



Dundry View Neighbourhood Partnership

Public Forum Statements

15th December 2014

	Name	Subject	Comments
1	Carloyn Purcell, Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership Statement (HWCP)	The CATT Project South Bristol Hospital Bus	Statement attached



Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership Statement (HWCP)

Re: The CATT Project South Bristol Hospital Bus

Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership (HWCP) is extremely concerned that the community transport service we run to and from South Bristol Community Hospital (SBCH) will cease in March, due to the Section 106 funding ending. The loss of this transport will have a massive negative impact on the communities we serve, leaving the most vulnerable and disadvantaged unable to access essential medical care and treatment.

Despite the acknowledged value of this service, it is clear from discussions that the hospital does not have the funds to continue to support the service and so far they have been unable to get any commitment from the NHS to provide alternative funding.

We have delivered this vital and successful transport for the last 2 years as part of the CATT Community Transport Service. CATT operates a membership service which includes all designated routes, and last year provided 35,019 single passenger journeys. Passengers can choose to join the hospital bus scheme only and membership of this has grown steadily to the current 505 individuals. The total number of hospital journeys is around 4,850 per year. However, journey numbers are continually rising which is perhaps indicative of increases in chronic medical conditions requiring on-going treatment, and a general deterioration of community health.

Due to the isolated location of the hospital facility and resources, and the issues faced by many of its patients, community transport has provided a vital link for South Bristol residents, enabling them to attend appointments or visit loved ones.

Public transport is beyond the financial reach of many of our passengers. A recent survey revealed that 40% of the community are not able to use public buses, with timetables, locations and distances of bus stops contributing to make public transport unsuitable for many disabled and disadvantaged people. We also understand that the Section 106 funding on public transport routes to the hospital comes to an end in June 2015.

We foresee that there will be a marked increase in missed appointments which will result in delays in treatment, deterioration of health and a rise in the use of emergency services including ambulances and 24-hour A&E attendance at NHS facilities in the city centre.

Maintaining the CATT Hospital Bus will be central to the ability to deliver on the health agenda for South Bristol and the hospital's own targets. If the bus isn't funded, there is a wider and deeper negative consequence as the problem will simply be pushed onto other UHB facilities and other public health budgets.

This loss comes at a time when Bristol City Council is intending the cessation of concessionary fares on community transport services as of March 2015. We understand the concessionary fares will remain on public transport buses. This again means that the most vulnerable and disadvantaged will be the worst affected.

Ultimately, the costs of these actions will be made higher through more intensive treatment for untreated illnesses, more in-patient admissions and the financial consequences of no-shows to

appointments. Nor can we ignore the devastating consequences to patients, families and the community in terms of poor health and wellbeing.

HWCP requests that the Neighbourhood Partnership notes this statement and that individuals take whatever actions they can to support it, including contacting their MPs and the elected Mayor to vocalise their support.

Anyone with any questions relating to this statement can contact Carolyn Purcell, CEO, HWCP on 0117 9038045.