

LIVEX18 Governor Report York event 2 and 3 July 2018

“The two day event was held, in conjunction with the Army Medical Services, to test York Hospital’s emergency response procedure to a major incident occurring in our area. It was repeated on the 5 and 6 July for Scarborough Hospital.

“Sheila, Roland and myself had all offered to fulfil the role of patients. We all arrived at 8.00am on the first day, along with 300 staff participants and 100 facilitators - some of whom were army personnel. After an initial information session for everyone about how the exercise would be organised the volunteers were taken by some wonderful army people who explained our roles and how many would have make-up applied to simulate real injuries. Some of us were asked if we could arrive for 7.00am the next day to play the role of patients who were already in the Emergency Department. Sheila and I both agreed to do this. We left about 4.30pm on what had been a very hot and sunny day.

“The set up in the large training building was amazing- it had been presented as close to the lay out of the York Hospital Emergency Department (ED) as possible so it would be familiar to the staff taking part. The volunteer patients were given a new name, birthday and a story to use when we arrived in the ED department.

The actual incident occurred at 9.20 am; the army’s simulation of a large explosion plus gunfire at an event at one of York’s sports clubs was very realistic. Soon after the wounded started to arrive - some with major injuries, such as loss of a limb or fractures came in by ambulance and others were the walking wounded with burns and deep cuts. The continuous sound of the ambulances was very noisy. The make-up applied to simulate wounds was incredibly realistic. Some of us played the roles of concerned relatives, as well as casualties. Some other patients not connected to the major incident continued to arrive including an elderly man who collapsed with a cardiac arrest.

“It was another lovely day and between our role play we could sit chatting to other volunteers including a group of, mainly young, army reservists which was very interesting and great fun. Lunch and other refreshments were provided throughout the day. The atmosphere was wonderful - volunteers, staff and the military were all supportive friendly and kind. Sheila, Roland and I felt the care and treatment we received as patients was excellent. Eighty two patients had been through the department in about six hours.

“There had been extensive media coverage throughout the exercise. Following the end of the exercise we all went to a debriefing session where the Joint Head of Strategy, the Medical Director for the Emergency Department and the senior army officer all agreed that it had been an exercise well worth doing and much had been learnt from it. Much of the video footage would be used for future staff training.”

Jeanette Anness, Governor
Sheila Miller, Governor
Roland Chivers, Governor