FOREWORD

We believe that everyone who needs first aid should receive it. No one should suffer for a lack of trained first aiders. Too many lives are lost each year when first aid could have helped. Since the 2015 election, the first aid charity St John Ambulance has worked around the clock to provide first aid and train hundreds of thousands of first aiders, who now have the confidence to step forward where needed. As a result, lives can be saved and communities are stronger. We can be proud of what we have achieved, both on our own but also with partner organisations and with the support of politicians of all major parties at national and local level.

But there is a long way to go. We want to see every child given the chance to learn first aid, and we think it is imperative that the next government act on this. We are concerned about the status of health and safety after Brexit and want reassurance that the excellent progress made over the last 40 years will not be put at risk. And we would like the incoming government to look at the way in which the NHS commissions services, because the current situation of short-term commissioning is expensive and leads to a raw deal for patients.

We are making these calls now because our experience tells us that if we can sort these issues out then our own contribution at local level will have even more impact. We stand ready to play our part, and look forward to continuing to work with politicians of all parties to save lives and make communities stronger.

Sue Killen
Chief Executive

THE NATION'S LEADING FIRST AID CHARITY

OUR CALL TO POLICY MAKERS

1. Ensure all children have the opportunity to learn first aid during their time at school
2. Protect the UK’s excellent framework of health and safety practice in our workplaces during and after Brexit
3. Develop NHS commissioning which encourages resilient communities
ENSURE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FIRST AID OVER THE COURSE OF THEIR TIME AT SCHOOL

Our priority is securing a commitment from the incoming government to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to learn first aid over the course of their time at school.

Our first aid programme is not limited to CPR but also includes other everyday hazards, such as choking and bleeding. We know that those who have been through first aid training are most likely to intervene in emergency situations when out and about in their everyday life. First aid can be the difference between life and death – and we want the schoolchildren of today to be that difference.

PROTECT THE UK’S EXCELLENT FRAMEWORK OF HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICE

The incoming Government must commit to protect the excellent framework of health and safety practice in our workplaces during and after Brexit.

The UK has been a leader in health and safety regulations and British workplaces are among the safest in the world. It is widely understood that good health and safety is good business. Our own research among small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) shows they believe that the current balance of regulation in this area is about right.

There have been calls from some quarters for a ‘bonfire’ of red tape. We want to make sure that Brexit does not lead to a weakening of the current position and are calling for a commitment to keep British workplaces safe.
TO DEVELOP NHS COMMISSIONING WHICH ENCOURAGES RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

We are calling for new thinking in the way the NHS commissions services.

St John Ambulance, along with other organisations, support the NHS by providing vital services such as patient transport. We use the income from this work to develop charitable community support.

Under the current commissioning model, we’re seeing essential services to patients being cut at short notice. This is bad for patients and can even be more expensive for the NHS.

We’re calling for a better and more sustainable commissioning model which provides value for money and helps develop resilient communities.

ABOUT ST JOHN AMBULANCE

St John Ambulance is the nation’s leading first aid charity. Every year, over 400,000 people learn how to save a life through our training programmes, including hundreds of thousands of young people. Our volunteers provide first aid in their communities, keeping people safe at events, and we work alongside the NHS in response to 999 calls.

We’re also always campaigning to raise awareness of first aid and directly educate the public. First aid is such a simple skill, but it has an incredible impact. We want everyone to learn it, so that they can be the difference between a life lost and a life saved.

CONTACT US

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