

As promised, we have had a look at the figures across the areas of Monmouthshire and Blaenau Gwent to try and give you a better comparison of how the scheme has taken off in Abertillery and Llanhilleth.

The scheme has been in place in Monmouthshire since 2017 and, as such, is well established. The area's covered and generally split into three areas: Abergavenny and outlying villages.

Monmouth, Raglan and Usk.

The South - Chepstow, Caldicot, Magor and Undy.

The scheme in Monmouthshire is funded in such a way that we are able to offer journey's for any reason - medical, social and wellbeing, access to local facilities - including shops, groups, sports facilities etc.

The scheme was launched into Blaenau Gwent in 2022 and the funding for this area is restricted to journeys to and from a medical setting.

With regards to the data below, it is important to acknowledge that the figures for the first four columns are for a period of 12 months. The figure in the column that is specific to Abertillery and Llanhilleth is for the period July 2024 - December 2024 which is when the subsidy started.

As at the end of December 2024 the registered passenger numbers were as follows:

Passengers	Abergavenny	Chepstow/Magor/Undy	Monmouth/Raglan/Usk	Blaenau Gwent (incl Abertillery & Llanhilleth)	Abertillery & Llanhilleth
Active	95	118	210	122	69
Archived	213	127	199	9	3
Total Registered	308	245	409	131	72

Over 2024 we arranged the following journeys in each area:

	Abergavenny	Chepstow/Magor/Undy	Monmouth/Raglan/Usk	Blaenau Gwent (incl Abertillery & Llanhilleth)	Abertillery & Llanhilleth
Total journeys arranged	562	1376	1147	649	221
Journey Completed	406	1058	854	422	129
Miles Covered	4251	10166	12588	7204	3396

And the volunteer drivers available in each area are:

	Abergavenny	Chepstow/Magor/Undy	Monmouth/Raglan/Usk	Blaenau Gwent (incl Abertillery & Llanhilleth)	Abertillery & Llanhilleth
Total Drivers	15	24	31	10	5

The feedback we have received from passengers in the area includes:

It's wonderful how efficient and attentive the team are and the drivers are also so attentive, it helps me so much knowing I can rely on you.

The scheme is so easy, great people & comforting.

I would not be able to get to my appointments without the scheme.

As a blind person the service gives me the confidence to attend and access support from Sight Cymru safe in the knowledge that the driver would get me there and back safely.

Can't fault the scheme - convenient, helpful, door to door. Supportive and easy to use.

In addition to the specific comments above, the passengers regularly tell us when booking and paying for journeys how grateful they are for the additional financial help provided through the subsidy provided by yourselves, to date the subsidy has saved the passengers just over £400.00 which, in these uncertain economic times is vital. The impact of the subsidy has made a real difference to people in the area and has given them the confidence to attend medical appointments safe in the knowledge that our drivers will be waiting outside to take them back home, they do not need to worry budgeting for a

taxi firm who will add a 'waiting time fee' or about being able to access public transport which may not always be close or within a reasonable time scale time' fee (as a taxi company would). All of this combined impacts favourably on their mental wellbeing.

We are confident that the figures for Abertillery and Llanhilleth reflect growth as we would expect given that, as it falls under Blaenau Gwent the journey's are for medical purposes only. We are confident that the figures compare favourably with the other areas - not least because they cover just six months unlike the other areas which relate to the full year. The scheme continues to grow - we have had six requests from new passengers wishing to join in Abertillery and Llanhilleth since the 2nd January - more than in any other area and, as we continue to work with partner agencies and through marketing and recommendations, we expect this to continue to increase.

I hope that this allays any concerns that the councillors have with regards to how the project has taken off. If they would like any further information or would like to meet with us to discuss the scheme further please do not hesitate to let us know.

Thanks

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