

Patient Transport Services in Sussex

What patients and passengers told us about the service in 2020



Appendix One:

- Data tables
- Questionnaire

November 2020



Data tables

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 0.5%

Question 1: "Please tell us your full postcode".

130 respondents answered. A single answer could be chosen for each option. Percentages are based on the total number of responses given per option.

Q1. Where respondents live	Brighton and Hove (B&H)	East Sussex (excluding B&H)	West Sussex	Not known	Total
Responses	23 (17.5%)	65 (50%)	40 (31%)	2 (1.5%)	130

Question 2: "Which of the following describes why you have used the service to help you get to medical appointments? (please select all that apply)"

130 respondents answered. Multiple choices could be selected, and respondents provided 197 answers overall. Percentages reflect the following:

- "Total number of responses" %s reflect the number of the 130 respondents who selected each option, and as multiple choices could be made then the total % is more than 100%.
- 3 area columns %s reflect the number of respondents from each area who answered question 2 and selected each option. As multiple choices could be made then the total % is more than 100%.

Q2. Why people used the service	Brighton and Hove (B&H) 23 respondents	East Sussex (exc B&H) 65 respondents	West Sussex 40 respondents	Area not known	Total number of respondents who chose options
For renal dialysis	14 (61%)	19 (29%)	31 (77.5%)	1	65 (50%)
To attend regular appointments (non-renal)	4 (17%)	12 (18.5%)	8 (20%)	-	24 (18.5%)
To attend a handful of appointments	4 (17%)	18 (28%)	9 (22.5%)	-	31 (24%)
Wheelchair passenger	4 (17%)	13 (20%)	4 (10%)	-	21 (16%)
Used service during COVID lockdown	8 (35%)	16 (25%)	13 (32.5%)	-	37 (28.5%)
Applied but was turned down	2 (8.5%)	3 (4.5%)	0	-	5 (4%)
Other*	0	11 (17%)	2 (5%)	1	14 (11%)
Total	36	92	67	2	197

^{* &#}x27;other' included: for cancer treatment (3), following hospital discharge (2), needed support to travel to appointment (4)



Question 3: "Please tell us which hospital or clinic you last attended, or regularly attend, using the service."

125 respondents answered (5 were not eligible to answer). Respondents could provide free text comments to explain which location(s) they had attended using the service. The answers have been divided between renal patients who represent 50% of our survey sample, and all other categories of patients. %s reflect the number of respondents out of 65 who gave each location.

Q3. Renal Dialysis locations attended by passengers using the service (65)	Number of responses
Sussex Kidney Unit, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton	33 (51%)
Worthing Hospital, Dialysis unit	18 (28%)
Diaverum, Eastbourne Dialysis Unit (Polegate)	9 (14%)
Crawley Kidney Treatment Centre	4 (6%)
Bexhill Dialysis Unit	1 (1.5%)

Q3. Other locations attended by passengers using the service (65)	Number of responses	Other locations	Number of responses
Conquest Hospital, Hastings	11 (17%)	Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead	1 (1.5%)
District General Hospital, Eastbourne	8 (12%)	Maidstone Hospital, Kent	1 (1.5%)
Not specified	9 (14%)	Hove polyclinic	1 (1.5%)
Mixed (i.e., passengers used the service to travel to several different locations)	4 (6%)	Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital	1 (1.5%)
Worthing Hospital	3 (4.5%)	Uckfield Community Mental Health	1 (1.5%)
GP surgeries	3 (4.5%)	Guys Hospital, London	1 (1.5%)
Bexhill Hospital	3 (4.5%)	Brighton General Hospital	1 (1.5%)
Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath	2 (3%)	Tunbridge Wells Hospital	1 (1.5%)
Eye Hospital, Royal Sussex County Hospital	2 (3%)	St Richards Hospital, Chichester	1 (1.5%)
Main Outpatients Department, Royal Sussex County Hospital	2 (3%)	Southlands unit, Western Sussex Eye Care, Southampton	1 (1.5%)
Hurstwood Park Centre, Haywards Heath	1 (1.5%)	St Barts Hospital, London	1 (1.5%)
Royal Brompton Hospital, London	1 (1.5%)	Sussex Rehabilitation Centre	1 (1.5%)
Crawley Hospital	1 (1.5%)	Other locations	3 (4.5%)



Question 4: "How long have you been using the service?"

125 respondents answered (5 were not eligible answer). A single answer could be chosen for each option. Percentages are based on the total number of responses given per option.

Q4. Length of time passengers have	Number of responses
been using the service	
Less than a month	13 (10.5%)
1-3 months	15 (12%)
3-6 months	11 (9%)
6-12 months	15 (12%)
12 months or more	71 (57%)

Question 5: "Please tell us how you first applied for the service."

125 respondents answered providing (5 were not eligible). Multiple choices could be selected, and respondents provided 136 answers overall. Percentages reflect the following:

- "Total number of responses" %s reflect the number of the 125 respondents who selected each option, and as multiple choices could be made then the total % is more than 100%.
- 3 areas columns %s reflect the number of respondents from each area who answered question 5 and selected each option. As multiple choices could be made then the total % is more than 100%.

Q5. How passengers applied for the service	Brighton and Hove (B&H) 21 respondents	East Sussex (excluding B&H) 63 respondents	West Sussex 40 respondents	Total number of respondents who chose options
By phone	3 (14%)	17 (27%)	9 (22.5%)	29 (23%)
Online	0	1 (16%)	0	1 (1%)
I applied myself	0	15 (24%)	5 (12.5%)	20 (16%)
Someone else applied on my behalf	16 (76%)	29 (46%)	20 (50%)	65 (52%)
Don't know / Can't remember	2 (9.5%)	5 (8%)	4 (10%)	12 (10%) (includes 1 respondent who did not give an area)
Other	1 (5%)	3 (5%)	4 (10%)	9 (7%) (includes 1 respondent who did not give an area)
Total	22	70	42	136 (includes 2 respondent who did not give an area)



Question 6. "How did you first find out about the service?"

