

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 19 MARCH 2020

**Question to Philip Atkins OBE
Leader of the Council**

By Kyle Robinson

Question

Community First Responders are volunteers who support the work of West Midlands Ambulance Service and provide vital assistance to those in need of emergency care. In 95% of cases in Staffordshire, First Responders arrive at the location of a call out before an ambulance; and are then able to provide primary first aid at the most important time in an emergency.

The proposal, from the Ambulance Service, to prevent the highly trained Enhanced Community First Responders from using emergency blue lights and from carrying essential drugs in our County is utter folly, particularly when there is no legislation which requires this to be the case. In other authority areas, where CFRs are unable to use blue lights, they arrive first to an emergency in as few as 70% of cases, meaning that if these proposals were to be adopted up to 25% of ambulance call outs in Staffordshire might see a delay in the provision of vital, emergency care.

Will the Leader of the Council agree to write to the CEO of West Midlands Ambulance Service to express concern and to ask that he reconsiders this proposal in order that Enhanced Community First Responders are able to continue to operate in the same way and to help prevent unnecessary delays in emergency care?

Reply

The Council recognises the valuable work of the Enhanced Community First Responders and I would be very happy to write to the CEO of West Midlands Ambulance Service to clarify the position in respect of blue lights and ensure that Enhanced Community First Responders have the support they need to operate effectively.