

Transport Plan – post consultation; Option A

Introduction

This plan outlines the national and local drivers around transport and the development of the integrated transport strategy which aims to improve transportation across North Kent. This plan has been specifically developed to acknowledge and address some of the issues arising from the proposed relocation of Acute Mental Health Inpatient services for the residents of Medway and Swale from A Block Medway Maritime Hospital to Littlebrook Hospital Dartford and Priority House Maidstone respectively. It will address issues which arise for those accessing Psychiatric intensive care from East Kent as this service will move from Canterbury to Dartford.

The Transport group which has been established to oversee the development and implementation of this plan has sought input from experts by experience and have actively engaged with relatives/ carers and others who visit Medway to seek their views regarding transport issues, their concerns and how they would like to be supported should proposed changes occur.

National Policy

The Government has focused on reducing car dependency and increased travel choices through key guidance in the Transport White Paper, Road Traffic Reduction Act and the Planning Policy Guidance 13 (Transport). Of these, Planning Policy Guidance 13 (PPG 13), this provides the strongest imperative for travel plans and any arising planning obligation. It recommends travel plans for various land uses, including places of work.

PPG13 (Transport) 2001 indicates that travel plans should be submitted alongside major planning applications, developments likely to generate a significant amount of traffic, or to generate traffic in sensitive locations (e.g. Air Quality Management Areas). They should help to deliver:

1. reductions in car usage (particularly single occupancy journeys) and increased use of public transport, walking and cycling;
2. reduced traffic speeds and improved road safety and personal security particularly for pedestrians and cyclists; and
3. more environmentally friendly delivery and freight movements, including home delivery services.

Travel plans, or elements from them, are often secured by a planning condition or agreement. Information on planning obligations secured under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) can be found in Circular 05/2005 published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). The ODPM is now the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Regional Policy

Medway council's Local Transport Plan (LTP3) and Kent County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP3) were adopted in April 2011. Both documents make numerous references to continued support of schools and businesses in the development of travel plans, as part of their commitment to actively promote the use of alternatives to car based travel. Throughout the lifetime of LTP3 (2011 to 2016),

the intent is to increase the number of travel plans across Kent and Medway. There is a commitment from both Medway Council and Kent County Council to adopt a whole systems approach and have both contributed to the development of North integrated transport strategy which looks at improving transport networks across (and within)Medway and the north of the county.

Local Policy

The Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT), has recently published its Carbon Management Plan. Through this Plan the Trust states a clear commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of its sites. Of particular relevance to this Travel Plan is the Carbon Management Plan's strategic theme of 'Tackling Transport and Travel Emissions'. This theme promotes the use of sustainable transport modes across the Trust's sites, and the use of travel plans to help achieve this.

Patients and Visitors

We wish our patients and visitors to benefit from having a variety of transport options available to them, and from being able to make informed choices about those transport options, when travelling to and from our site. Measures we propose to achieve this include:

- Travel information leaflets detailing options for all modes of transport, and travel contact numbers and websites, will be issued at point of admission to acute care.
- Trust website will include a dedicated website page providing travel information for all modes of transport to visitors, and links to useful resources e.g. journey planning website, etc.
- Main visitor receptions areas will display public transport information e.g. maps and take-away timetables, in.
- Support for patients accessing acute care and home leave; such as use of voluntary transport service, STR workers to facilitate leave.
- Access to secure transport if required to facilitate admission or transfer between units.
- Flexibility with visiting times to support families/carers accessing inpatient facilities via public transport. This will need to be agreed on a case by case basis to ensure needs of the individual are met in regards to receiving visitors and engagement with treatment.
- The Trust will continue to monitor and liaise with partners regarding transport plan developments as per Integrated Transport Strategy, and any future developments between MFT and DVH.
- Improve signage to hospital sites.

We acknowledge that the changes in the delivery of inpatient acute care will have an impact on visitors. We recognise the importance of maintaining links with family and carers and in addition to

the above to aid transition The Trust will, within its absolute discretion provide financial assistance to enable service users to travel to and from in patient units where such units are more than 14.5 miles from the patients home. Eligibility for such assistance will be determined by the criteria set out below. In providing such assistance the Trust is not accepting any ongoing continuing liability to do so. The level of assistance is solely within the discretion of the Trust

Criteria for access in Financial support:

- Immediate Family member (spouse, parent, Child, Sibling) and or main carer.
- In receipt of benefits
- Known disability or infirmity.
- Support would be calculated on distance to new inpatient facility (for Medway this would be Little brook, Dartford, and Swale Priority House Maidstone) less 14.5 miles. This is currently the largest distance from where someone would visit A Block, Medway Maritime Hospital
- Support for East Kent residents visiting PICU in Dartford would be calculated on similar terms – distance to PICU less mileage from larges current distance within East Kent to access intensive care facilities at St Martins Hospital, Canterbury.

Action Plan

When	Activity	By whom
By Dec 2012	Set up Travel Plan Steering Group	Philippa Macdonald & Janet Lloyd
January 2013	Display public transport information in main visitor reception areas then maintain up-to-date	Site managers
February – May 2013	Improve signage within KMPT inpatient sites including signage to bus stops etc.	Site managers
February 2013	Contact local authority regarding provision of signage to inpatient facilities	Site manager
February 2013	Implement flexible visiting times as required to support relatives accessing inpatient facilities via public transport	Service managers/ Ward Managers
March 2013	Complete audit of visitor views at Medway regarding transport and the proposed option.	PALS team/ Expert by experience group
April 2013	Review findings and ensure plan reflects views raised within questionnaire	Steering group/ Acute service line

April 2013	Prepare dedicated travel plan website page then maintain up-to-date	IT and TPC
April 2013	Design and print travel information leaflets	TPC with Kent Highway Services
Point of service change	Extension of voluntary transport scheme to support home leave as required.	Janet Lloyd Service line
Point of service change	Use of STR workers (within CRHT) to support home leave and transition from inpatient care to community care.	Locality CRHT
Point of service change	Budget of £10,000 allocated to support relatives visiting inpatient unit – via voluntary transport or subsidy for public transport as per eligibility criteria.	Service Director
May 2013	Policies underpinning access to voluntary transport, financial support developed and approved	Transport steering group
June 2013	Clear communication to patients, carers, relatives, and other stakeholders regarding transport policy and support available after the service change.	Transport steering group
June 2013	Provision of patient internet access in all inpatient units	IT & transport steering group
June 2013	Access to technology to support case discussion and liaison between acute services and community and primary care	IT & transport steering group
June 2013	Guidance notes to staff re considerations to make when establishing meetings where relatives/carers are required to attend.	Transport steering group / service managers
ongoing	monitor and liaison with partners regarding transport plan developments as per ITS, and any future developments between MFT and DVH.	Transport steering group
Beyond Dec 2013	Annual actions and new actions determined as a result of the annual review of the Travel Plan	Steering Group