

Proposal to move Ward 15 from the Royal Alexandra Hospital to the new Royal Hospital for Children

Transport needs assessment

1. Background

1.1 The Board are considering a proposal to transfer paediatric inpatient, short stay medical assessment and day surgery activity from the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley to the new Royal Hospital for Children in Govan. When informing and engaging with patients, parents and the public about this proposal, people have emphasised the need for the potential impact on patient and parent travel to be taken into account.

1.2 A travel survey of 29 visitors to Ward 15 was undertaken in October 2016. The main themes from this were:

- Visitors to Ward 15 travelled from a wide geographic area
- 1 person spoken to used public transport to travel to Ward 15
- The journey to Ward 15 was felt by most to have been quite easy
- Many people were not aware of financial support available for travel and transport
- Car parking and arranging care for other children not in hospital were the biggest difficulties most faced when visiting Ward 15.

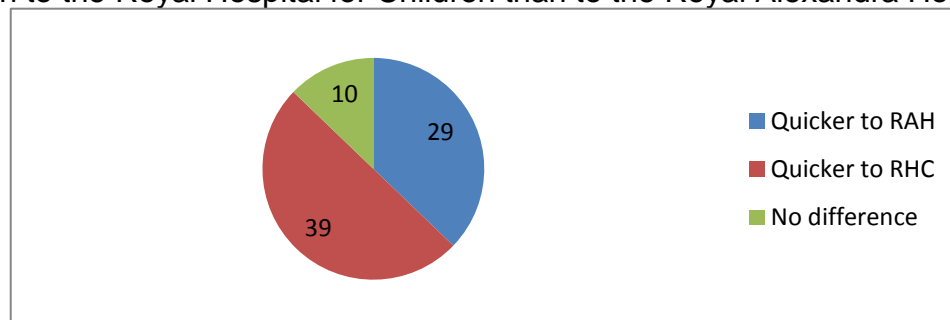
1.3 This transport needs assessment has consequently been informed by the above.

2. Travel time in emergencies

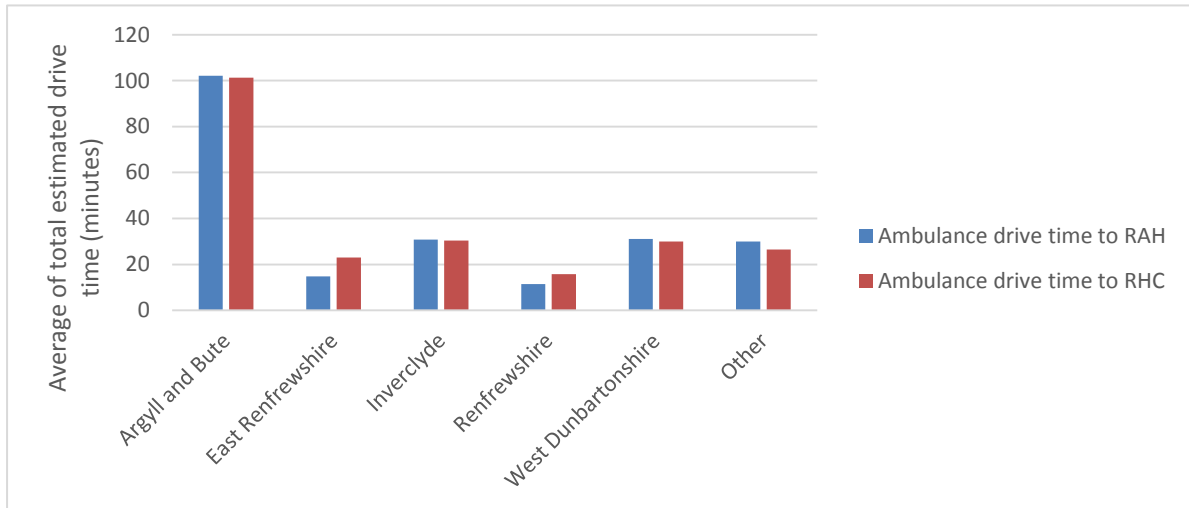
2.1 It is the formal advice of clinicians and the Scottish Ambulance Service that in an emergency situation, parents should **not** drive their child to hospital. Instead, they should use the 999 service for emergency transport by the Scottish Ambulance Service.

