

County Durham LINK Meeting/Event

Date: Tuesday 2nd March 2010

Event: Transport For Health Group

Number/range of attendees: 10

PCT, NEAS, Link, ICO community rep

Purpose of meeting/event: monthly meeting

Record completed by: Margaret Dent

This was my first attendance at an established group meeting so I was trying hard to catch up and understand all that was being discussed.

The main concerns from my point of view were;

1. The low usage of the Dales Hospital Link bus in Teesdale and Weardale. If there is not a substantial increase in usage the service will be scaled down or removed. I am uncertain that the service has been advertised either enough or in the right places. I offered to put a piece in the Blue Gentian, a monthly magazine with a circulation in upper Teesdale, I also requested brochures to distribute and I have given these to representatives of 16 Village Halls throughout Teesdale who attended an event on 12th March. Other publicity ideas suggested were Radio Teesdale, Teesdale Mercury, and Durham County Newsletter.
2. Patients in Hartlepool have a difficult/ non- direct journey to get to James Cook Hospital. Richard Startup suggested that the Sunderland to Durham service could be 'tweaked' to reduce the number of journeys to allow some direct travel from Hartlepool to James Cook.
3. Link2 service begins in May. This is bookable service to link passengers not on a bus route to their nearest hub.
4. NEAS are considering changing eligibility for PTS transport in Teesdale to enable more patients to travel on their ambulances.
5. Darlington Memorial Hospital is not on a direct cross-town bus route. Passengers must go in to town centre and back out

