



LRS Patient Participation Group

Winter Newsletter 2024



Appointments

Please ensure that you know the site to which your appointments refer. Appointments can take place at either Grovebury Road, Leighton Road or Bassett Road Health Centre.

The Health Centre is in Bassett Road, a short distance from Bassett Road Surgery.

News on Pharmacy First

Be prepared for Winter with Pharmacy First. Pharmacy First offers advice on seven conditions which can be seen by clicking on the following link.

<https://blmkhealthandcarepartnership.org/b/e-prepared-for-winter-with-pharmacy-first/>

NHS APP

The NHS App gives you a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS services. Download the NHS App on your smartphone or tablet via the [Google play](#) or [App store](#). You can also access the same services in a web browser by [logging in through the NHS website](#).

You must be aged 13 or over to use the NHS App. You also need to be registered with a GP surgery in England or the Isle of Man. Find out more about [who can use the NHS App](#).

What you can do with the NHS App

You need to [prove who you are](#) to get full access to the NHS App. With full access you can:

- order repeat prescriptions and nominate a pharmacy where you would like to collect them
- book and manage appointments
- view your GP health record to see information like your allergies and medicines (if your GP has given you access to your detailed medical record, you can also see information like test results)
- book and manage COVID-19 vaccinations
- register your organ donation decision
- choose how the NHS uses your data
- view your NHS number ([find out what your NHS number is](#))
- use NHS 111 online to answer questions and get instant advice or medical help near you

Before proving who you are, you can use the NHS App to:

- search trusted NHS information and advice on hundreds of conditions and treatments
- find NHS services near you

Other services

Depending on your GP surgery or hospital, you may be able to use the NHS App to:

- message your GP surgery or a health professional online
- contact your GP surgery using an online form and get a reply
- access health services on behalf of someone you care for
- view and manage your hospital and other healthcare appointments
- view useful links your doctor or health professional has shared with you
- view and manage care plans

Keeping your data secure

To access the NHS App, you will need to set up an NHS login and prove who you are. Your NHS App then securely connects to information from your GP surgery.

If your device supports fingerprint detection or facial recognition, you can use it to log in to your NHS App each time, instead of using a password and security code.

Leighton Buzzard Voluntary Patient Transport (LBVPT)

LBVPT has now been running for seven and a half years. From small beginnings it has grown and use more technology to provide the service, but it remains a personal service based on the links between the users and the call handlers and drivers.

LBVPT now has a team of over 20 drivers whose availability varies with their other lives and a smaller team of call handlers who rotate the job of taking bookings and arranging drivers. In October it did 158 trips to hospitals, outpatient clinics and diagnostic centres, and this is a typical level currently.

LBVPT exists to help the elderly and vulnerable who don't have friends or relatives that can help them attend outpatient appointments, and who don't reach the criteria for the NHS non urgent transport service.

LBVPT can also take you to a number of independent clinics who operate as contractors for NHS such as Spamedica who do cataract and other eye procedures.

LBVPT needs volunteers to help make this community scheme a continuing success, you can help by calling 07873 497633 or logging into www.lbvpt.co.uk for further information.

An hour or two a week will help LBVPT to help our community.

Look out for any vulnerable friends and neighbours

What could you do to help them? Are there any hazards in their homes? Do their slippers need replacing? The Ambulance Service attend falls to older and vulnerable people all year round.

For further information on how to protect yourself and others this winter please visit the NHS Staywell website at

<https://www.nhs.uk/staywell/#ugXZbirw4X40krXI.97>

Feedback on the Newsletter

We would like to hear your feedback on the newsletter. Do you find it useful or informative? Is there something you would like us to cover in future? If so,

Email us with your comments or a request to receive the Newsletter by Email to lrspatientrep@nhs.net or leave a note for the PPG at reception.