

HOSPITAL CAR PARK CHARGES – BRIEFING NOTE

To: **HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Meeting Date: **21ST January 2016**

From: **Director of Public Health**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable**

Purpose: **The Committee is being asked to consider the briefing report on Hospital Car Park charge.**

Recommendation: **The committee is asked to**

- a) note the report and comparative charges**
- b) note the Healthcare Travel cost scheme (Appendix A)**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Concerns were raised by members of the Health Committee around excessive hospital car park charges at Cambridge University Hospital foundation Trust.
- 1.2 Particular issues were raised for visitors on low incomes needing to access the hospital but accessibility was restricted due to car parking charges. Concern was also raised for patients on low income or with no transport and ability to access outpatient appointments.
- 1.3 It was agreed that Health Committee spokes would review comparative information from hospitals providing services for residents in Cambridgeshire. On review of this information spokes recommended the following paper was brought to the attention of the Health Committee members.
- 1.4 The information provided below has been taken from each Hospital website on 3rd December 2015 and further patient information can be downloaded from the websites.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Comparison of Car park Charges

Visitor Car Parking Hospital Charges				
	CUHfT	Hinchingbrooke Hospital	Peterborough & Stanford	Queen Elizabeth – Kings Lynn
Up to 20 Minutes	N/A	No Charge	No Charge	N/A
Up to 30 minutes	N/A	No charge	No Charge	N/A
Up to 1 hour	£2.70	N/A		
Up to 2 hours	£3.90	N/A		
Up to 3 Hours	N/A	N/A	£2.60	£2.60
Up to 4 hours	£7.20	£2.90	£4.20	
Up to 5 hours	N/A	N/A	£5.20	£5.20
Up to 6 hours	£11.00		£6.30	
Up to 8 hours	£14.20	£4.00		£7.20
Over 8 hours	£17.80			
Up to 24 hours	N/A	£6.00	£10.40	£10.50
Frequent Visitors				
Up to 7 days	£18.30			£15.50
Up to 14 days	£31.00			
Outpatients, day surgery and emergency patients				
	CUHfT	No published details		
Up to 24 hrs	£3.40			
Patients receiving treatment for two or more consecutive days				
Seven day ticket £3.40				

2.2 Discounts & Concessions

- 2.2.1 Each hospital had different arrangements for discounts, all of these were published on the hospital websites. A summary is provided below.

2.2.2 Cambridge University Foundation Hospital Trust

<http://www.cuh.org.uk/finding-us/parking>

Disabled parking:

Standard and discounted parking fees for patients and visitors apply as above.

If you receive benefits:

On proof of certain benefits you may be able to claim back your travel expenses and car parking fee (where applicable) from the outpatients reception desk.

Patient and other concessionary tickets are available from the customer service desk.

Proof of appointment/s or treatment will be required.

The hospital requests that If you are claiming a concession, you do so at the time of your visit. They do not offer refunds for parking, once the fee has been paid.

CUHfT also operate a Patient Courtesy bus which operates Monday – Friday 07.30-16.00. <http://www.cuh.org.uk/corporate-information/finding-us/patient-courtesy-bus>

The hospital website also provides information on how funds from car parking charges are spent.

<http://www.cuh.org.uk/corporate-information/finding-us/parking/car-parking-charges-how-your-money-spent>

2.2.3 Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals

Peterborough City Hospital does offer a concessionary parking facility. This facility is available to those meeting the criteria.

Application forms are available on their website.

Parking at Stamford Hospital is currently free of charge.

<http://www.peterboroughandstamford.nhs.uk/page/?title=Travelling+by+car+%26+parking&pid=12915#>

2.2.4 Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust

Concession rates are offered for intensive care, children's ward patients and for all in-patients and visitors whose stay is expected to be over seven days, are these charges are as follows

Hinchingbrooke Hospital website provides information on the Healthcare travel cost scheme on its website this may be available for all hospitals. (See Appendix A)

2.2.5 Queen Elizabeth Hospital – Kings Lynn

Disabled parking

There are 70 disabled parking spaces at the Trust. Drivers displaying a valid Blue Badge can use any space on site free of charge and can stay as long as necessary.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

3.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

3.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are some equality issues in regards to varying charges across the county.

3.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

There are some engagement issues in regards to how the different hospitals promote their associated concessions and the use of the Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme.

3.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Local members have raised the initial concerns and there are some local differences in regards to charging see also 3.3

3.6 Public Health Implications

The information provided may have implications for the transport and health JSNA.

SOURCE DOCUMENTS GUIDANCE

Source Documents	Location
<i>Cambridge University Foundation Hospital Trust</i> http://www.cuh.org.uk/corporate-information/finding-us/parking/car-parking-charges-how-your-money-spent	Trust website
<i>Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals</i> http://www.peterboroughandstamford.nhs.uk/page/?title=Travelling+by+car+%26+parking&pid=12915#	Trust website
<i>Hinchingbrooke Hospital</i> http://www.hinchingbrooke.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/parking/	Hospital Website
<i>Queen Elizabeth Hospital</i> http://www.gehkl.nhs.uk/car-parking.asp?s=information&ss=getting.to.us&p=parking	Hospital Website

APPENDIX A

HealthCare Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS)

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcosts/Pages/Travelcosts.aspx>

Patients and visitors may be able to claim a refund under the 'Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme' (HTCS) of the cost of travelling to hospital or other NHS premises for NHS-funded treatment or diagnostic test arranged by a doctor or dentist. To qualify for help with travel costs under the HTCS, you must meet three conditions:

1. At the time of your appointment, you or your partner (including civil partners) must be receiving one of the qualifying benefits or allowances, or meet the eligibility criteria of the NHS Low Income Scheme.
2. Your journey must be made to receive NHS-funded non-primary medical or non-primary dental care services, to which you have been referred to by a GP, dentist or hospital consultant.
3. For referrals made by a primary practitioner such a GP or dentist, the service must be provided on a different day and in premises other than those occupied by the practitioner who made the referral.