

Customer Support Unit for Wiltshire

We urgently need your help to buy a Community Support Unit Vehicle for St John Ambulance Wiltshire.

St John Ambulance has always been a critical part of our community here in Wiltshire. During the pandemic our 627 dedicated volunteers went above and beyond to support the over-stretched NHS providing additional ambulances and volunteer ambulance crews as well as training over 470 local St John Ambulance vaccination volunteers. St John Ambulance volunteers work in a number of ways to support the local community - as vaccinators, patient advocates and patient supporters, providers of essential first-aid support at public events and giving life-saving First Aid training to hundreds of people.

We now urgently need your help to fund a long-term investment in St John Ambulance's capacity to help create healthier, safer and more resilient communities here in Wiltshire.

Being easily accessible within local communities is key to our mission, and this is underlined by the brand-new vehicle St John Ambulance has developed, specifically to offer adaptable first aid services to the public – the 'First Aid Unit'.

Every detail of the new vehicle has been designed around our volunteers, ensuring they have instant access to the lifesaving tools they need.

First Aid out and about

The First Aid Units are spacious four-wheel drive vehicles. They are adaptable for all terrains, so most outdoor locations can be reached.



Up to six volunteers can travel together to an event, allowing briefing and preparation during the journey so they do not waste precious time on arrival. Along with the team members, the van will carry first aid kitbags necessary for the different situations the volunteers might encounter, as well as equipment which can be quickly removed from the van to set up a covered first aid post. The outer design provides an easily recognisable first aid base.

The First Aid Unit contains facilities essential to enable rapid and safe response from our busy volunteers: a water heater for vital regular handwashing, its own power supply to charge radios and mobile phones, a towbar to carry cycles for our specialist cycle responders, a table for setting up

communications equipment if needed and four seats for the occasional rest and a cuppa! Improving the environment for our volunteers means improving the quality of our provision to all those who need us.

These adaptable units add even more value to the St John Ambulance fleet with the addition of a blue light, enabling their use for emergency driver training. This releases our ambulances to get on with their priority work of responding to saving and protecting lives.

Each fully-equipped First Aid Unit costs £65,000.

We have been extraordinarily privileged to have received a generous donation of £10,000 from B&Q Swindon as a foundational gift to the appeal as well as some generous local donations from events. This is a fantastic start, but we have a long way to go to hit our target.

So how can you help us?

We would be hugely grateful if you could make a donation in support of the purchase of this vehicle for the St John Ambulance team in Wiltshire. It's an ambitious target, however, we believe that with the outstanding generosity of our St John Ambulance friends in Wiltshire, we can achieve it. You will be making a real long-term investment in our future as this First Aid vehicle will support our volunteers in delivering first-aid to the communities in Wiltshire for at least 10 years. We can assure you that all donations will go exclusively to this project.

Thank you in advance for your generous support, enabling St John Ambulance to do even more to help create healthier, safer and more resilient communities here in Wiltshire.

