

how do I become a...

# COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER



**NHS**  
SCOTLAND



## What is the role of a Community First Responder?

Community First Responders are a vital part of our emergency resource and provide care and support while an ambulance is on its way.

By being local and able to respond quickly, Community First Responders are able to provide an early intervention in situations, such as breathing problems, heart or asthma attack, before the ambulance crew arrives, dramatically improving patient survival and recovery.

## What experience will I need?

You do not need to have any previous medical training, but you will need to be enthusiastic about providing a professional level of care to others. You'll need to be flexible, able to work under pressure and able to respond quickly.

## What training will I receive?

You will be trained by our specialist trainers in a wide range of emergency skills including the use of specialised equipment such as automatic external defibrillators and oxygen therapy.

## Will I be employed by the Scottish Ambulance Service?

No. As a Community First Responder you are a volunteer and as such are not directly employed by the Scottish Ambulance Service.

However, you will have a Team Manager who will provide you with support, advice and guidance during your time as a Community First Responder.

## So, why should I be a Community First Responder?

A role as a Community First Responder is a great way to make a difference to your community and the people who live there. By being local, you might just be able to provide the immediate care that makes a real difference to someone's life. This is a long-term commitment, but the satisfaction that you can achieve from the role can be incredible.

## As a Community First Responder am I more likely to get a job as an Ambulance Technician?

All our vacancies are advertised and filled through a strict recruitment and

selection process and we cannot guarantee that being a Community First Responder will automatically mean you will go on to become an Ambulance Technician.

But, working alongside our accident and emergency crews, will give you an insight into what is involved in the role, what working for the service is like and whether it is right for you. So whilst it may not guarantee you a job as an Ambulance Technician, if you do choose to apply for a vacancy, being a Community First Responder initially will give you a real understanding of the job that you are applying for.

## To be a Community First Responder you must be:

- at least 18 years old;
- be able to drive and have a vehicle available for your use;
- able to demonstrate and maintain a level of fitness;
- an effective communicator with good interpersonal skills;
- able to demonstrate logical approach;
- able to work under pressure, yet stay calm;
- reside or work in the area in which the scheme is based;
- be able to respond quickly to incidents;
- able to complete a criminal records check;
- have a long term commitment to the role.