

More life-saving defibrillators for stations across Wales and the borders

September 5, 2022



Transport for Wales (TfW) is continuing its rollout of life-saving defibrillators at stations across the Wales and Borders rail network.

The work is the latest phase of plans to install over 200 defibrillators at stations and in communities throughout Wales and the borders, which began in February 2022.

Defibrillators are important portable life-saving devices that can give a casualty's heart an electric shock when it has stopped beating, normally in a sudden cardiac arrest. According to British Heart Foundation Cymru, there are around 2,800 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in Wales each year, but just one in 20 people survive.

Survival rates fall by 10 per cent every minute without CPR or by using a defibrillator and using a defibrillator within three minutes of a cardiac arrest can improve a person's chance of survival by as much as 70 per cent.

Once ready for use the defibrillators will be registered on the British Heart Foundation's bespoke portal,

called The Circuit, in partnership with St John Ambulance, the Resuscitation Council UK and the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives. The Circuit maps out defibrillators for NHS ambulance services across the UK so in the crucial moments after a cardiac arrest, they can swiftly direct members of the public to the nearest defibrillator.

Lisa Cleminson, TfW stations director, said: “We’re proud to be rolling out defibrillators across the Wales and Borders network. These yellow boxes are vitally important in helping those who experience a cardiac arrest, be they TfW customers, colleagues or someone in the local community.

“We already have defibrillators in many of our stations across our network, and these additional new machines will become a valuable life-saving resource.

“We’re encouraging customers and community to support us in keeping this equipment safe and secure by being vigilant and reporting any incidences of vandalism immediately to British Transport Police by texting 61016.”

The project has been organised by TfW’s Rail infrastructure director Karl Gilmore, who added: “All of the defibrillators will be available 24 hours a day but, more crucially, they will all be listed on The Circuit so emergency services staff know where they are located.

“Our staff will be given training on how to use the defibrillators and we’re working with charities and other organisations to make sure we can roll out training into communities.”

Antony Kelly, construction director at Egis, said: “It’s not often you get to work on a project that you know has a direct and tangible effect on people’s lives, and certainly not one that can directly save lives. I’m extremely proud to lead our construction department at Egis Transport Solutions working on behalf of Transport for Wales’ Station Improvement team on the installation of lifesaving defibrillator equipment on stations throughout the Wales network.

“Having personally felt the impact of an immediate family member who died from cardiac arrest, it’s even more disappointing to hear that the defibrillators that TfW are investing in, are being mindlessly vandalised. These units are here to save lives, it could be yours or a family member who needs one, and you won’t know when you need it. If we see this out on the network, whether on duty or not, I urge everyone to report and help protect these assets. It is a criminal offence.

“Egis are committed to making sure this message gets to those who need to hear it, and with the support of our colleagues in TfW, we are looking to develop some outreach programmes to assist in getting the message out into the community”

Nick Culshaw, managing director, UK Civils and Rail for Sisk said: “Sisk Rail is delighted to be carrying out these works throughout Wales and the border rail network on behalf of TfW.

“These 200 defibrillators will provide vital life-saving equipment in local communities. We hope that in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest that the installation of these defibrillators will help to save lives.”

The Phase 2 stations are: Abergavenny, Abergele and Pensarn, Abercynon, Aberystwyth, Ammanford, Bangor, Barmouth, Barry Island, Betws-y-Coed, Birchgrove, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Borth, Bridgend, Buckley, Caerphilly, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff Central (x4), Cardiff Queen Street (x3), Carmarthen, Cathays, Cefn-y-Bedd, Chester (x2), Chirk, Cogan, Colwyn Bay, Conwy, Coryton, Criccieth, Dinas Powys, Dingle Road, Dolau, Fairbourne, Ferryside, Ffairfach, Flint, Frodsham, Gobowen, Gowerton, Harlech, Haverfordwest, Hawarden, Heath High Level, Hereford (x2), Holyhead, Johnston, Kidwelly, Kilgetty, Knucklas, Leominster, Lisvane and Thornhill, Llandaf, Llandanwg, Llandecwyn, Llandoverly, Llandrindod, Llandudno, Llandudno Junction, Llanelli, Llanfairpwll, Llangadog, Llangammarch, Llanharan, Llanhilleth, Llanishen, Llantwit Major, Llwyngwril, Lydney, Manorbier, Milford Haven, Nantwich, Narberth, Neath, Neston, Newport (x2), Newtown (Powys), Pembrey & Burry Port, Pembroke, Penarth, Penyffordd, Pontarddulais, Port Talbot Parkway, Prestatyn, Pwllheli, Pye Corner, Pyle

Radyr, Rhiwbina, Rhoose Cardiff International Airport, Rhyl, Rhymney, Risca & Pontymister, Rogerstone, Ruabon, Runcorn East, Shrewsbury, Swansea, Taffs Well, Tenby, Treforest, Treforest Estate, Treherbert, Ty Glas, Waun-Gron Park, Whitland, Wrenbury, Wrexham Central, Wrexham General and Ystrad Rhondda.