

Policy: Access & Transport v5

Policy Statement v1

1.1 The Solent Access & Transport policy has been overdue for review. Due to a combination of workforce turnover and long-term sickness this has experienced a significant delay.

1.2 Mark Young, Director of Estates Transformation was asked to take on the project at the start of August 2022 and formed a new project team to undertake the review.

1.3 The rapid review has now concluded, and as a result the approach for this policy has been highlighted as outdated when compared with best practice surrounding sustainable travel, transport, access and therefore parking policy for other public sector and NHS organisations.

2.1 It is proposed that the policy is replaced with a series of connected documents:

- A Trust-wide Access, travel & transport strategy, a key component of our Green Plan responsibilities.
- Within this, each site that the Trust owns or is the predominant tenant for, will have a sustainable travel plan. These plans are in a variable state of existence by location currently and therefore will be developed through a rolling programme in priority order over 12-18 months.
- The strategy and travel plans will be supported by key processes e.g.
 - Patient and visitor parking process
 - Staff parking permit eligibility criteria and application process
 - Information or support for sustainable travel (active travel and public transport).

2.2 There is currently a live travel survey running to determine how staff travel to work and what support they would like in future- this closes at the end of September 2022 and will inform the information and support made available for staff, alongside the strategy development.

2.3 The Trust has recently decided that they will cover the cost of parking permits for all eligible staff i.e. staff will no longer be re-charged. Therefore, the current Access & Transport policy no longer applies to staff.

2.4 The intention is to engage on the proposed criteria and a new application process across September and early October 2022.

2.5 The programme will then seek to secure business case funds and procure the necessary infrastructure to support on-site management solutions.

2.6 The new application process will be undertaken in phases by site, to a published timetable over 12 months, starting on 1st April 2023 with those sites most under pressure for parking space, which the Trust own.

2.7 The implementation of infrastructure solutions will also be phased in priority order, with investment in parking management systems linked to the largest sites which we own initially. This programme will be reviewed in 2024.

3.1 Therefore, the existing arrangements will remain in place until the new strategy and staff parking eligibility criteria and application process launch- expected in April 2023.

3.2 These consist of current application and permit eligibility criteria being applied for those sites requiring parking permits, managed by the Access Team. In combination with service decisions at site level where permits are not required, through liaison with the Estates team.

3.3 Staff should contact the Access Team at ACCESS/SMCHC@solent.nhs.uk if they have any questions relating to parking permits at their work base in the interim 6 months.