

To review the training of Community Emergency First Responders by SECAMB (South East Coast Ambulance Service) and other aspects relating to their deployment

Suggestion by Councillor Mike Morgan

Rider 1

I know of several cases where First responders have been able to save residents lives by their quick attendance to an emergence by being able to attend an incidence within 5 - 10 minutes. This may not have been the outcome if it had been necessary to wait for the arrival of an ambulance.

First Responders undertake training within their Groups but are also required to take a course of training provided by SECAMB before they can attend incidences. Recently the SECAMB training has been delayed and is taking anywhere between one and two years to arrange and by that time volunteers have become demoralised and leave. In Henfield a year ago they had twelve new volunteers - this has been reduced to 7 now because of the delay and I understand it is the same elsewhere. Henfield used to be able to provide 24 hours cover 7 days a week - but no longer.