Cllr. Sachin Shah



Leader of Harrow Council

Civic Centre

Station Road

HARROW, HA21 2XY 07 July 2017

Dear Councillor Shah

**DEFIBRILLATORS IN HARROW’S SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

**D.E. GUIDANCE**

I am writing to you concerning the Department of Education’s guidance for schools and colleges on the installation of defibrillators, which aims to ensure that should a child go into cardiac arrest at school, defibrillators are available - and staff trained to use them - to save the child’s life. Can you please let me know if your Council has developed a programme to ensure that every school and college in the Borough, has at least one defibrillator - and that staff and students are offered training in CPR, and the use of defibrillators? Could you also tell me if this development forms part of your JSNA?

We would also like to suggest that all Councillors and Council staff are invited to participate in CPR/defibrillator training prior to a Council Assembly. This would ensure that they are able to attempt to save the life of a person going into **cardiac arrest** and would also enable the Council to provide leadership across London - in the training and provision of resources to save the lives of people going into cardiac arrest. We may be able to arrange for a team from the London Ambulance Service to provide training, if you agree to this proposal.

This campaign follows on from our recent and successful campaign to persuade major supermarkets to install defibrillators. Sainsbury’s and the John Lewis Partnership have now installed in their larger branches across the country, and both Tesco’s and M&S have also installed.

**Boots** the chemist refuses to purchase defibrillators for their stores, despite a persistent campaign over the past year to change the company’s policy on this issue. They have, however, agreed to fix a defibrillator to the outside walls of their stores … if somebody else pays for the defibrillator! All Pharmacists must be trained in CPR. Will you please contact the Managers of your local Boots and write to **Elizabeth Fagan, Managing Director, Boots UK Limited, 1 Thane Road West, Nottingham, NG2 3AA**, and ask them to think again. So many lives can be saved if there are defibrillators close to where somebody has a **cardiac arrest.** It is shameful that Boots has refused to spend a few hundred pounds on this essential development.

We would be very pleased to meet with you to discuss this campaign and, in addition, we can send you information that explains why this campaign is so important for saving the lives of people who suffer a **cardiac arrest.**

Very best wishes

Malcolm Alexander

Chair

Patients’ Forum for the LAS

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