

County Durham LINK Meeting/Event

Date: Tuesday 6th April

Event: Transport For Health Group

Number/range of attendees: 5

PCT, Link, ICO community rep

Purpose of meeting/event: monthly meeting

Record completed by: Margaret Dent

The main concerns from my point of view were;

1. Matters arising
Dales Hospital Link- as promised I prepared a press release for approval by PCT and it was published in April edition of Blue Gentian, which has a good circulation in Upper Teesdale and Weardale. (See sep attachment)
2. Link2- Richard Startup reported this would now begin on 1st June, not May. Tenders will close on 15th April for transport providers interested in operating the service throughout the county. Road shows to publicise will begin in April. Teesdale residents not on bus routes and who relied on the now extinct voucher scheme to travel will not be able to access any public transport until 1st June. *However, any residents with unused vouchers have until December to spend them.*
3. Dales Hospital Link- 8,000 new leaflets are in process of being printed and these will be delivered to each surgery individually. The importance of displaying these and letting patients know about them was stressed as anecdotal evidence of surgeries not receiving them or storing them in drawers raised concerns that few knew of the service.
4. Transport to Hospital Leaflets-Darlington information is now included and the issues are around distribution, they will be distributed to Durham, Darlington and Newton Aycliffe areas.
5. Integrated Care Organisation- Sue reported that they are continuing the piece of work on Did Not Attends (DNAs) in GP surgeries. Paramedics have received Caldecott approval in upper Dales to assist in this project. Crook, Willington and Bishop Auckland have 100 DNAs per week. This is 400 for the period being surveyed and Sue has so far phoned 240 of these- no transport issues are being highlighted but they will

report back mid May with their findings.

6. Next meeting 4th May. This will take the form of a 'Kaizan'. All that means is a 'brain storming' planning meeting. **This will be a key meeting to create the work plan for the group for the coming year. It is important that another member from Link, preferably with knowledge of other areas (I'm from Teesdale) of the county and their transport issues should be involved.**