

Mayor's Office

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Dear James

Thank you for your letter regarding the cross-party report *A Heartbeat Away*, which investigated the level and quality of emergency life support (ELS) training provided in London.

I agree that an ELS training scheme specifically tailored to older people could help to significantly reduce the numbers of Londoners who die each year from cardiac arrest. Such a scheme would also support broader aims of recognising older people's important contribution to London life and providing opportunities for lifelong learning, in turn promoting older people's well-being. Therefore, I support your work to encourage NHS London to invest in further work to develop this scheme. My staff and I will reflect these views in relevant discussions with NHS colleagues.

I was also interested to read the enclosed letter from Tom Easterling and am pleased that London Primary Care Trusts wish to be closely linked into the development of such a scheme. I see that Mr Easterling has emphasised the need for a partnership approach that brings together a range of organisations such as those that currently contribute to the Saving Londoners' Lives scheme. I believe that a partnership approach is essential for this kind of project, as is a commitment to build on experience from similar initiatives. My Health Policy Team has extensive experience in this area and will continue to work to bring the right partners together.

I look forward to hearing more about the development of this scheme.

Best wishes,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London