



A member of the
**Global
Resuscitation
Alliance**



Resuscitation Council UK – Community Training

CPR in British Schools Through the Resuscitation Council UK

BRIEF BACKGROUND

In the UK, there are more than 60,000 calls to emergency services each year to attend a presumed fatality. Currently, only 30-40% of victims of OHCA receive bystander CPR. In Norway, where the teaching of CPR is mandated in schools, survival rates from bystander CPR are 70%, compared to less than 10% in the UK. And in Denmark, where CPR training in schools has been mandatory since 2005, the chances of recovery from OHCA are triple those in the UK.

A campaign has been underway to include teaching CPR and AED awareness to all British schoolchildren before they graduate, aiming to close the gap in survival rates between the UK and other countries. This intervention can potentially triple survival, making it a key intervention in improving outcomes.

STEPS TAKEN

Since 2011, the Resuscitation Council UK and its partner organizations have been active members of the Every Child a Lifesaver campaign. The partnership continually lobbied the British government to include CPR skills and AED awareness in the school curriculum. Actions included written submissions, petition submissions and awareness/training sessions for MPs. While sympathetic to the cause, no action was taken by the government until 2018.

CHALLENGES

Several obstacles were encountered along the way to achieving this initiative:

- Encouraging the support of Wales and Northern Ireland
- Supporting schools to implement the teaching
- Instilling confidence in teachers
- Providing advice on adding to an already-crowded curriculum
- Funding to ensure the training could be free of charge
- Ensuring it would remain a curriculum staple in the future



On the day – enjoyed by all



Training for all ages

RESULTS

As of January 2019, CPR and first aid training are now a mandatory part of the school curriculum in England. Due to be implemented in 2020, the law will require that all children leave school with lifesaving skills. Scotland has led the way, and Wales and Northern Ireland are set to follow in the future.

OUTLOOK

The Resuscitation Council is liaising with the UK government to better support implementation. They are developing quality standards for community CPR training to ensure standards are set and are achievable, and will continue to lobby the Department of Education to keep this high on the agenda. They are also exploring the idea of asking children to help develop a training package.

CONTACT

Sur Hampshire: sue.hampshire@resus.org.uk



A member of the
**Global
Resuscitation
Alliance**