123 respondents answered (5 were not eligible, 2 skipped the question). Multiple choices could be selected, and respondents provided 139 answers overall. Percentages reflect the number of the 123 respondents who selected each option, and as multiple choices could be made then the total % is more than 100%.

Q6. How passengers found out about the service	Number of responses
By myself	13 (11%)
Via friends or family	9 (7%)
GP referral	10 (8%)
Via hospital	69 (56%)
I was referred	28 (23%)
Don't know / Can't remember	6 (5%)
Other*	4 (3%)
Total	139

^{*} Via a disabled people's facebook page (1); a a Renal Welfare Officer (1); unspecified (1)

Question 7. "Thinking about any information you found or were given about the service, please indicate whether you found this to be (please select all that apply)."

121 respondents answered (5 were not eligible, 4 skipped the question). Multiple choices could be selected, and respondents provided 140 answers overall. Percentages reflect the number of the 121 respondents who selected each option, and as multiple choices could be made then the total % is more than 100%.

Q7. Passengers said information on the	Number of responses
service was	
Clear and easy to understand	42 (35%)
Accessible	19 (16%)
Helped manage my expectations	18 (15%)
Easy to access	16 (13%)
N/A - I did not find / was not given any	45 (37%)
information	
Total	140

Question 8. "Did you speak with someone on the phone as part of your application?"

125 respondents answered (5 were not eligible). A single answer could be chosen for each option. Percentages are based on the total number of responses given per option.

Q8. Passengers who said they spoke	Number of responses
with the control centre as part of their	
application process	
Yes	54 (43%)
No	56 (43%)
Don't know / Can't remember	15 (12%)
Total	125



Question 9: "How satisfied were you with the following aspects of your phone conversation?"

54 respondents were eligible to answer and between 51-54 respondents provided an answer for options (a) - (j), as shown in brackets. A single answer could be chosen for each option. Percentages are based on the total number of responses given per option (a)-(g).

Q9. Passengers' views on the phone call they had as part of their application process	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
a) Ease of getting through on phone (54)	14 (26%)	27 (50%)	10 (18.5%)	3 (5.5%)
b) How simple the Qs were to answer (54)	16 (29.5%)	30 (55.5%)	7 (13%)	1 (2%)
c) How personal (intrusive) the Qs were (54)	12 (22%)	33 (61%)	7 (13%)	2 (4%)
d) The total number of Qs asked (51)	10 (19.5%)	32 (63%)	8 (15.5%)	1 (2%)
e) The helpfulness of call handler (53)	24 (45%)	20 (38%)	7 (13%)	2 (4%)
f) The explanation of the service provided (53)	17 (32%)	25 (47%)	9 (17%)	2 (4%)
g) Confidence that your personal needs were taken into account (54)	16 (30%)	23 (42.5%)	12 (22%)	3 (5.5%)

Question 10: "Overall, when you applied for the service how did you find the application process?"

121 respondents answered (5 were not eligible, 4 skipped the question). A single answer could be chosen for each option. Percentages are based on the total number of responses given per Healthwatch area.

Q10. How easy the application process was	Brighton and Hove (B&H	East Sussex (excluding B&H)	West Sussex	Total
Very easy	6 (28.5%)	13 (21.5%)	4 (10%)	23 (19%)
Fairly easy	6 (28.5%)	12 (20%)	14 (36%)	32 (26.5%)
Difficult	1 (5%)	5 (8%)	1 (2.5%)	7 (6%)
Very difficult	1 (5%)	1 (1.5%)	2 (5%)	4 (3%)
Someone applied on my behalf*	7 (33%)	25 (42%)	16 (41%)	49 (40.5%) (includes 1 respondent who did not give an area)
Don't know / can't remember	0	4 (7%)	2 (5%)	6 (5%)
Total respondents who answered Q10	21	60	39	121 (includes 1 respondent who did not give an area)

^{*} For Q10, 49 people said that someone had applied on their behalf. This is 16 fewer than the 65 people who said that someone else had applied on their behalf at Q5. Data analysis has been performed on the 65 respondents who answered Q5. This is because Q10 allowed people to describe their application process as easy or difficult and people who had not applied themselves may nevertheless have selected one of these options.



Question 11: "If you found the application process 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' can you tell us why?". 55 respondents were eligible answer, and 55 comments were received.

Question 12: "If you found the application process 'very difficult' or 'difficult' can you tell us why?". 11 respondents were eligible answer 22 comments were received.

Both questions allowed respondents to provide free text comments to explain why they considered that the application process was 'very easy' through to 'very difficult'.

For both questions a number of 'not applicable' responses were provided and these have been removed from the analysis, as have comments which did not describe how easy or difficult the application process was (i.e., the comments were unrelated to the question). Six passengers had provided comments at Q11 which actually described the process 'as 'difficult' or 'very difficult', rather than 'easy'. The number of relevant comments provided for both questions is therefore:

• Question 11: 40

• Question 12: 16

Question 13: "Did you use the service during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period (23 March - 4 July)?".

125 respondents answered (5 were not eligible). A single answer could be chosen only. Given Percentages are based on the total number of responses per option.

Q13. Did passengers use the service during COVID lockdown?	Number of responses
Yes	83 (66.5%)
No	40 (32%)
Don't know / can't remember	2 (1.5%)
Total	125

83 people answered yes to this question. Please note that for Q2, 37 people indicated that they had used the service during the COVID-19 lockdown period. Data analysis has been performed on the 83 respondents, not the 37 who answered Question 2



Question 14: "Thinking about any journeys you made using the service during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown (from 23 March - 4 July), how satisfied are you with the following aspects?"

83 respondents were eligible to answer. Between 64-82 respondents provided an answer for options (a) - (j), as shown in brackets. A single answer could be chosen for each option. Percentages are based on the total number of responses given per option (a)-(j).

