

Introducing the Bedford Hospital NHS Trust Travel Plan

The Bedford Hospital Travel Plan aims to reduce the adverse environmental impacts of transport to and from the hospital site. We will reduce over-dependence on cars by encouraging greater use of ridesharing, public transport, walking and cycling.

The Bedford Hospital Travel Plan will

- ◆ Lead to energy savings, less traffic pollution, and less congestion.
- ◆ Reduce pressure on car parking.
- ◆ Slow down, and then halt, the growth in car use, especially drivers travelling alone.
- ◆ Enhance public perceptions and image of the hospital site.
- ◆ Contribute to the health of all who work or visit the site.
- ◆ Ensure the site is sustainable, over time, so the Trust can continue to develop and serve the local community well.

Making a start

We will commence by promoting ways for everyone to switch - for at least some of their journeys to work - from the car (driver alone) to car sharing, and from the car generally to other ways of travelling. The first target is to stop the number travelling by car from increasing any further. The Plan will explore the opportunities for less travel to work, and for reducing travel on Trust business.

Preparation

The Trust's Transport Group has been progressing the Travel Plan initiative:

- ◆ An Outline Travel Plan has been produced, and submitted to Bedford Borough Council as part of the planning process.
- ◆ A staff travel habits survey was carried out in November 2000, and the results have been carefully analysed.
- ◆ We have looked at the experience of Travel Plans elsewhere.
- ◆ We are seeking assistance with the Travel Plan from Bedfordshire County Council.
- ◆ Now, we are ready to ask everyone about how to proceed with the Travel Plan.

Small changes

This Plan is about everyone making small changes to the way they travel. Together, we can make a big impact.



Travelling to Bedford Hospital - today



The site

Bedford Hospital is a major employer in the town, with over 2,000 people working on site.

There is growing parking pressure. At the same time, further development is planned on site.

Stagecoach United Counties runs buses along Kempston Road, Britannia Road and Amphill Road. The bus stops and timetable information panels need attention.

Cycle parking at the Hospital is well used.

Staff travel today

Thanks to the enthusiastic response to last year's survey, we have a good picture of how everyone travels to Bedford Hospital. Over 74% of respondents travel to work by car, nearly 9% by bicycle, just over 8% on foot, leaving just over 9% arriving by other means.

Staff travel, by mode	Percentage (%)
Car, as driver	64.8%
Car, as passenger	9.4%
Bicycle	8.5%
Walking	8.2%
Bus or Train	5.4%
Other	3.7%

Many of the staff surveyed live quite close to the Hospital:

Staff travel to work (miles)	Percentage (%)
Up to 1 mile	8%
>1 mile and up to 2 miles	14%
>2 miles and up to 5 miles	36%
>5 miles and up to 10 miles	17%
>10 miles and up to 20 miles	18%
>20 miles	6%

When asked what other ways they occasionally travelled instead of their usual one, the bus, car sharing, cycling, and walking all figured strongly.

Only 16% said the car was essential for carrying out their job.

For 13%, dropping off or collecting children was a key reason for coming by car.

Over half the respondents rated the car on a personal preference basis or felt they had no alternative. Equally, many staff expressed interest in ridesharing to work. Many wanted help finding someone with whom to share their journey.

One of the key issues raised by staff was the difficulty in predicting when they will finish work.

There was also support for measures to make cycling and walking to work easier, safer and more direct. The most popular ideas were better cycle paths and routes, better lighting and better on-site facilities.

Travelling to Bedford Hospital - tomorrow

What's on the menu?

We want a menu of different ways of travelling. Not every item on the list will be to everyone's taste. So we need enough options for everyone who works at Bedford Hospital to find at least one or two items appealing. What are your suggestions? Which ones do you prefer?

Overall theme: Small Changes

The proposed theme for the Bedford Hospital Travel Plan is Small Changes: if everyone makes a small change to their travel arrangements, together we will make a big difference.

Targets

Targets will need to be set, and the results checked and monitored. For example:

Staff travel targets	Actual	Targets	
	2000 (%)	2002 (%)	2004 (%)
Car, as driver alone	64.8%	60%	55%
Car, as passenger	4.6%	7%	9%
Car, dropped off	4.7%	5%	5%
Bus	4.8%	6%	8%
Train	0.6%	1.5%	2%
Bicycle	8.5%	9%	9.5%
Motorcycle	0.5%	1%	1%
Walk	8.2%	9%	10%
Other/not known	3.3%	1.5%	0.5%

Assuming that there are 1,500 staff in work on any one working day, the 2002 targets represent:

- ◆ 33 fewer staff coming by car
- ◆ 12 more staff on foot.
- ◆ 18 more staff coming by bus
- ◆ 8 more staff coming by motorbike
- ◆ 13 more staff coming by train
- ◆ 8 more staff coming by bicycle

Better use of the car

Can more people share their journeys? To encourage this, we could have:

- ◆ A ridesharing matching service.
- ◆ Leaflet on the benefits of sharing, the financial arrangements and how to remain within the law.
- ◆ A get-you-home-guarantee.
- ◆ A staff car pool might help people leave their car at home, as it ensures they can still travel away from the hospital on business during the day.

Public transport

Can more people use the bus (and the train)? The Trust might be able to negotiate with the bus and rail companies for:

- ◆ Discounted travel passes, paid for by deduction from salary.
- ◆ Special tickets for people who only travel occasionally by public transport.

Travel information about how to get to and from the site by public transport could be improved and made more widely available.

Local bus services could be reviewed, from which changes and enhancements might emerge. This could include actions to improve the bus stops.





Walking

Maps could be produced showing the safest, shortest and most pleasant routes in and out of the site.

Cycling

Can more people cycle to and from Bedford Hospital? What might help people use their bikes more often? Suggestions include:

- ◆ Secure cycle parking facilities at different parts of the site.
- ◆ Changing facilities for staff, including lockers.
- ◆ Events and promotional literature to encourage more to cycle.
- ◆ Safe cycle to work routes could be developed in the area.

Business travel

Travel to training courses, seminars and conferences, and to meetings, may need a rethink. For example:

- ◆ Meetings could be located where there are the most convenient public transport links for the majority of participants.
- ◆ The timing of meetings could be arranged so as to minimise needless travel to and from the workplace.
- ◆ Face-to-face meetings could be substituted where appropriate by telephone or video conference calls.

Flexible working

For some hospital staff, it is feasible to work from home instead of travelling in to work, and some already do so. One day at home every four weeks would provide a 5% reduction in annual travel. How could this option be explored further?

What next?

The timetable for introducing the Bedford Hospital Travel Plan is:

- ◆ March - April 2001: consult everyone about the Plan, collate responses.
- ◆ April 2001: finish preparing the Plan, including the implementation process, a timetable, costings, and more detail about each measure to be taken.
- ◆ May 2001: subject to approval, implementation commences.

What do you think? What would you like to see happen?

COMMENTS PLEASE

Responses and comments about the Bedford Hospital Travel Plan should be directed to:

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