

## Situation

York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (YTH FT) serves an area of approximately 3,400 miles with approximately 530,000 people and employs around 9,000 staff, based in geographically dispersed hospitals in North and East Yorkshire from Scarborough and Bridlington on the coast to inland, Malton, York and Selby (just east of Leeds).

York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust had a Travel Plan for some of its hospitals but sought to achieve and integrated travel plan which aims to encourage healthy travel through promotions and opportunities which result in modal shift, particularly away from single occupancy car use (the last Travel survey of over 1,000 people indicated this was approx. 53%). The travel plan will also tackle air pollution and result in carbon emissions reduction.

Currently, the Trust has huge pressures on car parking at its larger acute sites particularly York Hospital, and some lesser pressures at the other major Trust sites – Scarborough, Malton, Bridlington and Selby.

The York site is located in the centre of the city, adjacent to the inner ring road and contributes towards major traffic congestion in the area on a daily basis. More pressingly, staff car parking is at full capacity, to the extent that it is affecting staff morale and thus service delivery.

The current York staff car park capacity is 611 spaces, with staff demand far outweighing that number (3915 permits issued). Recently 30 spaces were lost due to site development works and a projected 120 spaces will be lost to accommodate the construction of a new Vascular unit in 2019/20. This will clearly affect a significant number of staff and thus alternative transport methods will need to be provided / promoted, as well as a review of the criteria that goes into qualifying for a staff parking permit.

## Task

The Trust is producing a Travel Plan to address these issues. This is Trust-wide review of all aspects of Travel and Transport for staff, patients and Visitors. A Travel Planning Coordinator has been appointed to work on this project which is a shared post with with City of York Council and facilitates a close working relationship with local authority

partners. The main areas of focus are:

- Active travel
- Reducing single occupancy car journeys
- Reducing CO2 emissions wherever possible
- Looking at improving things for clinical / ward staff / shift workers / Jr Doctors / Nurses etc – being positive and removing barriers.

Targets are in the process of being set for a number of variables which contribute to a reduction in single occupancy car journeys i.e. reduce the need to travel, increasing walking and cycling, increase the use of public transport to Trust sites and increasing car sharing.

## Actions

Whilst the travel plan is currently in a draft version to ensure that the consultation process includes input from the front line nursing staff, work to develop the local transport links and needs of the staff, has already started addressing the following areas (as part of the Travel Plan). These are applicable to all the major Trust sites but are particularly pertinent to York in light of the current parking pressures. All of the points below are ongoing and progress is reported on a quarterly basis to the Trust's Transport and Travel Group:

### **POLICY DEVELOPMENT/SUPPORT WORK:**

**Communications** – Crucial aspect of every event and activity to ensure people have access to information / alternative travel.

**Intranet** - Updating and collating all travel information for staff

**External partnership working** – City of York Council, North Yorkshire County Council, East Riding County Council, other Trusts. Conversations with Nestle and local rail stations re. potential pooling of resources.

**Internal partnership working** – Meeting with staff groups, Transport, Estates, Sustainability, Staff benefits, Staff welfare, Finance, Security and Car Parking, HR.

**Air Quality Monitoring** – Stations have been set up in prominent spots at York Hospital for 12 month readings. Similar monitoring has been set up near Scarborough Hospital

**Postcode mapping to support policy development**– Applying staff home postcodes on a map for all major sites, which can then be used to illustrate cycle routes, bus routes, promote car sharing and potentially influence new bus routes.

## PROMOTING HEALTHIER CHOICES:

**HR** – Promoting sustainable transport options to new starters to the Trust.

**i-Travel** – promoting healthy travel choices with City of York Council

**Cycling** – training opportunities, awareness days and Dr Bike support investigation work on infrastructure improvements, working with local authorities and organisations.

**Buses** – meeting with all providers in the region, reviewing routes, services, discounts, possibility of a shuttle bus / park and ride service.

**Car sharing** – A Liftshare scheme has been set up with dedicated car sharing spaces, promotional events held to increase sign ups with incentives etc.

**Staff pool cars** – Promotional events held with provider at main sites and usage monitored.

**Electric vehicles** – Introduction of fleet vehicles and charging infrastructure supported by awareness events at the Trust to educate and encouraging staff use.

**York Hospital staff car park** – Review planned of staff parking permit criteria, numbers, configuration etc. Alternative transport provisions being looked into (with an emphasis on sustainable travel).

## Results

**Communication** – over 1,000 people returned travel survey, so policies and targets can be based on survey findings

**Partnership working** – resulted in a shared post of Travel Coordinator with local Council, discussions on funding streams and the installation of equipment to result in reporting on local air quality. Pool bikes are also being investigated by the local Council for Trust use.

**Cycling and Sustainable Travel events** – held regularly to promote healthier travel choices, cycle racks and storage areas are well. Staff can receive a 20p per mile rate when cycling for work.

**Postcode mapping** – work to date has identified the number of staff within 1 mile, 2 miles, 5 miles, 10 miles and 15 miles. This will be used to map out cycle networks, public transport routes and potential liftshare connections.

**Bus discounts** – Staff benefits team and staff shop offer discounted bus tickets for local and park and ride travel to discourage staff from bringing their car to the hospital by Trust staff – to date 450 members of staff have signed up, 260 journeys have been added and 51 Liftshare teams have been established. This has resulted in financial savings of £206,000, 346 tonnes of CO2 reduction and mileage savings of 1,765,279.

**Staff Pool Cars** – 37 pool cars across five hospital sites which reduced car mileage CO2 from the 465,921 miles travelled per annum by approx. 30% (30.75 tonnes) in 2017/18. The mileage travelled in the 1 litre petrol pool cars which replaces staff using their own vehicles has increased by 73% when compared with last year.

**Electric vehicles** - 9 vehicles have been added into the Estates and Delivery fleet with fleet electric charging points at two York sites and at Scarborough. Charging infrastructure will be added to staff car parks in due course.

**Liftshare** – Thus far car sharing has been taken up by York Hospital staff – to date 450 members of staff have signed up, 260 journeys have been added and 51 Liftshare teams have been established. This has resulted in financial savings of £206,000, 346 tonnes of CO2 reduction and mileage savings of 1,765, 279.

## Contact

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