

DONATION TUNES INTO NEEDS OF LIMERICK SUICIDE WATCH TEAM

With a relatively high suicide rate in Limerick, the recent donation of radio communications equipment to Limerick Suicide Watch will play a critical role in assisting the voluntary suicide prevention group to save lives, as it patrols the five bridges of Limerick city and along the banks of the Shannon waterway.

The two-way radio handsets, chargers, base station and antenna have been donated to the fledgling voluntary organisation in Limerick by radio and mobile communications supplier EMR Integrated Solutions.

With this vital radio equipment now on board, the team of over 40 volunteers can communicate with each other more reliably, intervene more effectively in life-threatening incidents and summon the support of emergency services as required.

The rugged handsets provide robust, high quality voice communications within the team, while the radio frequency is also linked to the Irish Coast Guard, Limerick Marine Search and Rescue, and Limerick Fire and Rescue. This will significantly speed up reaction times to potentially fatal incidents as they occur.

CRITICAL DONATION

Ger McNamara, chairman of Limerick Suicide Watch, said: "The donation is critical for us. We're not relying on mobile phones, which really aren't suitable due to coverage blackspots. Our volunteers now have handsets that are easy-to-use and reliable and they can request assistance from colleagues or emergency services much faster."

McNamara added that since the group's ability to respond to incidents needs to be professional in dealing with the relatively high rate of suicide in Limerick, this donation will allow them to achieve just that.

Each volunteer's four-hour shift

typically consists of foot and bike patrols along the banks of the Shannon. The group is active for three days during the week from 9pm to 1am and at weekends from 12am to 4am.

Mark Quinn, managing director of EMR, believes businesses have a responsibility to give back to the community wherever possible. "Our organisation has a strong sense of corporate social responsibility and we support wholeheartedly initiatives such as Limerick Suicide Watch."

BRAVERY OF VOLUNTEERS

"We admire the courage and bravery of the volunteers who work in extremely difficult conditions and in all weathers and we're delighted to support them in the valuable work they do."

LSW hopes to increase its mobile patrols to seven days a week, extending the support it provides to people in difficulty.

EMR Integrated Solutions has been in operation since the early 1980s and has an experienced management team in markets as diverse as retail, hospitality, utility, telecoms and public safety.

For more information visit www.emrsolutions.ie



Limerick Suicide Watch team (l-r): Sarah Counihan, Dave Mullen, Ger McNamara, Chairman, Sarah Hopkins and Shirley Johnston pictured at their base in the Tait Business Centre. (Pic: Keith Wiseman)