

# Equality Forum

## Q&A

### 17 October 2013

**Question: Cllr Steve Holgate** – Do you know what the numbers were for enforcement on vehicles parked incorrectly in designated bays not displaying a blue badge?

**Response: Conrad Heald** - latest performance shows that in the period 1st April to 30th Sept 2013 (6 months) across all car parks 100 tickets were issued to drivers parking in disabled bays without displaying a blue badge (this equates to 6.4% of all tickets issued). A total of 70 of these were issued on the Flat Iron

**Question: Jan Jacob** - is there any provision for carers to be able to bring disabled clients in their cars, there used to be an institutional blue badge system which has recently been scrapped?

**Response: Streetscene & Leisure Contracts Manager, Chorley Council** - the blue badge belongs to the disabled person and can be used if they are a passenger in any car

**Susan Hogg, Blue Badge Supervisor, One Connect Ltd** - The Blue Badge is issued to an individual and can be used in any vehicle they may be travelling in. The carer would therefore be able to use the badge provided the badge holder is travelling in the vehicle.

The Organisational badges have not been 'scrapped' but the criteria has been tightened as the Department for Transport (DFT) prefer an individual to apply for a badge rather than issue to an organisation.

When applying for an organisational badge, organisations will be asked to provide the same type of information required by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) for licensing a vehicle under the Disabled Passenger Vehicle taxation class (for exemption from Vehicle Excise Duty). A declaration would need to be provided on the organisation's letter headed paper to say that they are an organisation concerned with the care of disabled people who would meet one or more of the eligibility criteria that govern the Blue Badge scheme and that they will be using the vehicle SOLELY for the purpose of transporting those people.

**Question: Councillor Julia Berry** –Open Mind in Chorley has now closed. Where are the mental health beds located in Central Lancs?

**Response:**

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust provide beds at a number of locations in Central Lancashire. We provide 40 Adult Mental Health beds in Chorley Hospital, including 5 Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) beds. We also provide 8 beds for older adults with dementia in the Wordsworth Centre at Ribblesdale Hospital and 6 beds for 16-17 year olds at Royal Preston Hospital.

Within the NHS, “Central Lancashire” is understood to also include most of West Lancashire Borough Council. In that area we also provide 24 beds in Ormskirk Hospital including 4 PICU beds.