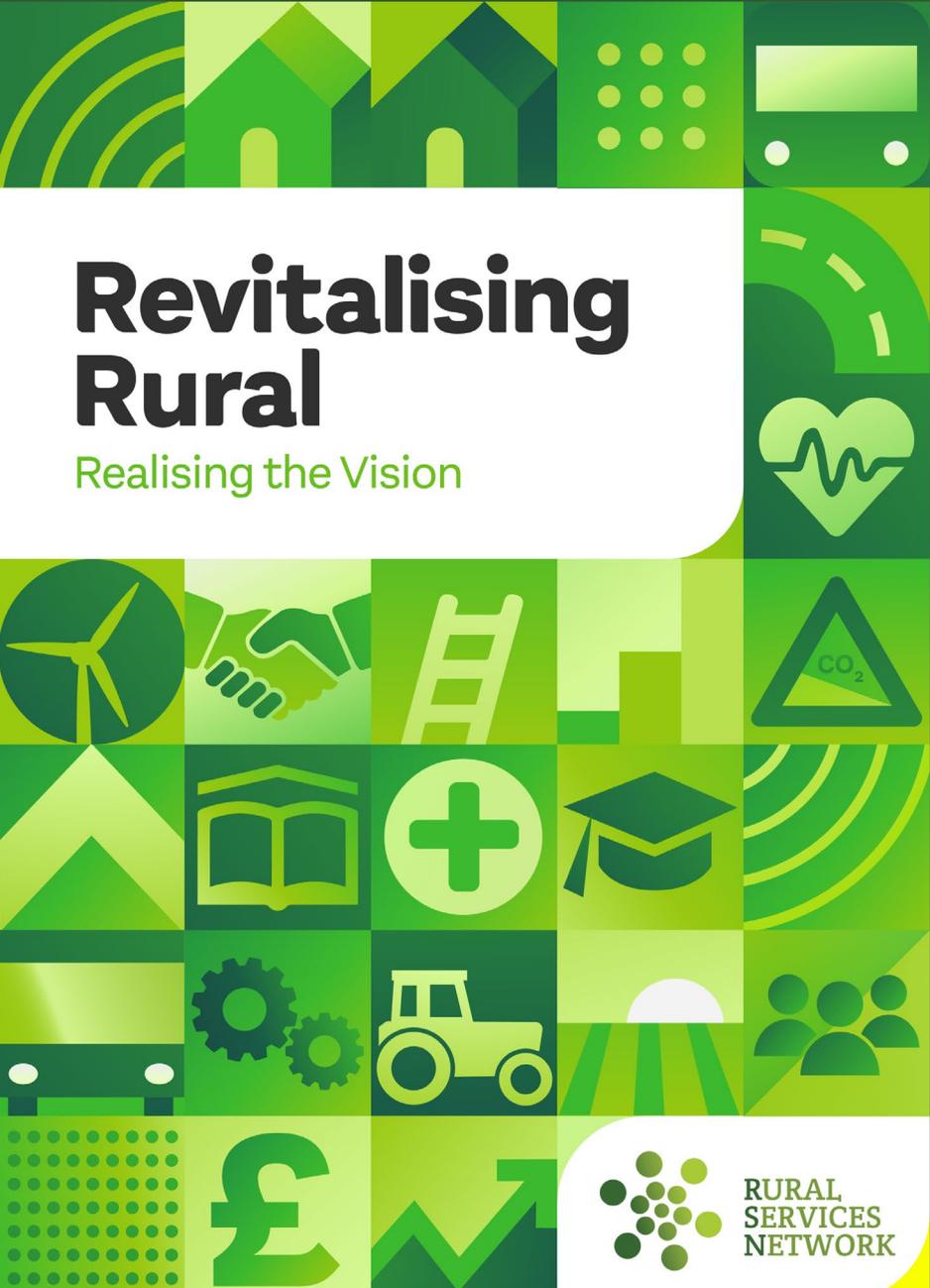




Rural Services Network  
Access to Rural  
Health and Care  
Services





# Revitalising Rural

Realising the Vision

We want a fairer distribution of national resources to rural areas and for more nuanced national policies that reflect rural circumstances.



RURAL  
SERVICES  
NETWORK



**Services are becoming more centralised, creating difficulty where poor public transport**

**Increasing older population in rural areas**



**Issues have been identified in recruitment and retention of health services and care workers in rural areas**

**Increasing reliance on telecare services can create difficulties in areas with poor broadband / connectivity**



# The rural dimension – funding of public services

Analysis by the Rural Services Network shows that, if compared with their predominantly urban equivalents:



- Predominantly rural local authorities receive **significantly less** grant funding per head to pay for services such as social care;
- Predominantly rural local authorities receive **significantly less** grant funding per head to pay for their public health responsibilities;

The more rural NHS Clinical Commissioning Group areas receive similar funding per head, which does not seem to account for their notably older demographic.

# Specific Policy Asks on Access to Rural Health and Care Services



## Access and Travel to Hospitals

- Plans should address rural transport issues
- Funding allocations to local NHS areas should be aligned with the costs rural areas face from serving an older aged population
- Hospital building prog should improve access to hospitals in rural areas



## Primary and Community Care Services

- Create opportunities to develop health hubs in rural towns
- Should provide range of services
- Local pharmaceutical services need to be retained in rural areas, which may mean supporting dispensing GP surgeries



## Public & Mental Health Services

- Both need better resourcing to be more accessible in rural areas
- Historic funding allocations for public health cannot be justified and need urgent overhaul to even out provision

# Specific Policy Asks on Access to Rural Health and Care Services



## Social Care Provision

- Govt should implement findings of fair funding review to level up provision of social care in rural areas
- Enable improved or more consistent engagement with and commissioning of 'low level' support services for vulnerable rural residents which are typically delivered locally by Vol and community sector



## Workforce and Recruitment

- NHS Workforce Plan should include explicit rural dimension
- Pay bonuses should be considered to attract recruits into rural areas with high vacancy and turnover rates
- Training should include rural placement
- Similar issues should be addressed in social care workforce

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