



LYDCARE

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT
WELLBEING AND BENEFITS ADVICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

LYDBROOK COMMUNITY CARE

Unit 1, Crucible Close, Coleford, Gloucestershire, GL16 8RE

Telephone: 01594 860143 Website: www.lydcare.org

Registered Charity: 1082253



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Report from the Chairman

We have continued to respond to the increasing demand for our services and maintain our support to the Forest Community. Demand for Transport is ongoing . Alternative transport options are reducing and their service timetables are not appropriate for customers with medical appointments. Edna Husbands continues to organise and deliver an outstanding service with the support of our excellent team of drivers. Our drivers' reputation for providing an 'armchair to armchair 'service is second to none.

Caroline Young delivers a gold star service and is overwhelmed with demand for consultations. English Bicknor Lunch Club is running very well under the leadership of Joan Maxfield and her loyal team of volunteers, they provide a superb lunch as well as the opportunity for social engagement, important in addressing social isolation.

I am very grateful to Margaret Shockey and Lynne Greig for their continued work behind the scenes.

The support and commitment of our Trustees makes my role as Chairman very straight forward and they ensure that Lydcare has a solid long-term future, I am very grateful for their support throughout the year.

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TRUSTEES REPORT

Community Transport

This year we completed 24% more journeys and mileage has also increased by 24%. Edna's long-standing contribution was recognised by FoDDC, winning a 'Peoples Champion Award' voted for by the community.

Our service dynamics have changed in comparison to the previous decade. Our journey numbers have doubled and medical journeys are now 57% and social journeys 43%, an increase of 13%. There will be a range of reasons for this change but no doubt the decline in public transport services has had a major impact. We are continuing to help drivers with fuel costs with a fuel subsidiser payment .

TOTAL JOURNEYS

	OCT\DEC	JAN\MAR	APR\JUN	JUL\SEPT	TOTAL
23/24	857	760	711	790	3118
22/23	645	562	683	581	2471
21/22	536	442	564	375	1917
20/21	522	356	410	266	1554
19/20	N/A				
18/19	498	339	372	405	1614
17/18	406	446	532	343	1727

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TOTAL MILES

23/24	24394	20468	20059	28314	93235
22/23	20502	16187	20640	18115	75444
21/22	18212	14261	18823	12056	63352
20/21	14057	10593	10293	9853	44796
19/20	N/A				
18/19	12798	9634	11055	7695	41182
17/18	8480	8226	10252	9696	36654

WELLBEING and BENEFITS ADVICE

This year, due to demand, we had to stop taking referrals for 3 months so that Caroline could reduce the backlog, an indication of the demand for this service. This year there were 79 referrals, the majority in the 70 to 90 age range. Attendance Allowance and housing benefit application making up the majority. The total benefits to the recipients were £270,000. The total value of successful applications is now at £2.1 million since the project started in February 2019.

ENGLISH BICKNOR LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club is run successfully by Joan Maxfield and her team of volunteers. The club meet fortnightly on Tuesdays in English Bicknor village Hall. A three-course cooked meal for 30-35 elderly folk from the local community is provided. They are able to get together in a warm and friendly atmosphere and enjoy the company of fellow diners and in some cases, it is the only time they get to socialise. It also enables the team to keep an eye on those that live alone and has significant benefits on wellbeing. There are a range of post lunch activities.

Trustees Cherry-Ann Dowling and Steve Greenway attended a lunch in the summer and were most impressed with how well the club was running and the excellent quality of the lunches provided. There was also a presentation to Gill Carne for her role in founding the club 24 years ago and also her upcoming 90th birthday.

The Trustees are very appreciative of the commitment and dedication from Joan and her team.

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Donations.

We are grateful for the support from the following - Mitcheldean Parish Council £500; Westbury on Severn PC £200; Lydbrook PC £750; English Bicknor Parochial Church Council £200; Royal Spring collection box £228, and private donations £250. We are now actively seeking grant support from all the surrounding parishes in which we operate to help subsidise the fuel stabiliser payments.

We received a communication from Jackie Gallimore informing us that her family had selected Lydcare as one of the recipients of her late mother's estate for a charity donation of £20,000 which was to be included in our protected funds as the Brenda Ainsworth Bequest.

ROGER CAREW-HUNT BEQUEST

The Trustees continue to look at ways that these funds can be best used to benefit the local community. Overbys & Co, Coleford act as the Fund accountants and the accounts and management details are available by appointment with their office. This year funds were made available to supplement Caroline's salary and fund her travel costs.

Farewell

Ali Mc Guckin retired as a Trustee in June, Ali was a very supportive Trustee and it was her vision to seek a Service Level Agreement to fund Wellbeing and Benefits Advice . We all wish her well for the future.

The Trustees would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers who contribute to enable Lydcare to provide its services to a high standard. A special thank you to Edna Husbands, Caroline Young and Joan Maxfield for their ongoing support and commitment in leading our core activities.

We are indebted for the support from Daniel Oversby, Oversby & Co for his ongoing support both in preparing the Accounts and providing payroll services for Caroline Young.

The Trustees are committed to maintaining the delivery of our core activities which Lydcare has established: Community Transport, Wellbeing & Benefits Advice and the Lunch club, and will continue to support and work with other agencies in supporting the local community.

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PARTNERSHIP WORKING Lydcare works in conjunction with the following organizations enabling us to keep abreast of resources, information and changes in policies that may affect our operation;

Alzheimers Society Gloucester

The Forest Health Forum

Forest Voluntary Health Forum

Bream Voluntary Transport

Age Concern Forest of Dean

Forest of Dean District Council-Community Engagement Team

Gloucester County Council

Community Transport Gloucestershire.

TRUSTEES

Richard Stirling, Chairman

Cherry-Ann Dowling - Hon Secretary

Steve Greenway- Treasurer

Emma Morris

Mark Baker

David Thomson

Kevin Oversby (Advisory for youth)

Benefits and Wellbeing Advisor- Caroline Young

Transport Co-Ordinator - Edna Husbands

English Bicknor Lunch Club – Joan Maxfield

Telephone Administration - Margaret Shockey

GCC Driver Returns Administration – Lynne Greig

Accountant, Daniel Oversby -Oversby & Co

For information on LYDCARE contact;

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