



Bleed Kits

Introduction

At the Community & Wellbeing committee meeting, 10th February 2026 the following question was asked and answered.

[Q2] – A resident is seeking town council support when applications are made to the area board for grants to buy blood loss kits for the town. The town doesn't currently have any in place with 24-hour access.

The Chair agreed that following some research into recommended numbers of kits for the town's population and some consideration for suitable locations the council would be likely to support area board grant applications.

Background

Following the knife attack in Chippenham this topic has come to the fore with consideration for the provision of bleed kits.

The Council has approached Wiltshire police via the local police sergeant who suggests there is no reason not to have them as they can be used for any type of catastrophic bleeding injury, recognising that knife crime in Bradford on Avon is low. That having them in place before, rather than following an incident.

Avon and Somerset police have issued some 'key' guidance;

- **Accessibility:** Kits should be placed in highly visible, 24/7 accessible locations. While some are in locked cabinets (accessible via a code from 999 operators), **unlocked cabinets are preferred** to ensure immediate access in a time-critical, life-threatening situation.
- **Location Strategy:** Ideal locations include areas with a higher risk of injury, such as town centres, near transport hubs (e.g., train/bus stations), popular nightlife areas (pubs, clubs, restaurants), and alongside existing defibrillator (AED) cabinets.



- **Contents:** Standard community kits often include heavy-duty trauma dressings, haemostatic dressings (to promote clotting), a tourniquet, nitrile gloves, scissors/shears, a foil blanket, and a CPR face shield.
- **Registration:** It is critical to register installed bleed kits on the **GoodSAM** app or local mapping systems (e.g., bleedmap.uk) so emergency call handlers can direct bystanders to the nearest kit.
- **Maintenance & Costs:** Kits are generally single-use and must be replaced after use. Items within the kits also have expiry dates (often around 2 years). Local authorities or sponsoring community groups are responsible for the management, governance, and replacement costs.
- **Liability & Risk Assessment:** While there is no official, mandatory national guidance on the use of bleed kits, insurers generally treat them similarly to defibrillators. It is recommended to include a, "Use at your own risk" disclaimer notice.
- **Partnerships:** Working with local police, NHS ambulance services, and organizations like The Daniel Baird Foundation is recommended to ensure appropriate equipment selection and training.

The association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) have produced a position statement on bleed kits and emergency equipment.

“The Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) recognises that first aid saves lives and that even basic knowledge of simple first aid skills can be lifesaving. Skills including chest compressions, use of a defibrillator and how to manage bleeding should be taught (and their use encouraged) widely.

Bleeding can occur internally or externally, depending on the cause of injury or type of injury sustained. If not treated immediately, excessive bleeding can be life-threatening. Death from bleeding can occur before a person reaches or receives definitive care.

Many first aid skills require little or no equipment and it is the knowledge of what to do in an emergency that could save a life, which is why AACE actively encourages everyone to learn first aid.

When a person has an external bleed, from whatever cause, first aid measures – including applying direct pressure to an actively bleeding wound – are vital and

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Written by Town Clerk



require little or no equipment. Applying direct pressure can be undertaken with a simple first aid dressing but if no such dressing is available, any item such a clean dry cloth or piece of clothing can be used to apply direct pressure to the wound.

When a 999 call is made for an ambulance for someone bleeding, the telephone triage system will enable the emergency call handler to provide specific instructions for bleeding control. This includes direct pressure and use of dressings or a clean dry cloth to apply pressure to the wound. If a tourniquet has been applied it should not be removed.

Where a specific risk assessment for a geographical location or public event has been undertaken that indicates it may be a beneficial location for additional equipment for the management of bleeding, an organisation may procure equipment either for a first aid kit or as a standalone 'bleed kit'. Ideally, appropriate training should be provided for the use of bleed kits.

However, it is important to note that the responsibility for the governance, training and despatch of bleed kits does not sit with ambulance services."

Ian S Brown

Chief Executive & Town Clerk

12th May 2026