2.2 NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde have looked at figures given by the Scottish Ambulance Service to determine the difference in estimated travel time if the emergency paediatric inpatient admissions to Ward 15 in 2015/2016 were instead routed to the Royal Hospital for Children.

2.3 In summary, for half of the emergency paediatric inpatient admissions to Ward 15 in 2015/2016, it is estimated that it would be quicker for ambulances to take children to the Royal Hospital for Children than to the Royal Alexandra Hospital.



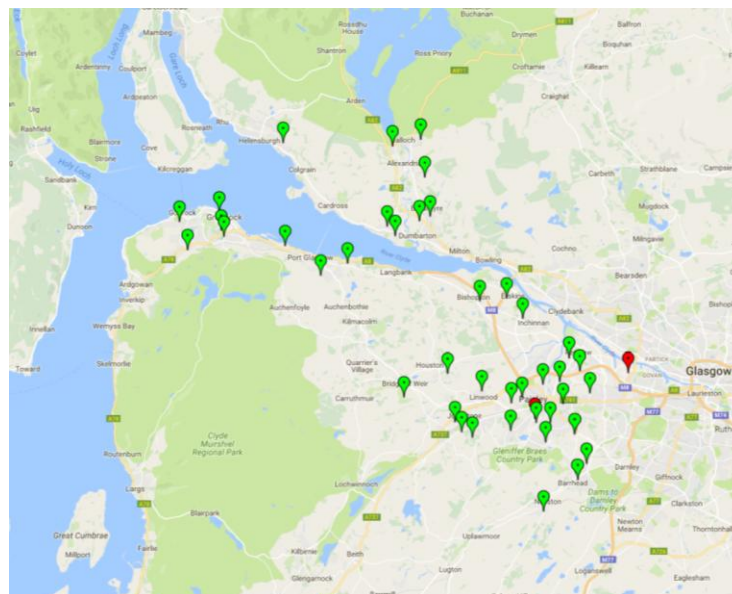
2.4 The graph below illustrates that overall, there would not be a big difference in ambulance drive time to the Royal Hospital for Children compared to the Royal Alexandra Hospital. East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire would see the biggest difference in ambulance journey time, at 10 minutes and 5 minutes respectively. However, these journey times would still be shorter than from most other areas currently accessing Ward 15.



3. Travel times in non emergencies

3.1 In 2015 – 2016, admissions to Ward 15 were from a wide geographic area, including Argyll and Bute, West Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, and Renfrewshire.

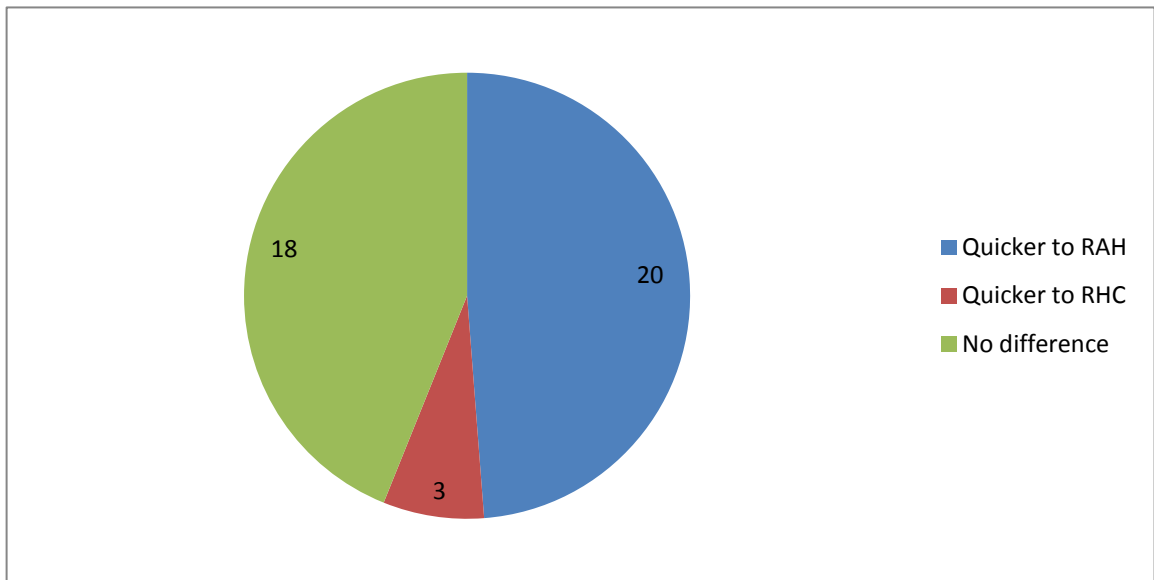
To assess what the impact on travel time in non emergencies might be, if Ward 15 was moved to the Royal Hospital for Children, 41 postcodes were selected from the catchment area. The green pins in the map below shows where these areas are.



