

Including hospital sites in Safe Routes in Communities funding bids

An overview

The Welsh Assembly Government will soon be inviting Local Authorities to submit bids for Safe Routes in Communities funding.

The Safe Routes in Communities (SRIC) initiative was set up in 2007, (an expanded Safe Routes to Schools scheme) and aims to improve road safety and encourage walking and cycling across the wider community, including schools, leisure centres, parks and hospitals.

The benefits of improving road safety and encouraging active travel within local communities are wide reaching and deliver increased accessibility to facilities, health benefits, greater social inclusion and an improved sense of safety.

Community centres e.g. hospitals, which are included in Safe Routes in Community bids are required to provide a travel plan and submit monitored results for up to 5 years.

How can hospitals be included in SRC funding bids? A case study:

A recently approved bid for 2009 SRIC funding included a hospital site set within a cluster of community facilities.

It was recognised that the hospital was a vital link within the community, with many employees and patients living close by who could walk or cycle to site, if improvements were made. Improvement measures included in the bid were:

- Additional changing and shower facilities
- Locker provision
- Options to improve site access for active travel i.e. provide an additional entrance
- Improve and develop shared use (walking and cycling) paths which would benefit not only the hospital site users, but also provide links between other local amenities and improve access to facilities for the local community.

A key factor to the hospital being included in the bid was the hospital travel plan, which had been developed through partnership work with SWWITCH. The plan specifically promoted sustainable travel. The measures identified in the travel plan were already being implemented, but the funding from the SRIC bid will further support the plans by providing well needed infrastructure work e.g. walking and cycling routes and providing funding for facilities, such as showers and lockers.

The success of the SRIC hospital bid was strengthened by local partnership working, the development of a travel plan and the ability to show that action is already taking place to support active travel interventions.



Who should I contact?

Your Local Authority should be the first point of contact. Discussions should take place no later than July as bids must be submitted before November, each year. Contact details are given below.

If you require further active travel information or support, contact claire.plowright@sustrans.org.uk

nLHB	Hospital name	Local Authority contact
North Wales	Wrexham Maelor	matthew.ellison@wrexham.gov.uk
	Ysbyty Glan Clwyd	alan.hinchcliffe@denbighshire.gov.uk
	Ysbyty Gwynedd	patjones@gwynedd.gov.uk
Hywel Dda	Bronglais	katys@ceredigion.gov.uk
	Prince Phillip	hywelthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
	West Wales General	hywelthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
	Withybush	sue.lewis@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
ABM	Princess of Wales	opokuk@bridgend.gov.uk
	Neath Port Talbot	j.smith@npt.gov.uk
	Morrison	jeff.green@swansea.gov.uk
	Singleton	jeff.green@swansea.gov.uk
Cwm Taf	Prince Charles	jill.harper@merthyr.gov.uk
	Royal Glamorgan	jessicaj.white@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk
Cardiff and Vale	UHW	d.evans@cardiff.gov.uk
	Llandough	ccameron@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Gwent	Nevill Hall	abigaildavies@monmouthshire.gov.uk
	Royal Gwent	glyn.stickler@newport.gov.uk
Velindre	Velindre Cancer Centre	d.evans@cardiff.gov.uk
Powys LHB	No major sites	Anthea.jones@powys.gov.uk