Q14. Passengers rate aspects of the service during lockdown	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
a) The ease of contacting the call centre (64)	13 (20%)	40 (62.5%)	7 (11%)	4 (6%)
b) Social distancing in transport (82)	42 (52%)	38 (46%)	2 (2%)	-
c) Access to PPE during journeys (78)	30 (38.5%)	43 (55%)	3 (4%)	2 (2.5%)
d) Ease of communicating with staff wearing PPE (81)	30 (37%)	47 (58%)	4 (5%)	-
e) The cleanliness of transport (81)	37 (46%)	40 (49%)	3 (4%)	1 (1%)
f) Communications received about arranging transport (75)	15 (20%)	50 (67%)	8 (10.5%)	2 (2.5%)
g) Notifications received of changes to journeys (68)	13 (19%)	29 (42.5%)	23 (34%)	3 (4.5)
h) The time spent travelling to appointments (78)	29 (37%)	40 (51%)	7 (9%)	2 (3%)
i) The timeliness of pick- ups form home (81)	25 (31%)	45 (55.5%)	7 (8.5%)	4 (5%)
j) The timeliness of pick- ups from hospital (79)	11 (14%)	33 (42%)	23 (29%)	12 (15%)



Question 15: "Did you find the experience of using the service during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown (compared to other times when you have used it)?"

83 respondents were eligible to answer. 82 respondents answered (1 skipped the question). A single answer could be chosen only. Percentages are based on the total number of responses given per option.

Q15. Passengers rate their experience of using the service during lockdown compared to other times.	Number of respondents
N/A (I only used it during lockdown)	9 (11%)
Better	23 (28%)
About the same	46 (56%)
Worse	4 (5%)
Total	82

Question 16: "Can you tell us a little about your answer to Question 15, what made the service better, the same, or worse?"

The allowed respondents to provide free text comments to explain about the service during lockdown. 82 respondents were eligible to answer and 51 comments were received.

- 23 comments were received from people who said the service had been the **same during** lockdown as at any other time. Comments were both positive (11), neutral (6) and negative (6).
- 21 comments were received from people who said the service was **better** during lockdown. From these we identified three key themes. Some people said more than one positive thing about their journeys, making 26 comments overall.
- 4 comments were received from passengers who said the service was worse during lockdown

Question 17: "Did you experience and delays, changes, or porblems with your scheduled journeys?"

125 respondents answered (5 were not eligible). A single answer could be chosen only. Percentages are based on the total number of responses given per option.

Q17. Did passengers experience	Number of
problems with your journeys?	responses
Yes	74 (59%)
No	47 (37.5%)
Don't know / can't remember	4 (3%)
Total	125



Question 18: "How often have you experienced the following delays, changes, or problems with your journeys made using the service?"

74 respondents were eligible to answer and between 68-72 respondents provided an answer for options (a) - (j), as shown in brackets. A single answer could be chosen for each option. Percentages are based on the total number of responses given per option (a)-(j).

Q18. Passengers tell us whether they experienced problems with different aspects of the service	Never	Rarely	Often	Very often
a) Delayed pick up from home? (69)	12 (17.5%)	35 (50.5%)	20 (29%)	2 (3%)
b) Delayed pick up from hospital? (72)	3 (4%)	20 (28%)	38 (53%)	11 (15%)
c) Missed appointments due to PTS transport delays? (70)	36 (51.5%)	21 (30%)	10 (14%)	3 (4%)
d) Same day cancellations? (70)	41 (58.5%)	19 (27%)	7 (10%)	3 (4%)
e) Changes to scheduled vehicle? (68)	24 (35%)	18 (26.5%)	23 (34%)	3 (4.5%)
f) Making own way home due to PTS transport delays etc? (69)	41 (59%)	15 (22%)	11 (16%)	2 (3%)
g) Making own way to hospital due to PTS delays etc? (69)	49 (71%)	14 (20%)	4 (6%)	2 (3%)
h) Difficulties finding whereabouts of transport. (70)	33 (47%)	19 (27%)	15 (21.5%)	3 (4.5%)
i) Longer journey times to hospital than expected? (70)	28 (40%)	28 (40%)	11 (16%)	3 (4%)
j) Longer journey times home than expected? (70)	24 (34%)	23 (33%)	18 (26%)	5 (7%)

Question 19: "What was the impact for you of any unexpected delays, changes, or problems to your journeys made using the service (please select all that apply)?".

74 respondents were eligible to answer. **72** respondents answered (2 skipped the question). Multiple choices could be selected and respondents provided 127 answers overall. The percentages reflect the proportion of the 72 respondents who selected each option, and as multiple choices could be made then the total % is more than 100%.

Q19. Passengers tell us about any impacts for them caused by problems with journeys or	Number of responses
transport	
No impacts	17 (23.5%)
Anxiety/Stress	46 (64%)
Missed meals	19 (26.5%)
Financial cost	13 (18%)
Missed medication	9 (12.5%)
Missed arrival of my carer	7 (10%)
Childcare issues	3 (4%)
Affected work/job	2 (3%)
Other	10 (14%)



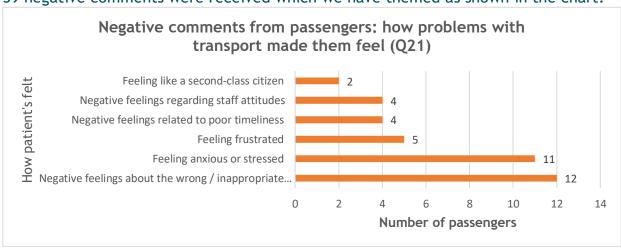
Question 20: "How often have you experienced any of the following with your journey's made using the service?"

125 respondents were eligible to answer. Between 115 - 120 respondents provided an answer for options (a) - (e), as shown in brackets. A single answer could be chosen for each option. Percentages are based on the total number of responses per given option (a)-(e).