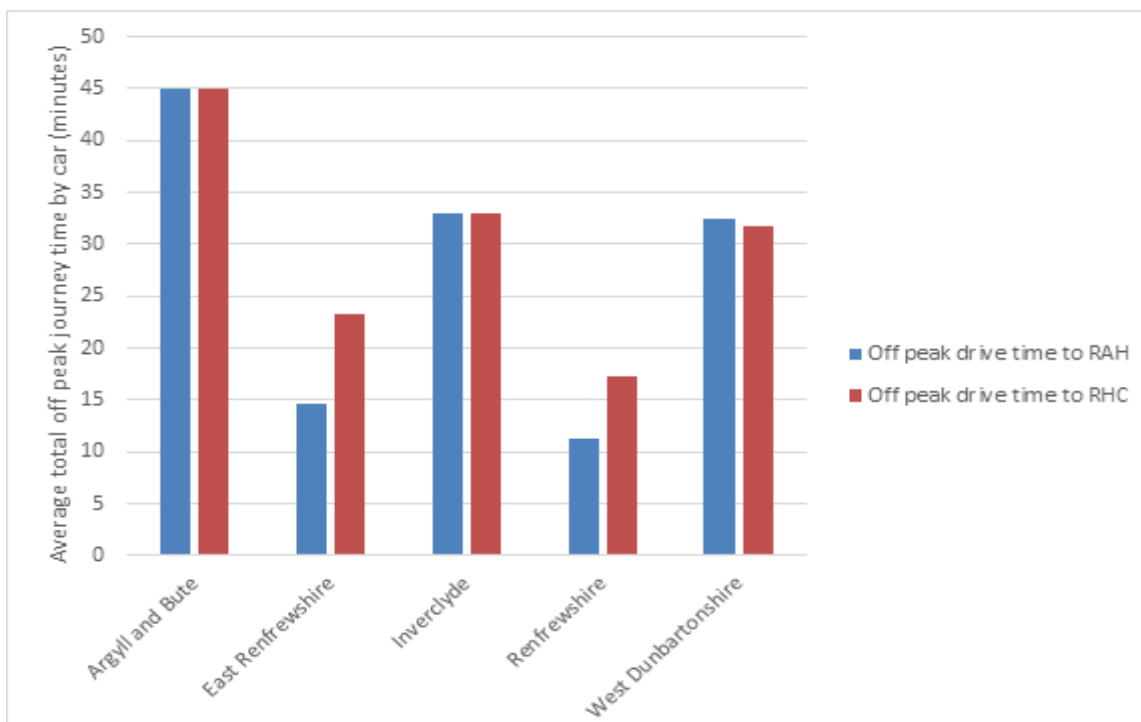
Google Maps was used to ascertain the journey time from these areas to the Royal Hospital for Children and Royal Alexandra Hospital, by public transport and by car in both off peak times and during rush hour (8am – 9am and 5pm – 6pm).

3.2 Off peak car drive times

As illustrated by the figure below, just **under half** of the areas analysed had shorter journey times by car in off peak times to the Royal Alexandra Hospital compared to the Royal Hospital for Children. Just **over half** of areas would see no difference in journey times or slightly shorter drive times to the Royal Hospital for Children compared to the Royal Alexandra Hospital:

