
CASE STUDY

DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Trust has been using Co-wheels to provide pool cars since December 2012. As of 2014, there are 10 cars in the fleet, with a view to expand this in the future. The fleet started with 10 Toyota Aygos, but currently has 7 Toyota Aygos, 2 Ford Fiestas and a recently introduced Nissan Leaf electric vehicle. These cars were all chosen due to their low emissions, as the main reason for introducing these pool cars was to reduce carbon emissions rather than make savings.

KEY RESULTS

- ▶ CO2 reductions of more than 35% on every mile driven in pool cars, compared to average of staff using their own cars.
- ▶ Estimated saving of 5.3 tonnes of CO2 in 2013.
- ▶ 54,900 miles driven in pool cars in the first 12 months, and estimated annual figures based on more recent monthly usage of almost 70,000 miles.
- ▶ The most active driver in 2013 covered 3168 miles in pool cars, with 19 drivers covering more than 1000 miles each.
- ▶ Average mileage of active drivers is 75 miles/month (900 miles/year).
- ▶ 240 registered users and still increasing.
- ▶ Users overwhelmingly vote the scheme a success: 100% of survey respondents who used the pool cars rated the service/resource as Very Good or Good.
- ▶ As a fully managed service with modern cars, fully maintained, serviced and insured, all necessary Duty of Care requirements are met.

WHY CO-WHEELS?

When looking at introducing pool cars, Co-wheels was selected not only because it was better value than the competition, but because the company offered several benefits:

- Social enterprise status, which has more in common with the ethos of the NHS than a private company.
- On-line booking and telematics system, allowing the cars to be used for private journeys by staff and the general public, as well as for business use.
- A particular interest in offering solutions for public sector organisations and rural areas, whereas private operators appear to prefer business opportunities in large cities and towns.

The Carplus annual survey shows that for every car club vehicle, 15 or more cars are either sold or not bought by members. In addition, car club members own fewer cars and are more likely to walk, cycle or use public transport. As an NHS organisation, DCHS wants to support this as it increases activity levels and helps reduce pollution.

Membership gives access to the vehicles locally, as well as the entire Co-wheels fleet across the UK, allowing staff and the general public to book cars from as little as half an hour, at very low rates. The additional utilisation of the cars privately is particularly attractive, as it means the cars have potentially higher use and therefore can lower the cost per mile for the organisation as a business user.

Another advantage of using Co-wheels to provide the pool fleet is that there is very little administration and no maintenance at all. Booking is done on-line, and smartcard entry to the cars means there are no keys to manage. Maintenance and cleaning is all managed and carried out by Co-wheels.

DCHS is working on other initiatives with Co-wheels to further increase utilisation of the cars and reduce the cost per mile; the aim being for the cost of the pool cars to be brought in line with the 45p per mile rate currently paid to staff for using their own cars.

MORE INFORMATION

For this case study and DCHS, contact Mark Armstrong-Read:
mark.armstrong-read@dchs.nhs.uk

For Co-wheels' pool fleet services, contact Pierre Fox:
pierre@co-wheels.org.uk | 07795 445633