

Briefing note 02/14

Medway Maritime Hospital Car Parking

Briefing Paper - January 2014

During 2013/14, Medway Foundation Trust has implemented a number of improvements to reduce traffic congestion around the Medway Maritime site and enhance the public's experience when visiting the Trust.

The Trust is also undertaking a strategic review of car parking facilities available for public and staff and intends to overhaul the current facilities available to ensure optimum capacity and flow across the site.

Summarised below are a number of actions undertaken and further improvements that are proposed.

Actions Undertaken:

Ring fence of patient parking spaces - Increased traffic management officers presence to ensure that spaces designated for public use are not used by trust staff.

Off-site parking facilities for staff - Financial incentives for staff to park off-site were introduced in April 2013. Shuttle bus operational times have also been extended to allow more staff to take advantage of this facility. The shuttle bus now operates 7:00 AM to 9:15 PM.

Negotiations are at an advanced stage to double the amount of off-site parking that is available for staff to use (200 spaces to be available with an aim to increase further).

Since November 2013 all new staff are required to park off-site to prevent further congestion on site.

New signage - New traffic signage was introduced in November 2013 to improve the traffic flow through the site.

Road markings and resurfacing work – a programme of redesign and update of road markings on site will commence 25th January; this will also include the resurfacing of the Windmill road entrance to the site.

Actions Proposed / to be undertaken:

Parking membership – there is to be a thorough review of all permit holders to take into consideration their residential proximity to the hospital and the enforcement of a controlled parking zone.

There is to be an increase in the number of admin & clerical staff to receive off-site parking permits.

A review of on-site parking charges is also to be completed.

New signage - New and improved patient way finding signage has been approved and due for installation shortly (date awaited from third party).

New patient barriers system- Replacement of the old car parking system in patients car park's One and Two will commence in February 2014. Pay machines will be internal and external, and will accept coins, notes, and debit card payments.

Electronic gantry sign- this will be linked up to the new patients barriers systems so that all visitors are aware of their options and space availability. Awaiting final design and installation date.

New staff barriers – proposals are under development, this initiative will ensure that staff without correct permissions will not be able to park on site.

Outpatient clinic review – a review of outpatient clinics is to be undertaken to smooth out the peak demand periods

In addition to these actions, there have been a number of joint meetings between Medway Council, Medway Foundation Trust and Arriva Buses – it is important that these continue to ensure the right solutions are put in place.

The Trust is taking the car parking and traffic flow issues very seriously and is committed to bringing sustainable resolutions. With the actions undertaken to date there has been a noticeable reduction in the occurrences of traffic congestion accessing the site. The initiatives proposed will increase the robustness of the Trusts parking provision and ensure there is sufficient capacity for public parking.

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