

Access (Transport) to Health

The aim of this LINK project is:

Article written by Louise Murrell, LINK Development Worker, East Kent

- ▲ To find out what systems NHS Trusts have in place to minimise transport problems for their patients, particularly the use of innovative approaches to addressing these problems including working with partner organisations
- ▲ To see what level of consistency exists between trusts in the provision they make for patient transport, car parking, patients who are stranded at A&E, links with community transport schemes and the quality of travel information given out to patients
- ▲ To initiate a debate across Kent and Medway with a view to identifying best practice and promoting improved access to health services across the community of Kent and Medway.

In October we wrote to the following organisations asking them for information about their travel / transport policies and plans:

- ▲ NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent
- ▲ South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- ▲ Kent and Medway NHS Health and Social Care Partnership Trust
- ▲ Kent County Council
- ▲ Medway NHS Foundation Trust
- ▲ Medway Primary Care Trust
- ▲ West Kent Primary Care Trust
- ▲ Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
- ▲ Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust



In early December LINK participants were invited to submit their issues or concerns about patient transport across Kent and Medway so that the current key issues could be collated and an understanding gained of what is of most concern.

These issues will be pulled together and compared with the information given by the different Trusts. This will highlight any gaps or areas that need to be addressed.

There is a group of 18 LINK participants who are interested in the project and will be kept up to date of progress and involved at different stages of the project.

In spring 2010, the LINK Project Group hopes to hold a County-wide debate on patient transport.

Get involved!

If you have had any recent experience of patient transport in Kent that you would like to share, why not get involved in this project and contact Louise Murrell by telephone on **07976 596797** or email **louise@kentlink.org**