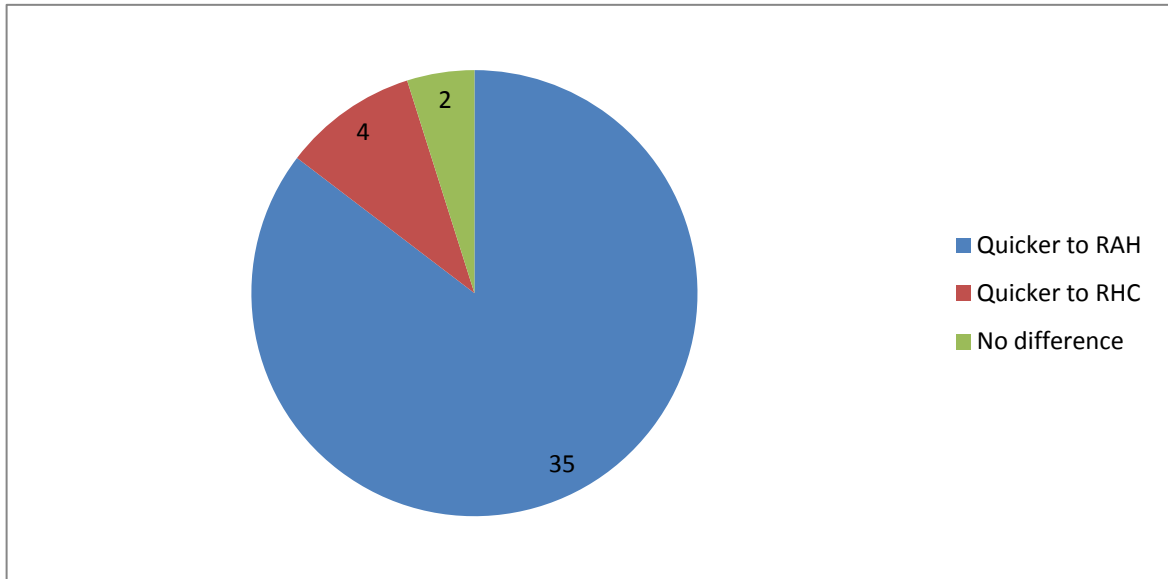


Should the ward move, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire could expect roughly 10 minutes added on to their journey time on average. However, even with this time added on to their journey, parents from East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire would still have the shortest journey times overall.

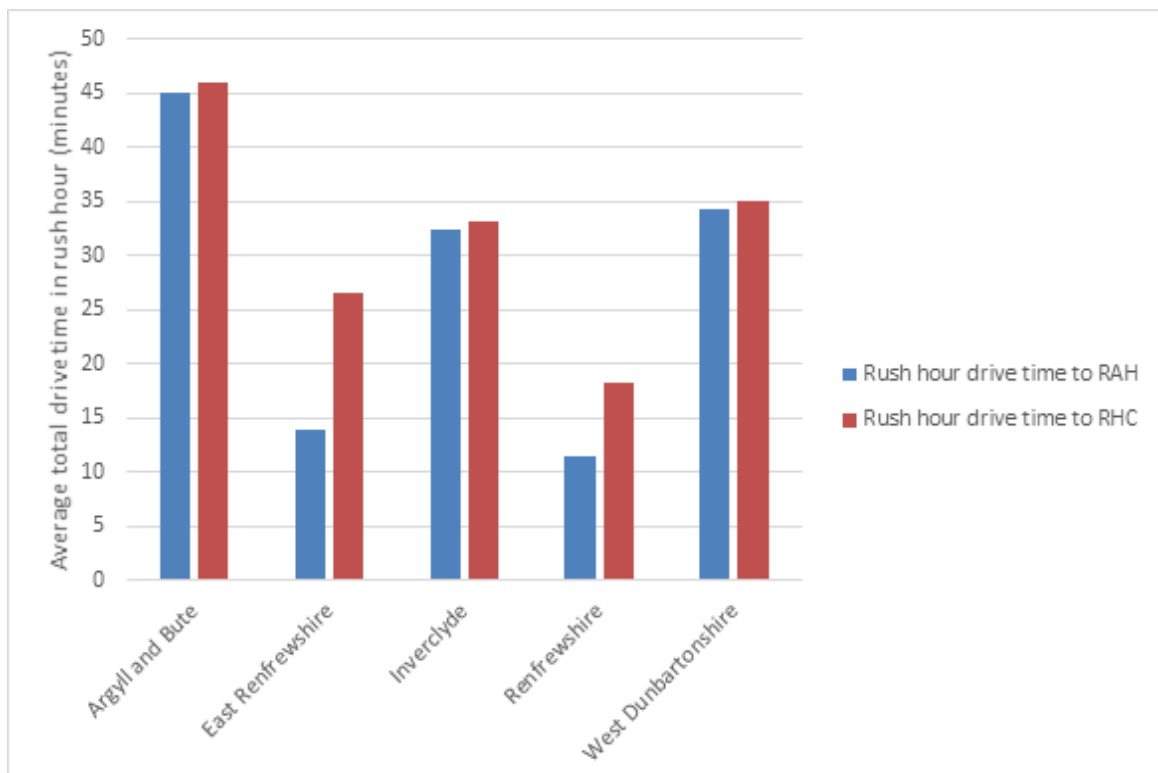


3.3 Rush hour car drive times

The chart below illustrates that it is estimated that during rush hour, the majority of areas analysed would have quicker journey times to the Royal Alexandra Hospital:

