

PLEDGE TO SAVE YOUNG LIVES

UK healthcare and Scottish policy to prevent young sudden cardiac deaths is informed by a number of guidelines and recommendations. These include:

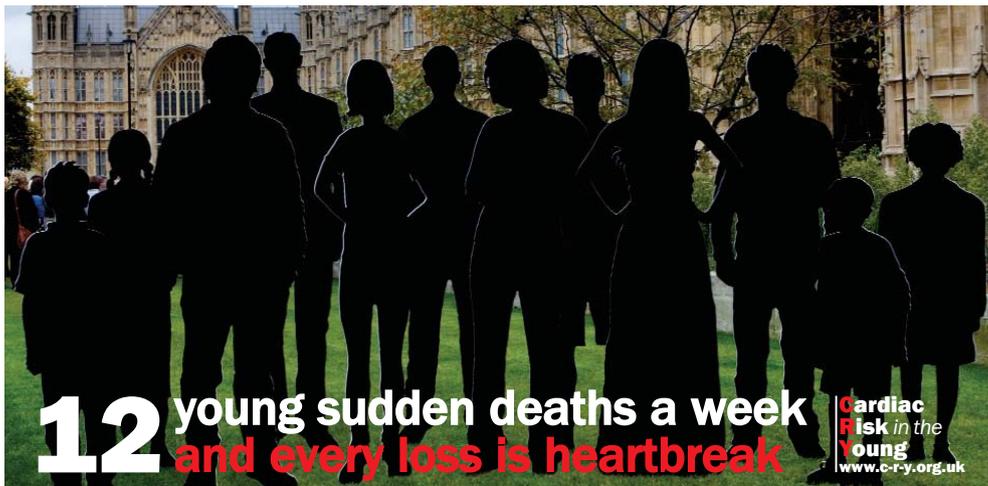
- **Department of Health** National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease, Chapter 8
- **National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)** Transient loss of consciousness ('blackouts') in over 16s
- **UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC)** recommendation on screening to prevent Sudden Cardiac Death in 12 to 39 year olds
- **Heart Disease Action Plan 2021**

Current UK policies are contradictory, with our guidelines based on inconsistent assessments of the incidence, methods of diagnosis and management of cardiac conditions in young people.

The UK and Scotland needs a national strategy to ensure the guidelines and policies to prevent young sudden cardiac death are consistent. The firststageofanationalstrategyshouldbetocorrectly acknowledge the incidence of these deaths.

The latest report from the UK National Screening Committee (*) and a recent letter to the government from the UK Statistics Authority (*) provide clear evidence that the number of young sudden cardiac deaths (age 35 and under) is significantly under-reported.

In 2015, policy advisors considered the risk of young sudden cardiac death "tiny" and said that "the overwhelming majority of heart attacks happen in elderly people." (*)



12 young people dying every **WEEK** is not a "tiny" issue

Cardiac arrest in the young is NOT comparable to **heart attacks in the elderly**

(*) links to the UK NSC report and UK Statistics Authority letter can be accessed at www.c-r-y.org.uk/my-pledge.

Please sign up to this pledge and help save young lives.

"I (PRINT NAME)

(SIGN)

pledge to

support a National Strategy for the Prevention of Young Sudden Cardiac Death to help save the lives of the 12 apparently fit and healthy young people who die every week in the UK of undiagnosed cardiac conditions."

All those MSPs who support this pledge (in a letter, email, tweet or other) will have their name added to the webpage www.c-r-y.org.uk/my-pledge-MSP where it will state "The following MPs have pledged their support to establish a National Strategy for the Prevention of Young Sudden Cardiac Death in the UK."

(*) links to the UK NSC report and UK Statistics Authority letter can be accessed at www.c-r-y.org.uk/my-pledge.

**I pledge
to help save
young lives**

#MSPSUPPORT4CRY