Q20. Passengers tell us whether they experienced problems with different aspects of the service	Never	Rarely	Often	Very often
 a) I travelled with others where this was not appropriate for me (116) 	66 (57%)	34 (29%)	12 (10.5%)	4 (3.5%)
b) I travelled alone without my carer/other support? (115)	80 (70%)	21 (18%)	6 (5%)	8 (7%)
 c) Drivers appeared to be untrained in my condition (118) 	75 (63.5%)	26 (22%)	13 (11%)	4 (3.5%)
d) I was not able to take essential belongings with me (116)	91 (78.5%)	19 16.5%)	5 (4%)	1 (1%)
e) Transport was inappropriate for my needs (120)	71 (59%)	33 (28%)	8 (6.5%)	8 (6.5%)

Question 21: "Thinking about any times when you have experienced issues with your journeys made using the service, how did this make you feel?" The question allowed respondents to provide free text comments to explain more about the service. 48 comments were received.

- 3 positive comments were provided, 2 from renal patients and one from a passenger who had used the service during lockdown:
 - o Friendly and helpful drivers, always reassuring West Sussex resident
 - Have not had any experiences which have caused issue. I have received an excellent service for which I am grateful - East Sussex resident
 - o service was fantastic no problems East Sussex resident
- 6 people replied saying 'Not applicable' indicating that they had not experienced any issues.
- 39 negative comments were received which we have themed as shown in the chart:





- 7 negative comments were received from Brighton and Hove residents, 24 from East Sussex residents and 8 from West Sussex residents. Satisfaction levels amongst those who provided negative impacts varied with 25 (64%) indicating they were 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the service, whilst 14 (36%) indicated they were 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied'.
- The categories of passenger who provided negative comments was as follows:
 - o 6 renal patients
 - o 7 regular (not renal) passengers
 - o 9 people who used the service to attend a handful of appointments
 - o 7 wheelchair passengers
 - 7 people who had used the service during COVID lockdown

Question 22: "How important to you are the following aspects of a patient transport service?"

130 respondents were eligible to answer. Between 115-125 respondents provided an answer for options (a) - (h), as shown in brackets. A single answer could be chosen for each option. Percentages are based on the total number of responses given per option (a)-(h).

Q22. Passengers tell us what aspects of a transport service are important to them.	Very important	Important	Slightly important	Not important
a. To be given an exact time of arrival (125)	72 (57.5%)	42 (33.5%)	10 (8%)	1 (1%)
b. To be notified of changes or delays (123)	81 (66%)	36 (29%)	6 (5%)	-
 c. To arrive home within 30 mins of my allocate time (123) 	52 (42.5%)	46 (37.5%)	20 (16%)	5 (4%)
 d. To arrive at hospital no more than 30 mins early for my appointment (123) 	59 (48%)	40 (32.5%)	15 (12%)	9 (7.5%)
e. To speak with someone to find out the location of my vehicle (122)	61 (50%)	43 (35%)	15 (12.5%)	3 (2.5%)
f. To easily amend my booking (121)	48 (39.5%)	56 (46.5%)	13 (10.5%)	4 (3.5%)
g. For my carer, relative etc to act on my behalf (115)	43 (37.5%)	39 (34%)	19 (16.5%)	14 (12%)
h. To have a nominated driver (125)	24 (19%)	19 (15%)	32 (26%)	50 (40%)



Question 23: "How likely is it that you would use the following features if the service offered these?"

130 respondents were eligible to answer. Between 117-126 respondents provided an answer for options (a) - (f), as shown in brackets. A single answer could be chosen for each option. Percentages are based on the total number of responses given per option (a)-(e).

Q23. Passengers tell us whether they would use different features of a transport service	Very likely	Likely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Unlikely	Very unlikely
a) A step by step 'how to'guide to help you apply(126)	28 (22%)	49 (39%)	25 (20%)	13 (10%)	11 (9%)
b) Information available in different languages (120)	5 (4%)	11 (9%)	19 (16%)	21 (17.5%)	64 (53.5%)
c) Information available in sign language (BSL) (120)	3 (2.5%)	10 (8.5%)	16 (13.5%)	22 (18%)	69 (57.5%)
d) Information available in Easyread format (117)	15 (13%)	20 (17%)	28 (24%)	13 (11%)	41 (35%)
e) A dedicated service specifically for renal patients (123)	40 (32.5%)	26 (21%)	17 (14%)	8 (6.5%)	32 (26%)
f) A telephone call centre service with extended operating hours (126)	59 (47%)	36 (28.5%)	19 (15%)	5 (4%)	7 (5.5%)



Question 24: "To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following options would help to improve communications between the service and you? (please select all that apply)"

130 respondents were eligible to answer. Between 118-125 respondents provided an answer for options (a) - (h), as shown in brackets. A single answer could be chosen for each option. Percentages are based on the total number of responses per option (a)-(h).

Q24. Passengers tell us whether they would use different features of a transport service	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a. Online account to apply	38	35	33	11	8
for NEPTS (125)	(30.5%)	(28%)	(26%)	(9%)	(6.5%)
b. Online account to amend bookings (124)	36	42	27	12	7
	(29%)	(34%)	(21.5%)	(10%)	(5.5%)
c. Mobile app to track	51	24	25	15	7
vehicles (122)	(42%)	(19.5%)	(20.5%)	(12%)	(6%)
d. To communicate with control centre by text (120)	36	30	31	17	6
	(30%)	(25%)	(26%)	(14%)	(5%)
e. To communicate with control centre using an online chat facility (118)	26	33	39	13	7
	(22%)	(28%)	(33%)	(11%)	(6%)
f. Receive a text/call when vehicle is 30 mins away (123)	68 (55%)	29 (23.5%)	17 (14%)	6 (5%)	3 (2.5%)
g. Having info shared with nominated person (118)	34	32	40	7	5
	(29%)	(27%)	(34%)	(6%)	(4%)
h. Website with daily updates about service (119)	32 (27%)	27 (23%)	37 (31%)	11 (9%)	12 (10%)



Question 25: "Overall, based on your experiences of using the service, how likely is it that you would recommend family and friends to apply for it?".

