

On behalf of Bristol Independent Mental Health Network (BIMHN), I would like to raise the issue of poor transport access to the Callington Road Hospital site, which provides mental health services for people in need.

Callington Road Hospital is where some of the mental health services are located that are run by Bristol Mental Health (<http://bristolmentalhealth.org/>). The services which have a base there include: the Crisis Service, Assessment and Recovery and Complex Psychological Interventions.

On March 29th 2015, the First Bus, number 36, ceased serving the Callington Road Hospital (CRH) site and on May 1st 2015, the free bus previously provided by AWP from the city centre was withdrawn. The AWP service was only cancelled following a discussion with First Bus where it is alleged they agreed to continue serving the hospital.

As noted in the petition text, this has particularly affected older and disabled people and those on the very edge of the City in areas like Hungerford Road, Brislington. No one appears to be willing to take responsibility for the negative impact these cuts and changes to the bus services have had on access to the hospital providing mental health services, meaning we are campaigning to ensure this is addressed.

Due to the nature of the site, access by a consistent and regular public transport is very important for: all those that use its services; carers supporting people accessing mental health services there (including inpatient); as well as those that work there. It is vital that there is parity of esteem in effective public transport access to mental health services across the city in much the same way we should be able to expect the same of physical health services across our diverse city, including our hospitals.

During a time where mental health services themselves are still underfunded and our local providers have been instructed by the Care & Quality Commission to make significant improvements, it is vital we are doing all we can in aspiring to make Bristol a healthy city.

We, BIMHN, have put together our key asks of the Council to support improved access to the Callington Road Hospital site and call upon the Council to support these to happen where it has the power to do so. Where it does not, we call upon the Council to join us in lobbying the respective organisations that are in a position to do so.

Our Key Asks:

- Bristol City Council to conduct a review for providing a new bus stop near Callington Road Hospital before the Tesco to act as an incentive for public transport companies to increase services along Callington Road;
- Install a new bus stop before or after the roundabout and make it fully accessible;
- For a key stakeholder meeting to be arranged with support from Bristol City Council before the end of April 2016 to outline progress and resolve any issues that still need to be addressed;
- Effectively market and advertise transport to the site from a variety of providers and locations to increase future use;
- Explore providing dated bus passes to patients of Callington Road which provide discounted travel on certain routes;
- A full cost/benefit analysis and rationale to be provided by AWP on the closure of the free bus service;
- For the Equality Impact Assessment for the closure of the AWP free bus service to be provided;
- When re-evaluating transport strategies and provision at regular intervals, ensure that patient representative groups are consulted before decisions are taken on route changes;

- For organisations to regularly engage with patient representative groups including BIMHN to review the provision of effective mental health services and access to them.
- For the current walk way to be maintained and made more accessible through the installation of lights, surveillance or any other appropriate measures.

If the Mayor and the Council could respond in writing to this statement I would be very grateful.

**Tom Renhard, BIMHN Secretary**