

## **Forth Valley Health public partnership meeting 17-11-2010**

The meeting took the usual format of two presentations. An update on the business plan for the Stirling community Hospital and travel plan for the royal Forth Valley hospital.

The Stirling community hospital is still on schedule, and despite cut backs there appear to be no changes to the proposals for services. There will be 90 beds covering rehabilitation and elderly care medium rehabilitation. There will be a wide range of day surgery, health monitoring clinics and rehabilitation clinics offered at the Stirling facility and this will support the acute service at Larbert. Many treatments will be carried out at Stirling with only the major injury, surgery and specialist interventions going to the acute hospital. The minor injuries department will continue to service the cuts, breaks and temperatures we presently take to casualty, while major injury and life threatening episodes (like heart attack, stroke and unconscious patients) will be taken to Larbert.

Transport plan for Forth valley hospital has been a long obsession of the group. The parking is restricted and public transport links have been promoted. Many of the representatives are still concerned that public transport is not truly viable for many visitors and staff. The car park has time limits and segregated zones for staff and public. The train station has a link bus to the hospital and the bus from Stirling goes right to the front door. There is a new timetable for the connection buses from the western hubs- ours being Balfron. I did point out that the routes did not cover past these hubs and that travellers from Killearn would have 3 buses with waits between connection and questioned whether this was feasible especially in winter weather. This difficulty also links to the rural forum meeting which was held the following week when the members were asked to consider which services should be prioritised for funding and that night time or Sunday services may suffer due to the lack of subsidy. It is vital that the links to the hospital are kept to allow 7 day attendance and evening visiting and the impact of cuts in the public transport subsidies could have a major impact on these.

The issue of parking and public transport links to the Stirling Community hospital were also raised, again with the stressing of rural input to the clinics, appointments and visiting. The local residents are keen to see adequate parking to avoid the present excessive street parking and in the short term have asked for more disabled parking at the present facility. We were assured a full survey of the traffic flow pattern and parking requirements will be made as part of the service design, we did ask however that they factor in the rural cover the hospital will provide- the poor public transport links and the fact that there will be a large amount of out patient activity.

Transport and parking continue to be a thorny subject at the partnership forums but we will continue to fight for the best support for the rural villages.

Anyone wishing to attend these meetings ( they are always advertised on the notice board) or have any topics or comments raised can contact myself on 550980 ( or attend independently) and I would be happy to arrange car sharing or raise your point.

Heather Wright