130 respondents were eligible to answer. 128 respondents answered (2 skipped the question). A single answer could be chosen only. Percentages are based on the number of responses given per Healthwatch area having first removed any 'no replies'.

Q25. Passengers tell us whether they would recommend the service	Brighton and Hove (B&H)	East Sussex (excluding B&H)	West Sussex	Area not known	Total
Very likely	6 (27%)	32 (50%)	20 (50%)	2	60
Likely	8 (36%)	23 (36%)	19 (47.5%)	-	50
Unlikely	4 (18%)	7 (11%)	1 (2.5%)	-	12
Very unlikely	4 (18%)	2 (3%)	0	-	6
No reply	1	1	-	-	2
Total responses (removing 'no replies')	22	64	40	2	130

Question 26: "Overall, how satisfied are you with the current service?

All 130 respondents answered. A single answer could be chosen only. Percentages are based on the total number of responses given per Healthwatch area.

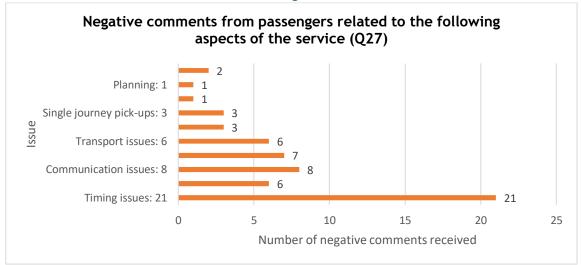
Q26. Passengers tell us how satisfied they are with the service	Brighton and Hove (B&H)	East Sussex (excluding B&H)	West Sussex	Area not known	Total
Very satisfied	3 (13%)	26 (40%)	11 (27.5%)	1	41
Satisfied	10 (43.5%)	23 (35.5%)	27 (67.5%)	1	61
Dissatisfied	6 (26%)	12 (18.5%)	1 (2.5%)	-	19
Very dissatisfied	4 (17.5%)	4 (6%)	1 (2.5%)	-	9
Total responses	23	65	40	2	102

Question 27: "Do you have any other comments or feedback on the service?" The question allowed respondents to provide free text comments bout the service. 130 respondents were eligible to answer and 75 comments were received.

- 90 individual comments were provided by the 75 respondents.
- 22 positive comments were received from people about the service and particularly the staff. Seven people also provided suggestions for improvements. 15 residents from East Sussex provided positive comments, 4 from West Sussex and 3 from Brighton and Hove.
- Satisfaction levels amongst this group of patients was high with 21/22 (95%) being 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied'. Satisfaction levels were lower amongst people who provided negative comments. 20 people indicated that they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the service: 13 from East Sussex, 6 from Brighton and Hove and 1 from West Sussex.



- 19 people indicated they were satisfied, and 5 very satisfied: 12 from East Sussex, 11 from West Sussex, only one from Brighton and Hove.
- People provided a number of negative comments about which mostly related to timing issues. We have themed these into categories:



- A small number of comments related to suggested improvements, such as:
 - o "Make seats more comfortable" East Sussex resident
 - "It would be helpful to be able to book transport more than three days ahead." -East Sussex resident
- 9 people said they had no comments, or inserted N/A

Positive comments

"All the drivers are caring and friendly people. Nothing is too much trouble" - **West Sussex** resident

"Fantastic service friendly infection control taken very serious keep up the good work fantastic." - East Sussex resident

"The service that I have received has been excellent. Friendly, caring people who make my time with them feel special." - **East Sussex resident**

"When transport is due, they ring you when they are arriving." - Brighton resident

"This service is wonderful. Having to travel miles to London for cancer treatment would of been extremely costly but that is not the important part. When you are extremely poorly, vulnerable and having intense treatment, you cannot possibly use public transport. The service was so incredibly important and I'm so thankful this is a service you provide." - East Sussex resident

"Overall, it's a great service, the people in the ambulances are great and they make it the best." - West Sussex resident



Topic	Negative comments
Timing issues	"When I had to go to Brighton, my lift frequently arrived 2-3 hours before my appointment time, then went into Eastbourne (half-an-hour from my home in the wrong direction) to pick-up other patients and added an hour or more to the journey time" - East Sussex resident
	"Why are drivers waiting for ages for patients to finish dialysis? I often have to wait 30-45 mins for a driver when some patients who finish after me get taken home before me." - Brighton resident
	"Returned transport from hospital to home could be improved; a two hour wait sometimes is too long after 4 hours on dialysis." - West Sussex resident
	"Morning pick up is excellent. Midday pick up can be anything from 15 mins to 1 hr 15 mins." West Sussex resident
	"It could be a very good service, and sometimes it works well, but a lot of the time the transport is late and you have no idea what's happening and how long you are going to wait. It can't be that hard to keep people informed, can it?" - East Sussex resident
Communication	"Better communication please." - Brighton resident
issues	"some people don't have or able to use internet or mobile phone. I live in an area that loses signal and internet often." - East Sussex resident
Access issues	"I was turned down despite being referred by my GP. I was told that I didn't qualify even though I am a wheelchair user and have no other means of travelling other than paying for a private taxi." - East Sussex resident
	"The worst part is not knowing what is happening - COMMUNICATION." - West Sussex resident
	"I am disabled and have three disabled adopted adult-children. None of us has ever been allowed to use your service. I am pretty disgusted that you made my disabled daughter take her poorly baby home from Brighton to Newhaven via bus at 2am." - Brighton resident
	"What about options to improve services where, as I am, a person who is sight impaired. I cannot read a screen so need a phone call to tell me when my transport is nearby." - West Sussex resident