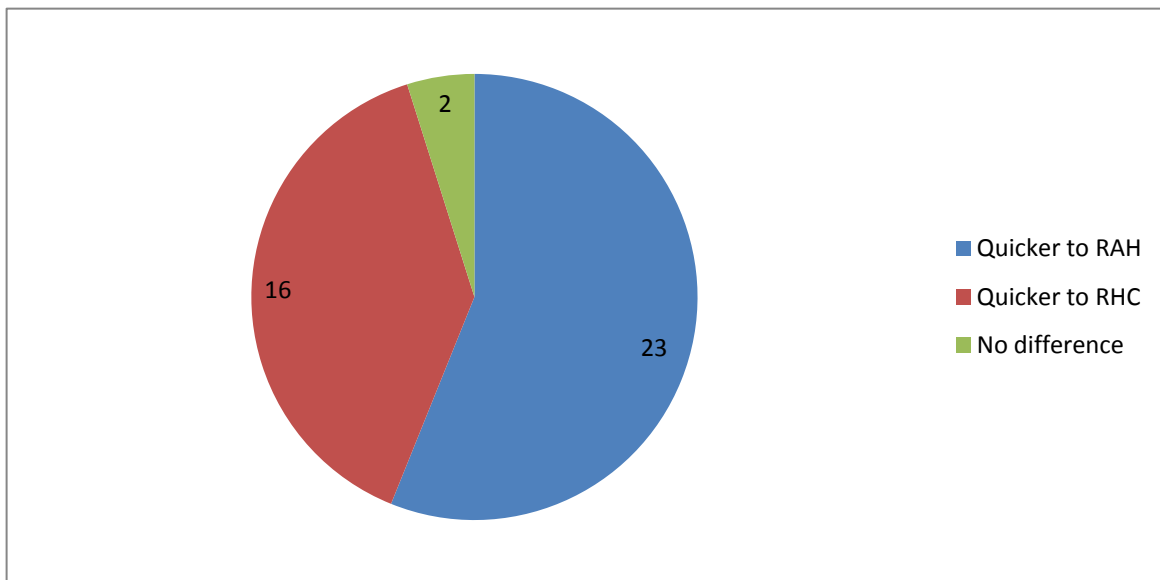


However, the chart below illustrates that in most areas, this difference is small. In East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire, where the impact is greatest, there is around an estimated 10 minutes added to journey time in rush hour. Again, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire would still see some of the shortest journeys to the Royal Hospital for Children overall.

