

## **AGENDA ITEM 6**

### **Adult Community Services & Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel – 7 July 2009**

#### **Update on the impact of the implementation of car parking charges for Berkshire East community hospitals**

The purpose of this report is to update RBWM OSC on the effect of the implementation of car parking charges on Berkshire East Primary Care NHS Trust hospital sites.

As you will know implementation of car parking charges took place on 6 October 2008 at King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor and on 3 November 2008 at St Marks Hospital in Maidenhead.

The main objectives were to ensure spaces for patients as near to access points as possible and to prevent monies which would be better spent on clinical services from being spent on the maintenance, upkeep and running of the car parks.

Implementation on both sites went smoothly with no major issues identified. Since the implementation there have been no complaints from patients with regards to car park charges. There has been one complaint received from a Maidenhead resident (in Courthouse Road) with regard to cars parking outside their house. On investigation this is due to patients visiting the children's centre with babies who wish to park closer to the entrance to this service. There have been no complaints from residents in Windsor.

#### **King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor**

The implementation of parking charges at King Edward VII appears to have happened without incident. The issue remains of the lack of spaces but it is envisaged that by implementing the new staff parking scheme this will create many more spaces for patients.

The review of staff parking is currently under consultation. It is hoped that the majority of staff will be allowed to park on site 4 out 5 days. This will reduce staff cars on site by 20% every day. In order to assist staff on the days that they are not allowed to park at King Edward, the Trust is in talks with the Princess Margaret Hospital about sharing their Park and Ride Scheme, from Legoland, for a 6 month trial period. This will be free to staff.

Recently the Trust has been collaborating with council staff at the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, to allow weekend parking from the Hospital between 6pm on a Friday evening until midnight on Sundays. This will also include bank holidays. The council are keen to encourage members of the public to park and walk into Windsor town. Negotiations have been smooth and it is hoped that this arrangement will begin from 27 July 2009.

## St Marks Hospital, Maidenhead

The implementation of parking charges at St Marks appears to have happened without incident also. The same issue remains on busy days with the lack of spaces, which as explained earlier will be minimised by implementing the new staff parking scheme. This will free up many more spaces for patients.

The Trust recently repaired tarmac and pot holes on site and re-marked some of the road markings. There have been no safety risks identified with cars being displaced onto the surrounding roads because the displacement has been minimal. Any safety concerns should be alleviated when the Royal Borough implement additional road markings on the roads around the Hospital. These are to include free short stay bays along Courthouse Road. We have been informed that these markings are to be installed imminently.

Previously there have been concerns that local shops that face the Hospital could suffer reduced trade as a result of displaced car parking from the hospital site. As far as we are aware this has not been the case and we have received no complaints from the local shops.

Overall the scheme has been running for 8 months now and we believe the patient parking is vastly improved. We believe the main objective of providing parking that is appropriately placed near to clinical service access points has been achieved and will only increase when the staff parking scheme is introduced.

## Finance

On average the income received per quarter has been approximately:

- King Edward VII Hospital - £36,000
- St Marks - £10,000

And our expenditure per quarter on administering the scheme has been approximately:

- King Edward VII Hospital - £17,000
- St Marks - £12,000

Monies made will go towards:

- On-going capital charges relating to the maintenance repairs
- Access control barriers to staff parking areas
- ID access control internally
- Further security measures
- Further maintenance and repairs