Staffing issues	"I travel with 'Elite' and have survived four years with them. They are an appalling company driven by profit not patient care." - East Sussex resident "An option to choose a consistent driver. A reliable service needed, and better management Allow drivers to use alternative entrance instead of the current queue system." - Brighton resident
Transport issues	"It would be helpful if the coordinators read the patient's notes before they sign vehicle, so they get the right vehicle for the right job." - West Sussex resident "Not satisfied when wrong transport is sent. Would like to have a regular driver where possible." - East Sussex resident
Booking issues	"A good service. Just improve the booking system by phone." - West Sussex resident "It is unfair that patients cannot book less than 2 weeks in advance." - Hove resident
Single journey pick-ups	"I know it's hard, but I do wish that you didn't have to pick up others on route especially if you've had a long appointment etc." - West Sussex resident "Keep the single passenger permanently." - West Sussex resident
Care plans Planning	"just make sure that patients using this service which may I add is very good, knowledge of the persons they are transporting is known. If a patient requires 2 carers, they receive the appropriate transport/carers." - East Sussex resident



The people (Questions 28-33 combined)

The table below describes the respondents who answered our questionnaire in 2020 (the percentages relate to the 130 respondents who completed the questionnaire). We have included comparable data from the Healthwatch in Sussex <u>April 2018</u> report in red where known (which includes data from our patient engagement undertaken in November to December 2017).

The location of the 130 respondents

(identified by postcode). Comparable responses were achieved in Brighton and Hove, and West Sussex in 2020 and 2017.

Area of Sussex	Number of respondents
Brighton and Hove	23 (17.5%) <mark>(29)</mark>
West Sussex	40 (31%) (40)
East Sussex	65 (50%) (99)
Unknown /other	2 (1.5%) (15)

The gender of respondents

In 2020 more females answered our questionnaire than any other gender. In 2017, the opposite was seen with more males responding.

Gender	Number of respondents
Female	64 (49%) (41%)
Male	54 (41.5%) <mark>(58%)</mark>
Other	1 (1%) (1%)
Not given	11 (8.5%) (-)

The ages of respondents in 2020 ranged from 9 to 90. The average age was 65.5 years. 22 respondents chose not to give their age. In both 2020 and 2017, most respondents were aged over 75.

Ages	Number of respondents
<18	1 (1%) (0)
18-34	4 (3%) (3%)
35-54	22 (17%) (14%)
55-64	25 (19%) (16%)
65-74	19 (14.5%) (19%)
75+	37 (28.5%) (4 <mark>7%</mark>)
Not given	22 (17%) <mark>(2%)</mark>

The ethnicity of respondents

In 2020 and 2017, most respondents said that they were 'White British'. In 2020, we reached more people who identified as BAME.

Ethnicity	Number of respondents
White British	95 (73%) (93 %)
White any other	6 (4.5%) (2.5%)
BAME (all groups)	12 (9%) (<mark>3%)</mark>
Other	0 (1.5%)
Not given	17 (13%) <mark>(-)</mark>

Respondents with a long-term health condition, and carers

In 2020, 79% (n103) of people identified themselves as having a long-standing health problem or disability (14 respondents elected not to answer the question). In 2017 57% (89) respondents indicated that they were disabled in some capacity.

In 2020, 7% (n9) of people identified themselves as being a carer.

The sexual orientation of respondents

Number of respondents
100 (77%)
6 (4.5%)
24 (18.5)

No comparable data is available from 2017



Information about respondents, shown by Healthwatch area

Qs28-33. The people	Brighton and Hove (B&H)	East Sussex (excluding	West Sussex	Area not known	Total / average	
who completed	23 total	B&H) 65 total	40 total	2 total	130 total	
our survey	respondents	respondents	respondents	respondents	respondents	
Mean age	56.3 years	66.3 years	69.2 years	-	65.5 years	
Gender	6 - Male 12 - Female 1 - Other 4 - No answer	29 - Male 34 - Female - 2- NR 2	19 - Male 17 - Female - 4 - No answer	1 1 1 No answer	54 - Male 64 - Female 1 - Other 11 No answer	
With a long- term health condition / disability	18 - Yes 2 - No 3 - No answer	56 - Yes 4 - No 5 - No answer	28 - Yes 7 - No 5 - No answer	1 - Yes - 1 -No answer	103 13 14	
Sexual orientation	12 - 54 - Heterosexual/ Straight Straight		32 - Heterosexual/ Straight	2 - Heterosexual/ Straight	100 - Heterosexual/ Straight	
	3 - LBGT	2 - LBGT	1 - LBGT	-	6 - LGBT	
	8 - No answer	9 - No answer	7 - No answer	-	24 - No answer	
Ethnicity	13 - White British	55 - White British	26 - White British	1 - White British	95 - White British	
	1 - Other White	3 - Other White	2 - Other White	-	6 - Other White	
	3 - BAME	3 - BAME	6 - BAME	-	12 - BAME	
	6 - No answer	4 - No answer	6 - No answer	1 - No answer	17 - No answer	
Religion*	11 - Christian	43 - Christian	21- Christian	-	75 - Christian	
	1 - Hindu	2 - Hindu	1 - Hindu	-	4 - Hindu	
	0 - Muslim	0 - Muslim	4 - Muslim	-	4 - Muslim	
	1 - Any other	2 - Any other	2 - Any other	-	5 - Any other	
	7 - None	14 - None	8 - None	1 - None	30 - None	
	3 - No answer	4 - No answer	4 - No answer	1 - No answer	12 - No answer	
			1			

^{*} No respondents selected 'Buddhist', 'Jewish', 'Sikh'



Question 34 "Are you a carer?"

130 respondents were eligible to answer and 126 answered (4 skipped the question).

