

YEARS AHEAD

The North East
Forum on Ageing



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**Best Practice – Mobility Scooters -
Middlesbrough Initiative**

May 2014

*Presented by Bill Ions,
Chair, “YEARS AHEAD”*

on behalf of “Years Ahead”, The North East Forum on Ageing

Introduction.

Scootersafe.

Lack of awareness and proper training in connection with mobility scooters is recognised as a problem by most Local Authorities.

“Scootersafe” is a project devised by Middlesbrough Shopmobility in Partnership with O'Brien Mobility and Middlesbrough Council to reduce some of these concerns.

It covers three elements, Public Perception, Training and Support.

The details of the scheme are outlined here and presented as an example of best practice which might be adopted by other Local Authorities.

Bill Ions

Chair – “Years Ahead” – The North East Forum on Ageing
May 2014

**Middlesbrough Shopmobility in Partnership with O'Brien
Mobility and Middlesbrough Council proudly present
ScooterSafe**

Following the research in an academic study by Middlesbrough Shopmobility Development Manager Gail Chester, identified the emerging situation of increasing Mobility scooter ownership which is indicative to the increasing growth in the older population.

With 14 years managing a successful Shopmobility scheme, her understanding of regulations and equipment capability and the mobility scooter market, developed into a need to pro-actively attempt to address the growing concerns and minimise both risk to the user and the perceptions of the public to create a harmonious environment which both users can co-exist

The ScooterSafe program is a holistic approach to the dilemma of Mobility scooters in an unregulated environment, where the user is untrained and often using equipment which may not meet their needs, and potentially worsen their condition or result in a serious incident/fatality

The program delivers this through

3 stages

Stage 1 - Public Perceptions

A series of open days in which members of the public are asked to experience using a mobility scooter around a pre-designed course to demonstrate the lack of consideration for users, and the difficulty in manoeuvring around pedestrians

The aim of the event is to awaken the general public to both scooter and wheelchair users and reduce the risk of incidents

Stage 2 - ScooterSafe

The training course is over 3 hours and includes the following

- Road Safety
- Highway Code and Traffic Regulation Act
- Personal safety
- Emergency planning
- Route planning
- Practical ability
- Know your equipment

The course is aimed at owners and person thinking of buying a scooter and can include Power chairs users

Stage 3 - 1to1 support

The final stage is offering owners dedicated 1-1 support via the Shopmobility centre; this includes further practical training, completion of v55 forms, 5 minute health checks and information from our partners in staying safe and independent in the environment

The program is a perfect example how the combined efforts of the public, private and voluntary sectors can effectively achieve a common objective and prevent potential incidents and critical intervention.

The course is currently run at various community locations in

Middlesbrough

For further details:

Telephone: 01642 254545 (Shopmobility) 01642 728115 (Gail

Chester) Email: Railchester@middlesbrough.gov.uk

**EXTRACT from Facebook – Middlesbrough Shopmobility
Scooter Safe Courses**

9 May 2014

Middlesbrough Shopmobility is working with O'Brien Mobility to produce a road safety awareness course for mobility scooter users.

The Aim of The Course

To explain the lawful requirements and responsibilities of mobility scooter users

- To raise the road safety awareness of mobility scooter users
- To provide maneuverability skills o mobility scooter users
- To increase personal awareness safety

Learning Outcomes

To have a better understanding of how the law affects mobility scooter users

- To have a better understanding of road safety
- To recognise your own strengths and weaknesses in relation to how you interact with members of the public
- To become more skilled in maneuvering mobility scooters
- To understand how to keep yourself and your scooter safe

Course Content

Short outline session

- The law explained
- Overview and questions
- Maneuvering course briefing
- Practical session
- Personal and scooter safety
- Course closure

Course Information

The course will run approximately 2hrs 30mins

- The course is completely FREE
- Booking in advance is required

FOR FURTHER DETAILS OR TO BOOK YOUR **FREE** PLACE, PLEASE CONTACT
MIDDLESBROUGH SHOPMOBILITY ON: (01642) 254545