

CASE STUDY

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

Overview

Dozens of volunteers from St John Ambulance in Sussex are being deployed on the frontline in the fight against COVID-19, providing patient care and support at two of the county's hospitals.

Since the outbreak of the virus in the UK, the national health and first aid charity has backed up the NHS by providing ambulance crews, plus highly-trained volunteers to work in hospitals up and down the country, including the NHS Nightingale Hospital in London.

Now, St John is working in partnership with the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, providing volunteers to support clinical teams at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton and Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath.



The experienced first aiders will work under the supervision of nursing staff at the hospitals' emergency departments and associated wards. Their role will be like that performed by healthcare assistants in a hospital setting and will include routine work such as assisting patients with eating and drinking, patient hygiene, taking and noting observations, and general care and cleaning.

They have all received additional training in recent weeks, in line with Government recommendations and clinical expertise from NHS England, to enable them to volunteer in this role.

What have people said?

St John Ambulance volunteer Darren Owen said: "This is a vital role in supporting the NHS during extraordinary circumstances; we hope by working closely together we can ease some pressure on clinical staff during this difficult time.

"I've been absolutely astounded by the response from our volunteers – so many want to get involved with this project and support the NHS in their local community. I'm incredibly proud of everything we're doing, and we're delighted to be part of the hospitals' dedicated and incredible teams during this health crisis. We've had a very warm welcome from all involved."

**Darren Owen, District Events Lead
St John Ambulance, South East**



Replying to @SJA_Sussex @DrRobgalloway and 5 others

We are so grateful to St John's Ambulance - amazing staff and leaders. Checked in at PRH this afternoon and saw great teamwork with our colleagues # working together - amazing results