Q34. Are you a carer?	Brighton and Hove (B&H)	East Sussex (excluding B&H)	West Sussex	Area not known	Total
Yes	3 (14.5%)	4 (6.5%)	2 (5%)	-	9 (7%)
No	16 (76%)	60 (92%)	37 (95%)	1	114 (90.5%)
Prefer not to say	2 (9.5%)	1 (1.5%)	0	-	3 (2.5%)
Total responses	21	65	39	1	126



Questionnaire

			Yo	ur views	on Pa	tien	t Transpor	t Ser\	vices			
	Section A - How you use the Service											
This da	 Please tell us your full postcode. This data is collated anonymously, and is used to help us understand where you live and where you travel to using the Service 											
2. Which o							nave used which ap			help you	get t	o medical
To take me		ike me		get to ju		nee			ed the	I applied	for	Other
to my renal		y regular		nandful o			cle that	serv		the Servi		Other
dialysis		intments		pointme		an	-10 011010		ng the	but was		
appointments		for renal		•		acco	mmodate	COV	ID-19	was not		
	dialy	sis)			n	ny v	vheelchair	pano	demic	eligible		
										Please go	o to	Please specify below
(2a) If you sele	cted '	other' ple	ease	tell us w	hy yo	u ha	ave used th	ne ser	vice:			<u> </u>
3. Please Service		which ho ase leave	-		-			ed, oı	r regularl	y attend,	usin	the
4 11 1				•	<u> </u>							
4. How los		re you be 1-3 r					(piease ci months	noose	6-12 mg		12	months or
Less than a me	OHUH	1-31	поп	UIS	•	3-0	IIIOIILIIS		0-12 1110	JIIIII	12	more
												more
		S	ecti	on B - H	ow yo	ou a	pplied for	the S	ervice			
5. Please	الم	how you	fire	t annlie	d for t	tha	Service (p	معدما	soloct al	l that and	dv)	
By Phone		Online	1113	I applie			Someon			on't		her (please
, , , , , ,							applied	on my	/ knov	w/Can't		ecify below
					_		beha		rem	nember		С
(5a) If you sele	cted '	other' nle	250	ا الد ا		nı fi	rst annlied		he Service	<u> </u>		
		•		tett us II	OVV yO	,u 11	ι σε αρρείου	i i Oi C	IIC JCI VIC	·•		
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6. How did y	6. How did you first find out about the Service? (please select all that apply)								
I found out about the service myself	frien	ough ids or nily	Through my GP	Through the hospital	I was referred to the service	Don't know Can't remembe		Other (please specify below)	
]							
(6a) If you sele	cted 'o	ther' ple	ase tell us hov	v you first found	out about the S	Service:			
				nd or were giver lect all that app		vice, please	ind	icate	
Clear and eas			ble for me	Helped me to	Easy to	access		- I did not	
understand	a	,	ble in the I needed)	understand what could expect				l, or was given, any	
		Torride	i needed)	could expect		'		ormation	
			п	П	Г	7		П	
				<u> </u>					
8. Did you spea	ak with s	omeone	on the phone a	s part of your appli	cation process?	(please choos	e one	e option)	
			a) D .		: 40				
☐ Yes (plea	se answ	er Questi	on 9) 🗀 1	No – please go to C	uestion 10				
				Don't know / Can't	remember- plea s	se go to Quest	tion 1	LO	
9 If you spok	a with s	someone	on the phone	e as part of your	application for	r the Service	s h	OW	
				pects of your co					
option):				Vom contintind	Catiotical	Disastisfied		Vome	
				Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied		Very dissatisfied	
The ease of ge speak with som	_	rough on	the phone to						
How simple the		ons were	to answer	+ –					
				Ш		Ш			
How personal t them overly in			ere (did you fir	nd 🔲					
The total number (length of the	•		you were aske	ed 🔲					
How helpful th	e call h	andler w	as as						
					Ц	Ц			
How clear the Service works	explana	ition was	of how the						
How confident	you we	re that y	our personal						
needs were be	-		•						
person who wa	s arrang	gnig your	u ansport						
Patient Transport S	ervices: a	Healthwa	tch						

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	10. Overall, when you applied for the Service, how did you find the application process? (please choose one option only)							
Very Easy	Fairly Easy	Difficult	Very Difficult	Someone else applied on my behalf	Don't know/ Can't remember			
11 If you fou	nd the application	process (very ex	sy' or 'fairly oasy	' can you tell us v	uhy2			
11. II you lou	па тте аррпсатог	i process very ea	isy of failty easy	can you ten us v	vily:			
12. If you fou	12. If you found the application process 'very difficult' or 'difficult' can you tell us why?							
	Section C -	Your experien	ices of using th	ne Service				
		·	3					
13. Did you us choose one		the COVID-19 pand	emic lockdown (froi	m 23 March to 4 July	r)? (please			
☐ Yes (please an	swer Questions 14-1	L6) No – pleas	e go to Question 17					
		☐ Don't know	w / Can't remember-	please go to Questi	on 17			
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14. Thinking about any journeys you made using the Service during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown (from 23 March to 4 July), how satisfied were you with the following aspects (please tick one box per option where this applies to you)							
, and the second	,	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied		
How easy it was to get center during the pando	-						
Remaining socially dista whilst travelling in vehi							
Having access to Persor Equipment (PPE) whilst							
The ease of communica were wearing facemask	=						
The cleanliness of your	transport						
Any communications yo service to arrange your							
Being notified by the se delays or changes to yo	-						
The amount of time spe vehicles from your hom							
The timeliness of your to picked up from home	ransport when being						
The timeliness of your to picked up from hospital							
15 Did you find the	e experience of using th	o Comico dur	ing the COVID	10 pandomic	lockdown		
_	her times you have use		_	on)?			
Better \square	About the same C	□ Worse □		N/A - I c	N/A - I only used it		
				during lo	ockdown□		
16. Can you tell us a little more about your answer to Question 15: what made the service better, the same or worse during lockdown?							
	<u> </u>						



Yes (please answer Questions 18 and 19)	☐ No – please go to Question 20 ☐ Don't know / Can't remember		o to Ques	stion 20	
18. How often have you experience	ced the following delays, chang ice? (please tick one box per op		oblems v	vith you	r
Journeys made using the Servi	ice: (please tick one box per op	Never	Rarely	Often	Very
Delayed pick up from homes					
Delayed pick up from hospital					
Missed or delayed medical appointment(s) due to delays with my transport					
Short notice cancellations (made the same day)					
Changes to your scheduled vehicle					
Having to make your own way home because your transport did not arrive / or arrived late					
Having to make your own way to hospital because your transport did not arrive / or arrived late					
Difficulties finding out the whereabouts of your vehicle					
Longer journey times travelling to hospital than expected					
Longer journey times travelling home than expected					



