

Bassetlaw Health Bus Hits the Road

Vulnerable residents who live in some of the most rural and isolated parts of Bassetlaw will be able to access vital healthcare thanks to a new Health Bus.

The Bassetlaw Health Bus is designed as a mobile clinical consultation room that will be operating in the district in the coming weeks. This vehicle was created through a partnership between Bassetlaw District Council and the Riverside Surgery in Retford.

Most recently, the Health Bus has been used to support the vaccination delivery programme with patients who are housebound and have not been able to visit their doctors through the lockdown period.



As well as hosting GP surgeries, the Health Bus can accommodate health and wellbeing clinics, other more specialist clinics such as mental health, weight management, Men's and Women's health, as well as being used for Covid-19 vaccinations, Childhood vaccinations, flu Jabs and blood tests.

Dr Eric Kelly, Chair of Bassetlaw CCG and Partner at Riverside Surgery, said: "The Bassetlaw Health Bus, or as I like to call it, Bassetlaw's mobile GP surgery will go out to patients rather than patients come to see us.

"We can take it to supermarket car parks, rural villages, schools, anywhere and everywhere to provide healthcare and health promotion for the citizens of Bassetlaw.

This has been particularly important throughout the latest lockdown period and as an additional way to roll out the Covid-19 vaccinations.”

Alison Johnson, Practice Manager at Riverside Surgery, added: “The Health Bus provides a wonderful opportunity for the practice and other health and social care providers to extend service provision in Bassetlaw, providing health education opportunities to the community. This will be an asset to patients who live in more remote areas, and to patients who have mobility problems in addition to the excellent healthcare that is already provided in Bassetlaw.”

Christine Staniforth, Strategic Housing Manager at Bassetlaw District Council, said: “I’m very excited about this project and it’s the perfect timing for this innovative resource. Through partnership working with GP Practices and the Better Care Fund, we are able to make a real difference to the lives of residents and enable the healthcare practitioners to provide additional care for their patients.”

“This vehicle will help so many people. It is a great initiative that will be used to support local communities and get healthcare out into the rural areas of Bassetlaw.”

Notes to editors:

The Bassetlaw Health Bus can be used by other medical practices in Bassetlaw. Please contact the Riverside Surgery for more details.

The cost of providing the Health Bus has been provided through the Better Care Fund.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and local government which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing, and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.

The BCF has been created to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society, placing them at the centre of their care and support, and providing them integrated health and social care services, resulting in an improved experience and better quality of life.