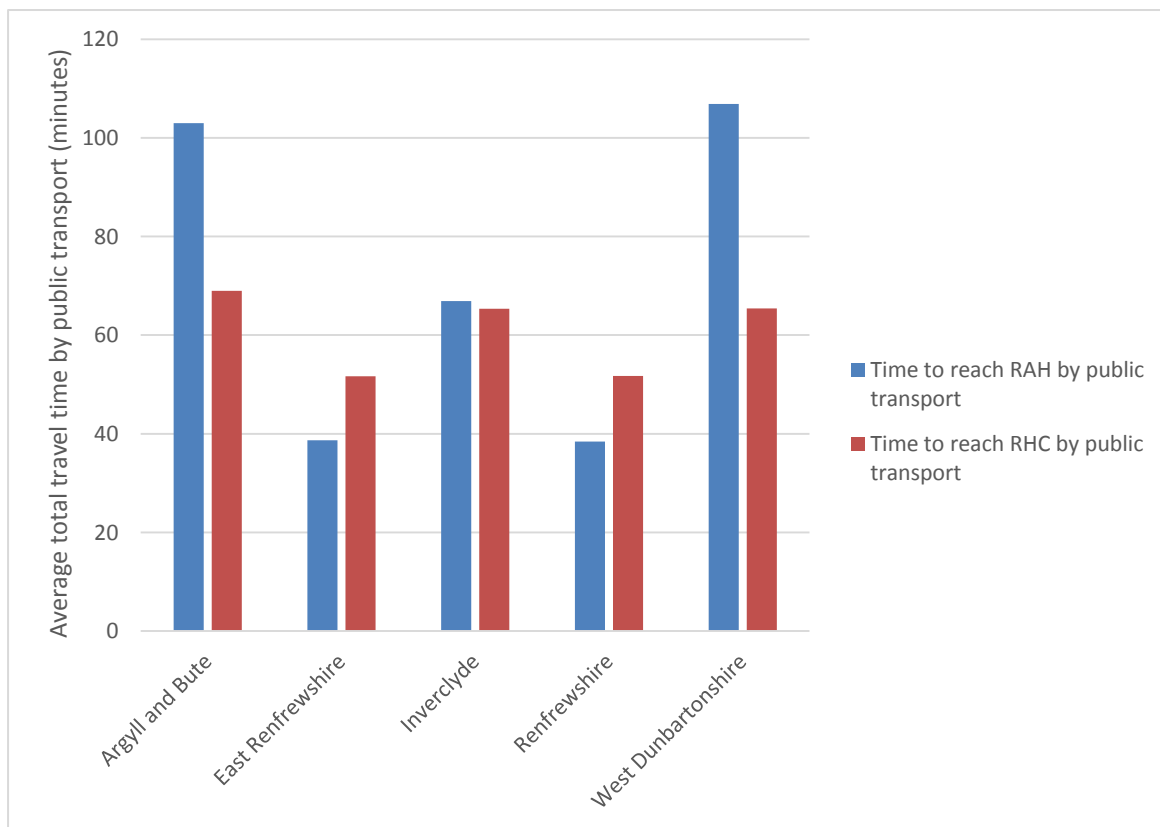


3.4 Public transport journey times

Just **over half** of the areas analysed would have shorter journey times by public transport to the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Just **under half** of areas would have shorter journey times to the Royal Hospital for Children, or see no difference in public transport journey time.



However, the chart below illustrates that the areas currently with the longest journeys to the Royal Alexandra Hospital would have significantly shorter journeys to the Royal Hospital for Children. Again, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire would see their journey times increased, but these would still be among the shortest journey times for parents overall.



3.5 **Summary**

Ward 15 is currently used by patients from a large geographic area. It is expected that on average, families travelling from this wider area are not likely to see a significant difference in travel time, should the proposal go ahead. Families who live nearest to the Royal Alexandra Hospital, in East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire, are likely to see the biggest impact in their journey time. However, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire would still have shorter journeys to the Royal Hospital for Children than most areas have to Ward 15 now.

4. **Car parking**

4.1 Following the opening of the new multi storey car park on the Queen Elizabeth University Hospitals (QEUH) campus, car parking arrangements have been under regular review. New arrangements were put in place at the end of August 2016 which included 894 spaces in P1, the multi storey nearest the Royal Hospital for Children, being allocated exclusively for patients and visitors.

4.2 Following this, Facilities have recent data (from end of August to mid September) looking at the activity on each level in the multi storey car park. This data shows that there is considerable parking space availability for patients and visitors in P1 and P2.

5. **Financial support available for families attending Ward 15, and the Royal Hospital for Children**

5.1 During engagement, some people queried whether there was a financial implication for families travelling to the Royal Hospital for Children instead of the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

5.2 At the Royal Hospital for Children and the Royal Alexandra Hospital, families who receive NHS treatment under the care of consultant and have a low income or receive certain benefits or credits can have their travel expenses reimbursed at the cashiers office.

5.3 A financial support and inclusion service is based at the Royal Hospital for Children. Families across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde can access free, quality assured, independent, confidential and impartial advice on money matters from this service.

5.4 In East Renfrewshire, a community transport scheme is available free of charge to people needing to travel to hospital.

6. **Accommodation available for those families who require a prolonged stay with their child**

6.1 In both Ward 15 and the RHC, one parent can stay overnight at the bed side next to their child. In the Royal Hospital for Children, this overnight stay would most probably be in en suite single room accommodation, with access to the internet, TV and radio. In the Royal Alexandra Hospital, this overnight stay is more likely to be in a 4 or 6 bedded ward.

