

## Wales

Founded in 1918, St John Ambulance Cymru emerged as returning World War 1 volunteers continued their dedication to lifesaving efforts within Welsh communities. The organisation officially became a separate entity from its English counterpart when King Edward VII authorised the foundation of national Priories, leading to the establishment of the Priory of Wales.

St John Ambulance Cymru is now Wales' leading first aid charity. In January 2025 the charity launched a forward thinking strategy designed to expand its impact and reinforce its commitment to lifesaving work.

The vision is for Wales to be a community of life savers, working towards the mission of enabling every community to learn first aid and healthcare skills, and saving lives and promoting wellbeing for current and future generations.

St John Ambulance Cymru delivers the mission through a wide range of services:

- **First Aid Training:** In 2024 over 35,000 people received expert first aid instruction, (including mental health first aid), equipping people with vital skills for emergencies.
- **Event Medical Cover:** In 2024 St John Ambulance Cymru's team of over 2,000 dedicated volunteers provided lifesaving first aid and emergency response at 700 events, including major occasions such as the Cardiff Half Marathon, international rugby, National Eisteddfod, and globally renowned events like Taylor Swift's concert.
- **Youth Programmes:** Through its Cadet and Badger programmes, St John Ambulance Cymru educates and inspires around 800 children and young people, instilling leadership skills and first aid proficiency.
- **Emergency Support:** Working in close collaboration with emergency services, St John Ambulance Cymru provides ambulance transport and frontline medical assistance. In 2024, 20,666 patients received support, helping to alleviate pressure on emergency healthcare services.

The 2025-2030 strategy underscores St John Ambulance Cymru's commitment to expanding volunteer engagement, with a focus on fostering a sector-leading volunteer experience. It also focuses on teaching skills through community education, supporting children and young people to reach their potential and consider careers in health and social care, and ensuring that the charity is inclusive and sustainable to ensure that the historic legacy continues well into the future.