

Stirling Community Health Partnership, Public Partnership Forum

28th January 2009

The topic for the evening was "**Scottish Ambulance Service and Patient Transport**"

Kenny Freeburn, Head of Ambulance Services Forth Valley, gave a presentation on the restructuring for the new hospital at Larbert and information on the services provided. He described the consultation process and the considerations required for the service to both the new acute and community hospitals. He went on to discuss the types of services, vehicle types and staffing for the service

Accident & Emergency Ambulances

There are 2 new vehicles based at Stirling.

Balfron has a 2-man vehicle 24/7 (with back up being provided from Stirling if on a call). Fast response vehicles are single staffed cars which attend the scene and stabilize the patient until the A&E ambulance can arrive.

Reassurances were given to the Callander and Balfron residents that every effort would be made to ensure all shifts were covered and that cover would always be available, though this may be a call out from another depot.

Staffing mix and training

The basic training for staff consists of a rigorous 13 week residential course (10 weeks medical, 3 weeks driving). Some staffs have additional accident and emergency experience. Paramedical staff have additional training at Queen Margaret University which allows an increased range of drug administration and some additional heart treatments. The staffing across the service is highly trained and all are capable of responding to major emergency requirements.

Patient Transport Service

This service is under considerable pressure as demand outstrips capacity. As a large rural area there is increasing demand for supported transport to hospital appointments. The criteria for this service are that the individual requires support to access the service. This may be medical support or mobility issues. If the client can use public transport the 'Dial a Journey' should be used. Some clients may be offered a car transfer if they can access this while others will require a chair access vehicle.

Escorts will be transported if these are proven to be necessary for medical supports for the client. Clear information on need should be supplied to the ambulance service to ensure that appropriate services are provided. Pamphlets on the services offered are available from the health centre and advice can be given by your GP when appointments are being made. This service was one of the major concerns of the meeting and alternative modes of transport (volunteer, dial a bus and accessible public transport) were discussed.

The update on the building programme for Royal Forth Valley (Larbert) and Stirling Community Hospital is that all is on schedule, no further developments.

Heather Wright