

September 2019

Dear Clerk

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) has been serving the people of Essex for 22 years. The air ambulances have flown more than 23,900 missions and in 2018 alone both the air ambulances and rapid response vehicles were despatched 2,241 times. We continue to rely on the generosity of the local community to remain operational and I am therefore writing to request that the Parish Council consider making a grant to EHAAT in order to help the Charity continue to maintain and improve the vital life-saving service it provides.

You may be aware that since March 2019 EHAAT has been carrying blood supplies on board its air ambulances and rapid response vehicles. This initiative is a huge milestone for the Charity - being able to give a pre-hospital transfusion at the scene of an incident could be a life-saving intervention for patients suffering significant bleeding and blood loss. Early transfusion significantly reduces the time lost in having to take a patient to hospital to receive blood. The initiative has already provided a significant improvement in the care that has been provided with 16 patients across Essex and Hertfordshire receiving blood products since the launch of the initiative.

We continue to look to the future including working towards operating a 24/7 service using both air ambulances and rapid response vehicles. It now costs over £750,000 every month to remain operational and cover all charitable costs and any support the Parish Council can give will help EHAAT to continue to implement initiatives like carrying blood supplies on board. It will also allow the Charity to continue to help people like Harry whose story is attached overleaf.

We hope that you will consider supporting Essex & Herts Air Ambulance this year and help us continue to offer life-saving critical care to those that need it most. I would of course be more than happy to answer any questions you might have so please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully



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## Harry's Story

In June 2018, Joanne Woodcraft was a few minutes from home when a neighbour called to let her know that Joanne's son Harry had been in an accident. Cycling over a manhole cover, Harry had been thrown from his bike into a lamp post, fracturing his skull.

Joanne recalls, "When I first got the call I thought 'what's he done now?' He's a typical 14 year-old boy, always getting into scrapes. When I saw him, I knew it wasn't good. He was in a really distressed state lying on the ground and his arms and legs were flying everywhere. A land ambulance arrived, then another, but they couldn't calm him down. Next thing I saw the air ambulance flying over and a couple of minutes later the EHAAT critical care team arrived."



Pre-hospital Care Doctor Stelios Elia and Critical Care Paramedic Tony Stone immediately took control of the situation.

Joanna continues: "Stelios introduced himself, told me what was happening and what they were going to do. He was so calm that he instantly made me feel so much better. When they said they were going to put a breathing tube into Harry I knew things were serious. The team was so reassuring, but it was still a bit of a shock to see him ventilated. Stelios told me they wanted to take him direct to The Royal London Hospital, a major trauma centre."

Joanne accompanied Harry on the flight: "I was glad I was able to fly with him. They asked if I was scared of heights or got travel sick. When they asked if I had been in a helicopter I said only once, on a tour of New York. They said 'It's not like that!'"



"When I said Harry will be gutted to have had a flight in the helicopter and not know about it, one of the pilots said 'take a photograph'. Showing it to Harry when he woke up was really helpful."

After arriving at The Royal London Hospital, Harry was transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital for an operation to deal with a bleed on his brain.

"He's doing really well now. He was in a medically induced coma for 6 days. When they took him off the drugs they said expect it to be 24 hours before you see a difference, but within two or three hours he was blinking and that evening he was awake. Within a week he was home."

"We're incredibly lucky to live where we do and that the air ambulance was really close by that day. The critical care team were incredible. They were so in control and calm. Nothing seemed to faze them and they were so good at communicating what was happening."

A few weeks after leaving hospital, Harry and Joanne were reunited with Stelios and Tony Stone at EHAAT's North Weald Airbase, where they were able to explain to Harry and Joanne what they had done for him.

"Harry thoroughly enjoyed his visit. I will always hold them in high regard for what they did for Harry. I'm sure the fact that they got there so soon played a big part in Harry's recovery."