

South Gloucestershire Council

PUBLIC TRANSPORT FORUM

Date: Monday 8 June 2015

Report Title: South Gloucestershire Access to Healthcare Services study

Purpose of Report

1. To summarise the main findings in the attached report (Appendix A) relating to car and bus based journey times to healthcare facilities for South Gloucestershire residents.

Background

2. The Health and Wellbeing Division, with support from the Strategic Transport Policy Team, commissioned external consultants (CH2M Hill) to review accessibility for South Gloucestershire residents to healthcare facilities. The main purpose of the study was to help inform future planning for healthcare provision in South Gloucestershire in order to ensure equity of accessibility for residents.

3. The attached report at Appendix A was produced by CH2M HILL in spring/summer 2014. It reviews the journey times to healthcare facilities for South Gloucestershire residents by car or bus. Officers presented the findings of the report to the September meeting of the Public Health & Health Scrutiny (PH&HS) Committee who requested that the report's findings also be presented to the Public Transport Forum.

Method

4. The full technical report produced by CH2M HILL can be seen at Appendix A. In order to complete the technical report a series of software (Accession) calculations (known as runs) were carried out. These illustrated accessibility of South Gloucestershire residents to healthcare facilities based on the length of time to travel to their nearest healthcare facility.

5. Bus timetable information used in the analysis was based on the latest information available as at the end of April 2014 which incorporated all of the changes relating to the opening of the redeveloped Southmead Hospital and the transferring of services there from Frenchay.

6. To illustrate access by different means, bus and car transport modes were assessed for a range of time periods during a typical weekday. Access to the following healthcare service providers were included in the analysis:

a) Primary care:

- South Gloucestershire GP practices

b) Secondary care:

- NBT (Southmead)
 - University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust¹
 - Royal United Hospitals Trust Bath
 - Gloucestershire Acute Hospitals Foundation Trust
- c) Community hospitals:
- Emersons Green Treatment Centre
 - Cossham Hospital
 - Thornbury Hospital
 - South Bristol Community Hospital
 - Dursley Vale Community Hospital
 - Stroud General Hospital
- d) Minor injuries units/walk-in centres:
- West Gate Centre Yate (minor injuries unit and walk-in centre)
 - Bristol Walk-in Centre
 - Bath Walk-In Centre
 - Dursley Vale Community Hospital
 - Stroud General Hospital
- e) Other locations (private hospitals):
- Spire Hospital, Bristol
 - Nuffield Hospital, Bristol
 - Circle Hospital, Bath

Main findings

7. The CH2M HILL report contains a range of accessibility maps and data tables that set out the results of the technical work. Some of the main findings include:

- Access to primary care is good with short travel times for most South Gloucestershire residents whether travelling by car or bus. Access to all healthcare facilities by car is good.
- Access to urgent care is good:
 - 76% of South Gloucestershire residents have travel times by car to urgent care provision of 5-10 minutes, and 88 % with 15 minutes.
 - 71% of South Gloucestershire residents have travel times by bus of less than 30 minutes to urgent care centres and 97% less than 60 minutes.
- Access to secondary care by bus (including A&E services) varies depending on the provider and the time of day:
 - On average 16% of South Gloucestershire residents have access times of less than 30 minutes by public transport to secondary care and 88% within 60 minutes.

¹ For University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust only the Bristol Royal Infirmary has been specifically included in the analysis among the individual institutions in central Bristol. The Bristol Children's Hospital, Bristol Dental Hospital, Bristol Eye Hospital and Bristol Haematology & Oncology Centre are not separate locations in this study.

- At peak times a similar proportion (5-10%) of South Gloucestershire residents can access Southmead Hospital and the BRI within 30 minutes; 80% can access the BRI and 56% Southmead Hospital within 60 minutes.

Use of report findings

8. The following recommendations were reported to the September 2014 meeting of the PH&HS Committee by Public Health Officers (the recommendations are not taken from the CH2M HILL technical report). They have been included in this report for the Public Transport Forum's information:

- i. The South Gloucestershire CCG urgent care strategy should take this analysis into account and should consider whether and how to develop urgent care provision at primary care level that maximises equity of access for South Gloucestershire residents that potentially does not focus on a single centre.
- ii. Secondary Care Service Providers should consider how the outcomes and conclusions of the analysis could be incorporated into operational planning, for example:
 - a. Those travelling by public transport could have appointment times that minimise long journey times (e.g. after 11am and not 9am - 11am).
 - b. Visiting times could be scheduled to avoid travelling at peak times.
 - c. Flexible staff working patterns and shift times could be arranged to avoid travelling at peak times.
 - d. Providing more outpatient and diagnostic services at Yate and Cossham Hospitals would increase the proportion of residents in South Gloucestershire who had shorter journey times.
- iii. All relevant actors (South Gloucestershire Council, CCG, NBT and UHB) should take a strategic approach to access to health care facilities which would include targets for journey times and actions to mitigate major issues, and would be incorporated into strategic planning about the location of key sites.

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Appendices

Appendix A: CH2M HILL Technical Report - South Gloucestershire Access to Healthcare Services Study.

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Due to the size of Appendix A, the Technical Report is not included, however it is available from Democratic Services upon request.