

AIR AMBULANCE NEWS

LIONS AIR AMBULANCE APPEAL



Air Ambulance
Kent Surrey Sussex

HELPING TO SAVE LIVES
LIONS DISTRICT 105SE

October
2020

Essential New Air Ambulance Rapid Response Vehicle – It's Here!



Thanks to the enormous generosity of our Lions Clubs, particularly in these very difficult times, our target has been reached for funding the new rapid response vehicle for Air Ambulance Kent Surrey and Sussex (AAKSS). The vehicle has been bought, and it is now receiving its "blue light conversion". It will also be badged with the Lions logo, as well as the AAKSS logo, and will be ready for service at the end of this month. Please join the **AAKSS/Lions Zoom Open Day** at 6 p.m. on Wednesday 4 November to see the vehicle (see details of open day below).

Our Next Appeal – New Monitors/Defibrillators Now Needed

With the completion of the appeal for the rapid response vehicle as above, our attention is drawn to the further needs of AAKSS. The service now needs to upgrade its equipment with two monitor/defibrillator machines for its aircraft. Malcolm Russell, Medical Director of AAKSS, writes:

"The Tempus ALS system consists of the Tempus Pro Monitor paired with the Tempus LS Defibrillator. Our current units have been in use since 2017 and are due for replacement. The Tempus Pro monitors are carried to every single one of our patients. In addition to monitoring the patient's vital signs, the Tempus Pro Monitor allows us to transmit live patient data, video, and audio from the scene to our remote on call consultant. As a result, accurate information of patient injuries, vital signs and administered drugs and their effect can be analysed remotely enabling remote advice to be given by a senior doctor.



"Part of the 'fine-tuning' of patient care described above is based on understanding second-by-second what the patient's physiology is doing. The Tempus system allows us to do this. We can see their blood pressure, oxygen and carbon dioxide levels, temperature and more, changing over time which gives critical clues about what is happening to the patient. The fact that this information can be seen by our on-call consultant means that an extra pair of eyes can be screening this 'data stream' looking for changes and trends. On several occasions, our consultants have spotted a problem developing whilst watching remotely from home, and have called the crew to warn them, leading to significant intervention to help the patient. No other monitor in our experience can provide this level of functionality. Importantly, no other has proved as robust either, bearing up to the harsh physical nature of air ambulance work day-to-day. Replacing these items as they approach the end of their service life with like for like will allow Team KSS to continue to provide world-leading patient care, optimising the chances of a successful outcome.

We recognise the cost of this equipment is high, but we also recognise that the value is much higher. The right tools for the right job bring the best results. Team KSS is committed to aiming for the best results for every patient we attend. That is why this funding is so important to us."

The total cost for two is £38,994. In view of the current difficulty for Clubs of raising funds, and in view of the need to be ready to support the Lions/AAKSS head scanner project, once patient trials confirm its viability, has has been decided to approach this request in stages. Your District Cabinet has agreed initially to fundraise for one machine (£19,497), and to follow up with a further appeal for the second, once the first is met, if appropriate at that stage.

Please support this appeal as generously as you can, and send your donations to District Charities Treasurer Tom Berry in the normal way.

Lions / Air Ambulance Zoom Open Day

Due to the pandemic, it is not possible to hold our normal open day, and to visit the AAKSS facility, as we would normally do. However, CEO David Welch has agreed to host an **AAKSS/Lions Zoom Open Day** at 6 p.m. on Wednesday 4 November. Please join the meeting and hear all the news from AAKSS. See the new rapid response vehicle we Lions have provided, and hear about our new monitor/defibrillator project. If you would like to attend, please send your name, club and email address to Paul Withers on lionpaulwithers@msn.com, and he will send you the link in due course.

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News Update from Air Ambulance Kent Surrey and Sussex - Kelly Heaton-Ralph

2020 Update

It has been a busy and challenging first nine months of 2020 for Air Ambulance Kent Surrey and Sussex (KSS) as we and the world deal with the Coronavirus pandemic.

In February, we actioned our business continuity plan to ensure our life saving service was able to continue to be there for patients in medical emergencies, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In March, we were recognised as Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission across all five inspection key lines of enquiry. This rating is only achieved by a very small proportion of the UK's CQC-inspected healthcare organisations and we are very proud to be the first Air Ambulance to achieve this rating. The CQC report highlighted a wide range of outstanding practices at KSS including the service's 'thoroughly patient focused team,' highly motivated staff' and 'strong leadership'.

In April, we launched our Coronavirus Emergency Appeal as we budgeted an estimated loss of £2.9 million from our fundraising income, at the same as budgeting an increase in costs for the additional PPE and specialist equipment we needed to purchase to ensure the safety of our crew. The Appeal has currently raised over £1.5 million and we are hugely grateful and thankful to our supporters including the Lions for their generosity and support at this challenging time.

In September, we celebrated winning a Charity Times award, an award open to national and regional charities and not-for-profits from across the UK. We were crowned Charity of the Year with an income over £10 million, in recognition of consistently delivering an outstanding and pioneering service and demonstrating all round excellence, particularly over the last year.

The service has continued fully operational despite the challenges and we have seen an increase in the number of missions we attend, approximately 5% higher than this time last year. The severity of road traffic collisions has worsened, we have seen a higher number of accidental injuries at home and sadly and scarily the number of attempted suicides and domestic abuse cases has increased. We envisage the next few months of the year will see further challenges and our crew and teams will continue to put the people who need us at the heart of everything we do and strive for the best possible patient outcomes.

Rapid Response Vehicle

The new Volvo XC90 rapid response vehicle funded by the Lions earlier this year, was delivered in September. The vehicle is currently undergoing its blue light conversion and external livery to include the Lions logo. Our Operations Team plan to have the vehicle operational by the end of October and we will provide a virtual tour of the car on the Lions Meeting in November. We are excited to get the vehicle on the road and thank you very much for your generous support in funding the vehicle.

Head Scanner Project

Richard Lyon, Associate Medical Director and Jack Barrett, Paramedic Research Fellow attended a meeting with the Research Ethics Committee on 15th September to discuss the study. The meeting went well and there appears to be no major objections; they have asked us to make some minor amendments to the information sheets that will be given to patients to ensure we are compliant with GDPR. Once these have been submitted and reviewed, we will get an official notice of the outcome of the meeting. The device is also going through review with the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) and they have asked for some additional information regarding the software used in the device, which Jack is working with Medfield to collate. These two events (Ethical and MHRA reviews) are huge milestones for the project.

Based on the September meeting we are hopeful the Research Ethics Committee will give us a favourable opinion and allow us to conduct the study, which will be subject to the MHRA review. The MHRA should give us notice as to whether we can use the device in clinical trial by the start of November. We are anticipating setting up and starting the study at George's and King's by the end of the year. The devices have been returned to Medfield to be serviced and updated in preparation.

We are grateful for the continued support of the Lions and we are excited to move onto the next stage of data collection and look forward to sharing our experiences of using the device on head injured patients.

Thank you

On behalf of the team at Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex, thank you very much for all your ongoing support. We value your involvement, generosity, and support in helping us be a world leading Air Ambulance Service. Thank you for your consideration of the Tempus ALS Systems

