

Horsham District Older Peoples' Insight into Hospital Admissions

Age UK Horsham District, Horsham District Older People's Forum, the NHS Watchdog Charity Healthwatch West Sussex, West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council have been working together to look at what statistics tell us about admissions and discharges from hospital, alongside getting direct feedback from over 60 local older residents and over 20 local and community organisations and charities.

The project report is now available and adds depth and understanding around hospital admissions and stays for Horsham District older people and calls for better joint working by all concerned to support this growing group of people who use our NHS services [download and read it here](#).

The report includes:

- Top Tips for Local People and Providers
- Why the partnership did the piece of work
- What the hospital statistics tell us
- What local people told us about their hospital admission and stays
- Next steps and of course that all important hospital parking information.

Martin Bruton Chair of the Horsham District Older People's Forum said:

"For some time local older people have been coming to us saying that just getting to and from hospital is an issue. When we began to look at the figures we could see that this impacted large numbers of older people. In fact 2 in 3 emergency admissions and 3 in 4 planned admissions to hospital, from Horsham District, were for those 50+"

Martin went on to say

"I am proud of the partnership that we have forged between Age UK Horsham District, the district and county councils, colleagues in the Health Sector and local organisations to address finding simple solutions for our older residents getting to hospital appointments. However, I am not proud to be in a society where older people find it difficult to simply get to and from hospital, travel long distances or on time for appointments or in a manner that has become exorbitantly expensive, difficult or unnecessarily distressing. It's not good for them or the NHS"

The Working Group still want to hear what people have to say and what solutions can be worked on together, **if you want to comment on the report or any other health matter please contact 0300 012 0122 or 'Have your say' via the Healthwatch West Sussex website <http://www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk/feedback/>**

Age UK Horsham District are also calling on people to write to their MP about the difficulties they have faced when travelling to and from hospital appointments as part of a new national campaign - ***Painful Journeys*** - for more information on that you can visit [**www.ageuk.org.uk/painfuljourneys**](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/painfuljourneys).