



## Press Release

### **GPs set wheels in motion for new Acute Visiting Service in Stafford**

WHEELS are in motion for patients in Stafford in need of a home visit to be looked after by a new pilot programme known locally as 'GP in a car'.

The Acute Visiting Service was rolled out across the county town this week providing urgent afternoon visits for patients unable to wait for a GP to visit after evening surgery who would go to A&E or call an ambulance in the meantime.

It is ably steered by Stafford and Surrounds Clinical Commissioning (CCG) and GP First, a federation of all 41 GP practices in Cannock and Stafford CCGs.

The programme had a successful road-test recently in Cannock, where it led to a significant reduction in hospital admissions, A&E attendances and ambulance call outs during its first seven weeks in operation.

Dr Sue Knight, Urgent Care Lead for Stafford and Surrounds and Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Groups said: "The Acute Visiting Service is a rapid response service for patients requiring a home visit as determined by their own GP.

"It's set up to meet the immediate needs of patients who, if they are not seen promptly, would ultimately be admitted to or at least have to attend A&E," she said. "The service is delivered by GPs employed by GP First and supported by Badger – the Out of Hours service provider for all GP practices in the area - who deal with the logistics, including the cars and drivers, and it aims to deliver prompt and responsive care for the population within their home environment."

The service is available between the hours of 1.30pm and 6pm to all patients registered with a GP in specific Stafford practices requiring urgent home assessment or treatment following triage by their own GP and covers clinical conditions like frail elderly patients, the generally unwell, abdominal pain, patients nearing the end of their life and some mental health conditions.

It also covers patients at nursing homes triaged by a GP and in need of an urgent enhanced clinical assessment and treatment.

Your GP can access the service by completing a simple referral form, sending the details to Badger and then phoning to confirm.

If any additional details are needed a doctor from the Acute Visiting Service will call the referring GP back as required.

The pilot programme is provided as an additional service to complement local GP services, has funding until the end of June and is aimed at reducing A&E attendances and hospital admissions as well as providing rapid quality care.

## **Ends**

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