

East Anglian Air Ambulance - Key Messages 2023/24

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Our Intent

Together with our supporters, we will reach the highest possible standards of excellence and pioneer advances in out-of-hospital critical care to measurably improve patient outcomes across East Anglia.

General

- East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) is a charity providing advanced critical care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to the most seriously ill and injured people in the region by air and road.
- From road traffic collisions to cardiac arrests to medical emergencies, the charity's specialist doctors, critical care paramedics and pilots bring the advanced skills, equipment and medicine – normally only found in a specialist emergency department – directly to the patient's side in the fastest time possible.
- The equipment carried by EAAA's helicopters and critical care cars enables enhanced care at the incident scene – when the patient needs it most – such as blood transfusions, advanced pain relief, sedation and anaesthesia, and surgical interventions.
- This, combined with quick onward transfer to the most appropriate hospital, gives every patient treated by EAAA the best possible chance of surviving and recovering from a life-threatening medical or trauma emergency.
- EAAA is a charity which is independent from the NHS and Ambulance Trusts and receives no regular government funding, relying almost entirely on public support.
- Covering Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and beyond from bases in Norwich and Cambridge, EAAA crews comprise a specialist doctor and a critical care paramedic at a minimum, both with advanced pre-hospital emergency care training, and two highly experienced pilots who are provided by the charity's aviation partner, Babcock.
- The charity is now being called to, on average, eight critical care emergencies every day from its Norwich and Cambridge bases.
- As a result of increased operational costs and high inflation over the last two years, the average cost of a tasking is now £4,250.
- The charity continues to strive towards giving everyone the best chance of surviving and recovering from a life-threatening emergency through:
 - The delivery of exceptional 24/7 out-of-hospital critical care
 - Aftercare support for patients and their families
 - Life-saving training programmes in the community, and
 - By pioneering advances in clinical research and education

Helicopters and cars

- EAAA operates two Airbus H145 helicopters: G-RESU, call sign Anglia One, located at Norwich Airport and G-HEMC, call sign Anglia Two, located at Cambridge City Airport (Marshall's).
- The charity's two H145 helicopters, pilots and engineers are provided by our aviation partner, Babcock. The H145 can carry two pilots, up to three clinicians and a patient. It has an average cruising speed of 167mph, a 400-mile range and can cover 20 miles in less than 10 minutes. This allows EAAA crews to get anywhere in the 5,326 square miles the charity covers quickly to bring urgent critical care directly to the scene of medical emergencies.
- Alongside the helicopters, East Anglian Air Ambulance operates four critical care cars; Volvo XC90s, also known as call sign NMED87 and NMED85 in Norwich, and CMED89 and CMED88 in Cambridge.
- The vehicles offer increased resilience, allowing EAAA to provide effective 24/7 cover by car and, with the exception of a stretcher, are equipped with the same high standard of medical monitoring and assessment equipment as the two helicopters.
- The cars are sometimes the best option to reach patients in the quickest time, especially if the medical emergency is in a location where the helicopters cannot easily land, such as urban areas, or in the event of inclement weather when the conditions are out of legal flying limits.

2023-2024 activity

- For the second year running, East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) experienced its busiest 12 months on record, treating 2,042 people in urgent need of advanced critical care.
- The crews attended 135 more patients compared to the previous year, an increase of 6%, averaging six people each day.
- The crews' most common callouts remain cardiac arrests (26%), road traffic collisions (21%) and medical emergencies (21%).
- EAAA attended 198 patients under the age of 18 last year, and 54 patients under the age of five.
- In total, EAAA was called out, by air and road, to 2,956 emergencies. 1,125 of these were taskings on our night shift (7pm – 7am). Our stand down rate was 34%.
- The crews delivered 68 blood transfusions to trauma patients, performed surgical interventions on 66 patients, sedated 168 patients and delivered advanced anaesthesia to 261 patients at the incident scene.
- EAAA's busiest day was 5 August 2023 with 18 taskings and 12 patients attended.



- We accompanied 50% of our patients to hospital by land ambulance and 8% were flown to a specialist hospital for ongoing care.
- The charity's busiest county remains Norfolk with over 45% of patients treated in this area. 23% of patients were treated in Cambridgeshire, 19% in Suffolk and 3% in Bedfordshire.

Aftercare

- EAAA's service to local communities goes far beyond the critical care it brings to the incident scene. The charity's Aftercare Team provides invaluable support to local people and their loved ones in the turbulent aftermath of their life changing incident, helping them make the difficult transition back to daily life and beyond.
- The service offers specialist emotional and practical support to patients and their families and is delivered by a specialist team of clinicians. The service also extends to bereaved families and members of the public who witness medical or trauma emergencies.
- In the last year, the aftercare service connected with 392 new patients and their friends and family.

Clinical Research and Education

- As part of East Anglian Air Ambulance's mission improve patient outcomes in East Anglia, the charity is driving innovation and excellence in the field of Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine.
- Through the charity's Research, Audit, Innovation and Development (RAID) Group and Academy of Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine, EAAA aims to pioneer advances in pre-hospital clinical research, education and innovation to measurably improve the outcomes of all patients.

Community Training Programme

- EAAA aims to educate and raise awareness of life-saving defibrillator and CPR skills in the community to improve patient outcomes in the event of a cardiac arrest.
- The out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival rate in the UK is around 8% if only resuscitation/CPR is attempted. If a defibrillator is used alongside effective CPR within the first 3-5 minutes, the chances of survival can increase to between 40% – 70%.
- Many lives can be saved each year by the combination of early bystander CPR and defibrillation, advanced critical care at the scene (delivered by EAAA) followed by a rapid transfer to hospital.



- These links, known as the chain of survival, are vital in saving lives and improving patients' prospects of making a full recovery.
- EAAA aims to train 100,000 people how to perform CPR and use a defibrillator by 2029, and during 2023/24, trained over 26,000 people.