

As someone who has spoken at length with people who access mental health facilities at Callington Road Hospital, and someone who has her own mental health problems, I find the way the council has brushed off the current lack of public transport to the hospital site as "nothing they can help with" quite worrying.

It is 2016, mental and physical health are supposed to have parity of esteem however this doesn't seem to be the case when both the BRI and Southmead hospitals are so well served by public transport and Callington road is not. The services provided at Callington Road are vital to many peoples recovery from the crisis intervention team to the inpatients services and the complex psychological interventions. To currently reach the site, staff, service users and visitors are expected to walk over half a mile through a poorly lit wooded area which is not visible from the road - the police have advised against people using this walk way and staff members have allegedly been offered personal attack alarms because AWP Bristol Mental Health recognises this as a potentially dangerous pathway.

The Bristol Independent Mental Health Network (BIMHN) has been engaging with service users, counsellors and other members of the community in Brislington to raise awareness of this issue and have received fantastic support.

This incredibly vital service needs to be more accessible to people. More support needs to be given to finding an alternative, closer and safe place for buses to stop at and BIMHN would like a written response addressing the points raised in this statement.

Amelia Campbell, BIMHN Campaigns Officer