

Report on Car Parking at Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to update the members of Brighton & Hove City Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with regard to car parking at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.
2. The original hospital was completed in 1828 and has seen various phases of development since that time – as has the wider city. The hospital is now bounded by residential areas on all sides. The hospital is located on numerous main bus routes into the City Centre and the Marina.
3. As the only Teaching Hospital in the South East Coast region, we provide specialist and tertiary services for patients across Sussex and the south east as well as local acute services for Brighton & Hove City (at the Royal Sussex County) and Mid-Sussex (at the Princess Royal Hospital in Hayward's Heath).
4. The Trust introduced parking charges in 1996 to combat a growing number of commuters and non-Hospital users using the car parks for free to avoid paying the City Centre parking charges or to get round the parking congestion in the local area. This is a common issue for most NHS hospitals. Car parking and car parking charges amongst the most polarising issues in the NHS.
5. The Trust believes that charging for parking is the fairest way to maximise the usage of our parking spaces for users of the Trust's services. Prices are set inline with the average stay at an out patient appointment and have been kept in line with local tariffs for the same time period. Long time periods are charged at higher rates to deter commuters. There are reduced rates for long stay patients.

Current Car Parking Provision

6. There are currently 497 parking spaces on the Royal Sussex County Hospital site distributed as follows:

Car Park Area	Spaces	Comment
Multi-storey car park	352	Shared between patients, visitors and staff. Includes 16 disabled bays, 7 renal bays and 3 renal oncology bays.
Barry/Jubilee buildings	60	Patients and visitors only. Includes 4 disabled bays near main entrance.
Latilla Building	41	Patients, visitors and staff. Includes 12 disabled bays for patients/visitors only. 29 spaces here are staff only.
Sussex House	44	Staff (25) and Trust vehicle (19) only.
Total	497	Dedicated patient spaces (72), Trust staff and vehicles (73), shared (352).

7. There are also a further 25 dedicated spaces for oncology patients in the Sussex Cancer Centre car park, but these are operated by the MacMillan Cancer charity.

Car Parking Charges

Patients and Visitors

8. The current charges for patients and visitors using the Trust's car parks are:

Period	Charge
Up to 2 hours	£1.50
Up to 4 hours	£2.50
Up to 6 hours	£3.50
Up to 12 hours	£6.50
Up to 24 hours	£14.00

9. These tariffs shadow the car parking charges levied in other car parks in the city and are reviewed when those change.

10. Discounts and exclusions to these charges are offered as follows:

- Long stay patients up to 21 days are offered a discount and are charged £10 per week (renewable weekly) Proof of stay must be provided. This is also offered to the main carers/visitors to the patient;
- Long stay patients over 21 days are offered a further discount and are charged £20 per month (renewable monthly) Proof of stay must be provided. This is also offered to the main carers/visitors to the patient;
- Free parking is provided to certain patient groups (for example renal dialysis and radiotherapy patients) who come for two or more visits per week for extended periods of time. There are seven dedicated bays in the Multi-storey car park for renal patients. Renal patients may also use any of the disabled bays free of charge when displaying the appropriate badge.

11. The Trust also applies discounts and exemptions on an individual basis depending on circumstances.

Staff

12. Staff wishing to park on site can apply for a permit, but must meet certain criteria for a permit to be issued. Charges for staff permits are £120 per year if the member of staff earns under £25,000 per year and £240 per years if they earn over £25,000.

Income and Expenditure

Income

13. The income raised from car parking across the Trust (including permit income) is used in three key areas:

- Maintaining, and running the car parks;
- Green transport initiatives;
- Security (including car park security).

14. In the last two years, income raised is shown below (being the two most recent years for which the Trust has audited accounts at the time of writing):

Year	Income (£)
2007/08	871,000
2008/09	969,000
Total	1,840,000

15. Within the total shown above, staff permit income for the period was just under £500,000.

Expenditure

16. Within the same two year period, expenditure across the Trust was as shown in the table below:

Item	Expenditure (£)
Maintaining and Running Car Parks	
Dedicated traffic officers	70,000
General maintenance (signage, lighting, cleaning)	140,000
Equipment replacement at RSCH	95,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>305,000</i>
Green Transport Initiatives	
40X Bus Service	300,000
Pool Cars, City Car Club Membership and usage	40,000
Cycle Parking PRH	15,000
Car Share scheme	3,000
Pool car data base	7,000
Permit system costs	100,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>465,000</i>
Security	
Security cover, CCTV	160,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>160,000</i>
Grand Total	930,000

17. All remaining income is used to enhance the general security of the Trust's sites.

Duane Passman
Director of 3Ts, Estates and Facilities

Shaun Innes
Head of Patient Transport

March 2010