

Below are the questions to be asked of relevant bodies on the subject of Access to Rural Health Services.

Local Authorities are encouraged to ask their own questions relevant to their local area in addition to the questions below.

Set questions:

- What % of the Local Authority residents have to travel more than 5 miles to access their local GP?
- What % of the Local Authority residents have to travel more than 10 miles to access their local GP?
- Are you aware of any GP Practices that have vacant posts (Doctors or Nurses) within your area?
- Have any of your GP practices had posts that have been vacant for more than 2 months / 4 months / 6 months+?
- Have recruitment or retention difficulties been experienced in rural GP Practices in the last 1 or 2 years?
- How do you support your residents to access more specialised healthcare which may only be available outside your local authority area?
- Are there community transport schemes which are specifically available for accessing healthcare services, and is it envisaged that these will continue in future years?
- Are the ambulance response time targets set greater for rural areas than urban and if so what are those targets? Also what percentage of actual response times to rural areas are within the set target?
- Have any GP practices closed in your local area in the last year?
- Are you aware of any GP practices due to close within the next year in your local area? Do you know the reason for closure and the impact on patients?
- Have you had any difficulty in recruiting clinical pharmacists to GP practices in rural areas?
- If so, how are you dealing with the issue of recruitment?