



## KEY ISSUES

This project was commissioned by Merseytravel and Southport and Formby Primary Care Trust (PCT) to:

- Tackle the priority issues concerning accessibility and social inclusion in the Southport and Formby area;
- Demonstrate how the accessibility planning process can be applied to a PCT within the Merseyside area

## ABOUT DHC

Derek Halden Consultancy staff and associates have leading expertise in transport planning, community development, psychology, transport and accessibility modelling, social inclusion, marketing, environmental assessment, and economic development.

Common to all projects is a commitment to draw from state of the art knowledge to ensure that solutions are soundly based and tailored to the needs of clients.

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# ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN SOUTHPORT & FORMBY

A wide range of problems and issues were identified using available literature, broadly based consultation, and new surveys. Mapping of accessibility has shown target geographical areas for improvement, and GP patient surveys have identified more local problems through the patient access experience. A case study of access to Out-of-Hours GP care identified how barriers to access could be reduced through improved information, better physical infrastructure, reduced travel and parking costs, and use of patient, public and community transport resources suited targeted at the medical needs of the patient.

To improve accessibility, the option appraisal process allowed objectives and priorities to be refined and re-focused to meet the needs of partners. To help facilitate discussion on actions to progress improvements suggestions were made for better patient access to GPs through improved patient choice, staff travel through the green travel planning process, and utilisation of transport resources including Patient Transport Services and the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme.

For example, the map below shows how patient choice and 'walk-in' catchments vary across the area with the more rural areas of Formby, Ainsdale and Banks subject to less choice than people in central Southport. This provided the evidence for recommending the relocation of existing surgeries and the provision of new ones to improve choice and extend 'walk-in' catchments to relatively isolated areas.

The study also showed how accessibility planning could be incorporated within the existing equity audit and healthcare delivery processes such as the location and transfer of GP surgeries, dentists and other primary care services.

Patient Choice and 'Walk-in' Catchments

