

Graham is making all its site defibrillators available to the public

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Leading contractor **GRAHAM**, in partnership with the **Northern Ireland Ambulance Service**, is urging all businesses to register their defibrillators onto the new UK-wide National Defibrillator Network to help save lives.

The Circuit: the national defibrillator network, developed by the **British Heart Foundation (BHF)** in partnership with **Resuscitation Council UK**, **St John Ambulance**, and the **Association of Ambulance Chief Executives**, maps public access defibrillators across the UK. This in turn will enable ambulance services to direct bystanders to the nearest registered defibrillator if they witness somebody having a cardiac arrest in the local community.

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Despite most cardiac arrests happening outside of a hospital environment (30,000 cases each year in the

UK alone), less than 1 in 20 public defibrillators are used in an emergency, partly because the ambulance services do not know of their location. This leads to a lost opportunity to help save a life.

Lurgan man, Ryan Nelson (43), is one of the few members of the public to have survived an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest after receiving life-saving defibrillation at his home last August.

Speaking about his experience, Ryan Nelson said: "It started a normal Monday morning. I left to get my wife a coffee before work and suddenly collapsed on my way out. I hadn't been feeling unwell and didn't have any symptoms in the lead up – it just hit me.

"My wife and son called for an ambulance, but unfortunately the 999 operators couldn't find a community defibrillator nearby, so they instructed my son on how to perform CPR whilst we waited for paramedics to arrive."

Currently, less than 1 in 10 people survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, with the chances of survival decreasing by a further 10% with every passing minute.

Survival rates can be vastly improved to 50-70% however if a patient receives defibrillation within 3 -5 minutes of collapse. In Ryan's case, he waited 12 minutes.

"The helicopter emergency medical service was on the scene with a defibrillator in just twelve minutes, but my chances of survival at that point were extremely low. It took four attempts at defibrillation to resuscitate my heart because I had been starved of oxygen for so long.

"Considering the odds, I count myself extremely lucky to survive. I owe the medical team my life."

To help improve the odds of survival in the community, [GRAHAM](#) is in the process of registering over 70 of its defibrillators located across the UK, onto [The Circuit](#).

Jane Dunbar, Occupational Health Coordinator at [GRAHAM](#), commented: "Our mantra at [GRAHAM](#) is to deliver lasting impact in everything we do and everywhere we go – from the projects we work on to the people we work with.

"Supporting local communities is core to our business, so we're delighted to make what is potentially a life-saving contribution to our neighbours, by making all our defibrillators available to the public.

"We strongly urge fellow businesses to register their defibrillators onto [The Circuit](#) and hope that in doing so, future survival rates will be greatly improved."

Whether it's in a local pub, shopping centre or office – every defibrillator matters.

Judy O'Sullivan, Director of Innovation in Health Programmes at the [British Heart Foundation](#), said: "We're thrilled that [GRAHAM](#) has taken the vital step of registering all 70 of their defibrillators onto [The Circuit](#), helping to ensure ambulance services can quickly direct bystanders to a defibrillator in the event of a cardiac arrest.

“Currently, less than one in 10 people survive a cardiac arrest, but effective CPR and defibrillation can double a person’s chance of survival. That’s why we’re urging every organisation that owns defibrillators to follow **GRAHAM’s** example by registering their defibrillators on **The Circuit**. It really could be the difference between life and death.”

Every second counts. Take Charge. Sign-up. Save a life.

To register your defibrillator onto **The Circuit**, visit: <https://www.thecircuit.uk/>