

# Keeping West Glamorgan safe

## Melanie James JP

High Sheriff of West Glamorgan 2024-25

I wanted to take the opportunity during my year as High Sheriff to make a difference in our community of West Glamorgan. Having been a magistrate for 14 years and with particular awareness as a youth magistrate of an increase in the possession of bladed articles and knife crime, I decided that a missing and much need provision in West Glamorgan was publicly accessible and easy to use critical bleed control (CBC) kits.

The principal aim of my initiative is to equip public locations with readily accessible bleed control kits that are both highly effective and simple to use. This proactive measure will undoubtedly save lives by providing immediate life-saving assistance before emergency services can arrive.

Although natural assumption and media coverage often associate bleed control kits with knife crime, there are numerous instances where these kits have been used to control catastrophic bleeding due to accidents such as road traffic collisions, workplace incidents, impalements, dog bites, and more.

After several months spent consulting with the emergency services and relevant organisations, I decided to adopt the Daniel Baird Foundation bleed control kit, which has been deployed in 20,000 locations across England and British territories. Marty's Law is progressing as the government publishes draft legislation outlining requirements for venues and



At Bulldogs Boxing & Community Centre with Chief Inspector South Wales Police, PCSO and Station Officer of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service



In Swansea city centre with the CEO of Ospreys, Chief Inspector South Wales Police, Deputy Leader of City and County of Swansea, Member of Senedd Cymru, Station Manager Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Chairman of Heartbeat Trust UK and two members of the Magistrates' Association West Glamorgan

other organisations to ensure public safety, including the provision of bleed control kits. Cody's Law, currently at the petition stage, also calls for all public venues to have bleed control kits as well as metal detectors. Until now, there has been no provision in Wales.

The kit includes essential military-grade equipment such as a fox seal chest seal, Celox gauze, Code Red tourniquet, large trauma dressing, emergency shears, disposable gloves, foil blanket, CPR face shield, and a marker pen. The kit has a five-year expiry date, and single elements can be replaced if required. I am currently working on a training video which will be widely available and promoted on social media, and I am delighted that the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust will assist with talking through the instructions for use when a call is made to 999.

My intention, where possible, is to install these kits within our current defibrillator boxes. By working in conjunction with Heartbeat Trust UK and other defibrillator guardians, I can utilise the existing monitoring and registration systems. The boxes will then be rebranded as 'multi trauma boxes' and I also envisage placing kits in public venues, schools, shops, licensed premises, transport hubs, sports venues – the list is endless!

The initiative is supported by the Wales Ambulance Services Trust, South Wales Police, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, local authorities, Welsh government, and safety partnerships. The Office of High Sheriff undoubtedly opened doors and allowed me to reach the most senior and influential people. This ensures

a well-coordinated approach, enhancing the project's effectiveness and reach. The provision of these critical bleed control kits and associated training will empower citizens, increase community resilience and, ultimately, contribute to a safer environment for everyone in West Glamorgan.

I have carried out two awareness events, one in the Lord Mayor's Mansion House in Swansea and one in the Bulldogs Boxing & Community Centre in Port Talbot. Both events were extremely well supported and St John Ambulance Cymru gave a kit demonstration and S4C filmed us. I launched the installations on all social media platforms and have persuaded local celebrities and sports stars to feature in my campaign. Six months in and I have raised funds for over 200 kits which I am extremely proud of, with 50 already installed in the county.

The High Sheriff of West Glamorgan is helping to keep the people of West Glamorgan safe!



At Aberavon Beach, Port Talbot, with Chief Inspector South Wales Police, Station Manager at Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue, PCSO and Cllr Matthew Crowley, Mayor of Neath and Port Talbot