circuit is a national defibrillator network providing a national overview of where defibrillators can be found.

8. Equipment Maintenance and Inspection

- CADs must be stored and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications.

- Pads and batteries must be replaced before expiry.
- Cabinet integrity, lighting, heating, and electrical supply must be checked weekly.
- CADs used or deployed must be immediately taken out of service for inspection, restocking, and reactivation.
- Nominated officers received notice of activations and will respond to reactivate the unit as soon as possible within reasonable working hours.
- A digital and/or paper log must be kept for every CAD under BTC oversight, this is updated when the device is reactivated and put back online.
- Incidents of damage, theft, or malfunction must be reported to the Town Clerk immediately.

We aim to install units of the same type (iPad SP1) to enable more efficient and effective oversight.

9. Disposal of CAD Equipment

Any CAD that is:

- Beyond repair
- No longer dependable
- Outdated or incompatible with current national systems

must be decommissioned and disposed of safely, with environmental considerations observed and records updated.

The pads and defibrillator will be offered to the Ambulance Service or first aiders for training purposes.

10. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed every **five years**, or earlier if:

- National CAD guidance changes.
- Modern technology becomes standard.
- Significant changes arise in local CAD coverage.
- A CAD incident highlights gaps in policy.

The Environment Committee will oversee the review.