

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee. - Transport to Health Services

Richard Maskell

Community Transport Officer for Bucks County Council

Rural Transport Partnership Officer for Buckinghamshire Community Action.

Notes to accompany presentation:

- Key changes in the location of the health service provision and the difficulties of accessing the service using only public transport.
- Findings from public consultation, conducted by Buckinghamshire Community Action through the Market Town Vision and Parish plans, consistently highlight that access to medical services is a top priority.
- A study of the home addresses of patients from the South of the County who were using the mental health clinic in Amersham hospital and the transport problem they would experience accessing a clinic in Aylesbury.
- Present provision of Community Transport across the county. Dial-a-Rides, Community Buses, Voluntary Car Schemes and good neighbour schemes.

Aylesbury Vale has seven voluntary Care Schemes mostly based in a village but generally they will only serve the people of that village. One community bus serves Winslow Town and the surrounding villages.

Aylesbury Vale Dial-a-Ride covers almost the whole of the Vale and is supported by The Leighton Buzzer which serves the villages in Bucks within a radius of five mile from Leighton Buzzard.

Chiltern District has two voluntary car schemes and two community buses. Chiltern and South Bucks Dial-a-Ride serves both Districts.

Wycombe District has four voluntary car schemes two of which also have community buses in addition a community bus and Wycombe Dial-a-Ride.

South Bucks has two voluntary car schemes and a community bus and is served by Chiltern & South Bucks Dial-a-Ride

- A Vehicle is being used by Chiltern & South Bucks Dial-a-Ride specifically for Hospital Transport. The demand for the one to one service for the longer journey was recognised two years ago when this vehicle was purchased. The aim is for a one stage journey to health care.
- This year Chiltern District Council provided a vehicle specifically for Hospital Transport driven by volunteers and managed by Chiltern & South Bucks Dial-a-Ride. It began operating in April this year.

A meeting is planned to co-ordinate the alternative transport providers in the District.

Wide publicity preceded the start of this service. To date there are eleven volunteer drivers.

- Community Buses, their continuing expansion. Nearly all of the Community Buses are based in the larger villages however a few such villages have recognised the benefits of these vehicles and are aiming to provide their own.