

SAVING MORE LIVES TOGETHER



AIR AMBULANCES UK
SUPPORTING AIR AMBULANCE CHARITIES

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ABOUT

AIR AMBULANCES UK

Air Ambulances UK (AAUK) champions and supports the vital work of air ambulance charities at a national level.

Air Ambulances UK is the national charity supporting the lifesaving work of the UK's air ambulance charities, enabling them to save even more lives and improve patient outcomes every day.

AAUK is a national platform for the sector and works to raise awareness of the lifesaving work of air ambulance crews and how they make a difference to anyone in need of their specialist care. We raise national funds to invest in the air ambulance community and act as the voice on issues of national significance.

Our vision is that together we will ensure the best possible chance of survival and patient outcome for everyone in need of lifesaving pre-hospital care.

OUR VALUES

- Trust
- Innovation
- Collaboration
- Excellence
- Kindness

OUR GOALS

To inspire national engagement and support

We will inspire commitment to the sector through raising funds, generating support and increasing national awareness of our cause.

To advance patient care

We will support and champion research and good practice in the sector by the delivery of projects and sharing of learning to improve patient outcomes.

To be a collective voice

We will become the trusted, national collective voice of the sector among central government, peer organisations, media and the public.

To maximise sector impact

We will deliver funding which enables air ambulance charity development and become the leading central hub of mutual information exchange, support and advice for the community.

To achieve organisational excellence

We will achieve the highest standards of governance and compliance, ensure financial sustainability and will nurture our team, as well as demonstrate our impact.

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITIES

There are 21 air ambulance charities in the UK.

Air ambulance crews bring the Emergency Department to patients who have suffered a life threatening or life changing trauma or medical emergency and provide advanced critical care to save lives. An air ambulance can reach someone in urgent need within minutes. Air ambulance charities are collectively dispatched to over 100 lifesaving missions each day across the UK. Each mission is funded almost entirely by the generosity of local communities.



AIR AMBULANCE DATA

15,463

Patients treated
by air

14,697

Patients treated
by road

102

Missions per day

6,070

Cardiac-related
incidents attended

£3,962

The average
helicopter mission cost



*All data is based on the year of 2021. All air ambulance charities are independent with differing operational model(s) and so figures/data are averages. Cost of mission varies depending on geography, patient need, clinical and operational models of the local air ambulance charity.

PAUL'S STORY



Paul from Berkshire collapsed whilst playing golf in Milton Keynes. Thames Valley Air Ambulance reached the golf course (which was 30 miles away from the base at RAF Benson) in 16 minutes. Doctor Chloe Spence and Critical Care Paramedic Jo Meadham arrived on scene to deliver advanced cardiac care to Paul.

Paul's heart, failing in every way possible, had multiple cardiac arrests. Thirteen defibrillator shocks were administered by Thames Valley Air Ambulance on route to the hospital, as the crew fought to save his life.

Doctor Chloe Spence said: "It was the toughest cardiac incident both Jo and I have ever attended".

Doctor Chloe Spence and paramedic Jo Meadham delivered advanced cardiac care to Paul. Doctor Chloe said: 'Paul was critically ill. His heart was in and out of life-threatening rhythms, stopping and starting, requiring advanced intervention to get it to restart, all the way to hospital. He was as critical as one can be, but Paul was a fighter and he battled to stay alive.'

Paul has defied the odds of survival and following doctors operating on a blood clot blocking his heart, he has made a remarkable recovery and is back at work full-time.

Paul said: "I am so grateful to Thames Valley Air Ambulance for reaching me so quickly, acting so calmly in a chaotic situation and to everyone that battled to save my life. It was a terrifying ordeal and I feel incredibly lucky to be alive. I am under no illusion that without the incredible skill and emergency treatment I received, I would not be alive today."



CORNWALL AIR AMBULANCE

SPECIAL INCIDENT OF THE YEAR 2022

On 21st October 2021, Helimed01 was on route to an incident when details came through the ACANS system that a 22-year-old had fallen from a cliff after suffering a seizure. Upon reaching the patient they found she was lying face down in the water; she was unconscious and had a serious open head injury. Mum was very distressed, but indicated she was a GP and was able to give a clear handover.

In less than 20 minutes, the waves were crashing over the ledge. The patient was at serious risk of being swept into the sea. With the mother unwilling to leave her daughter, the crew were worried they could soon have two casualties.



Lisa recalled: “We were sheltering behind rocks with waves crashing over us all. We were using all our strength to hold them in place, if we didn’t they would have been washed into the sea. The conditions were getting worse, no one would have got into that water and come out alive. The power of the waves would have thrown us against the rocks. Pete and I looked at each other, we work together a lot, and we both knew what the other was thinking. We couldn’t leave them.”

Following the incident, Lisa and Pete had a debrief with the team from the Coastguard Search and Rescue who told them their actions that day “undoubtedly saved two lives”.

Lisa said: “After the incident we did reflect on the situation we were in, and it does make you think what could have happened. But when you are with a good crew mate, you trust and support each other and remain calm—that’s what got us through.”

**AWARDS OF
EXCELLENCE
2022**

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Increased Demand and Increased Cost

Air ambulance charities have continued to provide specialist critical care to patients during the Covid-19 pandemic as well as throughout the current NHS challenges including the repeated public sector staff strikes and the ongoing pressures on land ambulance Trusts.

They have worked tirelessly to safely adapt their services to meet patient need. Charities are facing an increase in dispatches to patients together with the reality of being hit with fundraising challenges due to lockdown and the cost-of living crisis. Alongside this the lifesaving charities are not immune to the rise in costs of, for example, fuel and other necessary equipment such as medical monitors.

What can you do?

- Support us to obtain government grants and capital funding to support this lifesaving service in your communities.
- Support us to secure a lower cost for fuel.

Safe Access to Patient Data

Providing the highest level of patient care is the key priority for air ambulance charities. It is crucial for charities to have access to patient data once they leave air ambulance care and transfer to NHS services. This data would help air ambulance charities to gain further insight into the full patient pathway and ultimately the patient outcome.

What can you do?

- Support us with our conversations with NHS England to secure safe access to patient data.
- Support us to ensure that air ambulance charities have a seat at their Integrated Care System Board; to be involved in conversations about the system response to patient need in their local communities and to ultimately provide the right care in the right place.

Access to and Engagement about Helipads and Landing Sites

Access to a suitable helipad is crucial to providing lifesaving care in critical situations. Every second counts and access to a helipad at a Major Trauma Centre saves lives by negating the need for a secondary land transfer for patients, for example, from an off-site landing to the Major Trauma Centre.

What can you do?

- Support us to have access to an on-site helipad at every Major Trauma Centre in the UK.
- Support us to be listed as compulsory stakeholder in conversations/engagement about the future of hospital sites, helipads, landing sites and surrounding sites to enable early conversations about the impact on lifesaving critical care for the people in your communities.





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