19. What was the impact for you of any unexpected delays, delays or problems to your journeys made using the Service? (please select all that apply)					
No impacts					
Missed the arrival of my carer					
Missed medication					
Missed meals					
Issues arranging or re-arranging childcare					
Affected my job / ability to work					
Increased stress or anxiety					
Financial cost (e.g. to pay for refreshments whilst waiting, to fund calls etc)	a private	journey, p	hone		
(19a) Other (please specify)					
20. How often have you experienced any of the following with	م نور سام		do usin	a tha	
20. How often have you experienced any of the following wit Service?					
	Never	Rarely	Ofter	n Very often	
Having to travel with others where this is not appropriate for you / your medical condition					
Having to travel alone without necessary support from your carer, friend or relative					
Drivers not appearing to be trained to manage or assist with your condition					
Not being able to take essential personal belongings with you					
Transport not being appropriate for your needs					
21. hinking about any times when you have experienced issues with your journeys made using the Service, how did this make you feel? (if this does not apply to you please go to Q22)					



Section D - The future of Patient Transport Services, and ideas for how the Service might be improved 22. How important to you are the following aspects of a Patient Transport Service? (please tick one box per option) Slightly Not important Very Important important important at all To be given an exact time for when my П П П vehicle will be arriving To be kept informed of any changes or П П П П delays to my journey times To arrive home within 30 minutes of my allocated time To arrive for my hospital appointment no П П П П more than 30 minutes early To be able to speak with someone at any П П П П time to check where my vehicle is To be able to easily amend my booking П П П П For my carer, relative, or friend to be able П П П П to act on my behalf i.e. to apply for or amend my transport To have a nominated driver i.e. the same П П driver(s) for every journey 23. How likely is it that you would use the following features if the Service offered these? (please tick one box per option) Verv Likely Neither likely Unlikely Very nor unlikely unlikely likely A step by step 'how to' guide to help you П П П apply for Patient Transport Services Information available in different languages П П П П П Information available in sign language (BSL) П П П П П Information available in Easyread format П П П

Patient Transport Services: a Healthwatch In Sussex report on patient experiences

A dedicated service specifically for renal

patients, including specialist call centre staff

A telephone call centre service with extended

operating hours (open longer than 9am - 5pm)

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24. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following options would help to improve communications between the Service and you? (please tick one box per option)							
		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
An online account facility which allows me (or a person I nominate) to apply for Patient Transport Services							
An online account facility which allows me (or a person I nominate) to amend and cancel my bookings							
A mobile phone app which allows me to track the whereabouts of my vehicle							
To be able to communicate with the call centre by text							
To be able to communicate with the call centre online (using an online chat facility)							
To receive a text or call telling me when my vehicle is nearby (up to 30 minutes away)							
The option of having information shared automatically with a nominated carer, friend or relative							
A website with daily updates about the service							
Section E your satisfaction with the Service							
25. Overall, based on your experiences of using the Service, how likely is it that you would recommend family and friends to apply for it (please choose one option)							
Very likely \square	Likely \square	Unlikely \square]	Very Unlikely \square		
26. Overall, how satisfied are you with your experience of using the current Patient Transport Service? (please choose one option)							
Very Satisfied \square	Satisfied	Unsatisfied \square Very Unsatisfied \square					
27. Do you have any other comments or feedback on the Service?							



Prize draw

	prize draw to win one of 5 £25 er and name all (data will be sa		
Name			
Email or telephone number			
We would be grate	ful if you could complete the	e Equalities Monito	ring Form
gender, gender identity, abilit us to assess equality in our ser	g our services are accessible to exty, religion, belief, sexual orientarices, and to meet our equal opymous. Any details given are sections.	ation or age. The det portunities and divers	ails you give help sity commitments.
	scribe your gender? emale	□ Non-binary	☐ Cisgender
29. Please tell us your	age		
☐ White: Irish ☐ White: Gypsy or Irish ☐ White: Any other White ☐ Black or Black British: A ☐ Black or Black British: C ☐ Asian or Asian British: Ir ☐ Asian or Asian British: Pa	background frican aribbean akistani	☐ Any other mixe☐ Any other ethn☐ Prefer not to sa	nd White frican and White aribbean and White ed background ic group
31. How would you des ☐ Heterosexual/Straight ☐ Other	scribe your sexual orientation Gay man Prefer not to say	n?] Lesbian	☐ Bisexual
32. What is your religion None Christian (all denominated Buddhist Hindu	cions)	☐ Muslim☐ Jewish☐ Sikh☐ Any other relig☐ Prefer not to sa	ay
	y activities limited because or, or is expected to last, at lo □ Prefer not to say		n or disability
34. Are you a carer? ☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Prefer not to say		
Patient Transport Services: a Healthy	vatch		

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How to contact your local Healthwatch

Healthwatch Brighton and Hove

Community Base 113 Queens Road,

Brighton BN1 3XG

Email: office@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk

Phone: 01273 234040

Website: www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk

Social media:

- Facebook @healthwatchbrightonhove

Twitter @HealthwatchBHInstagram @healthwatchbh

Healthwatch East Sussex

Barbican Suite Greencoat House 32, St Leonards Road Eastbourne BN21 3UT

Email: enquiries@healthwatcheastsussex.co.uk

Phone: 0333 101 4007

Website: www.healthwatcheastsussex.co.uk

Social media

Facebook @healthwatchesussexTwitter @HealthwatchES

- Instagram @healthwatcheastsussex

Healthwatch West Sussex

PO Box 1343 Crawley West Sussex RH10 0QH

Email: helpdesk@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk

Phone: 0300 012 0122

Website: www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk

Social media

- Facebook @healthwatchwestsussex

Twitter @HealthwatchwsInstagram @healthwatchws

Patient Transport Services: a Healthwatch

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