

Age Action Alliance Transport Working Group

26 March 2015

Attendees

Roger Mackett	Centre for Transport Studies UCL (Chair)
Deborah Clarke	Action with Communities in Rural England (Secretariat)
John Kerry	East Midlands Later Life Forum
Nick Chase	Action with Communities in Rural England
Bill Ions	Years Ahead
Helen Creighton	ILC UK
Rachel Lee	Living Streets
Rebecca Johnson	Plymouth University
Joe Oldman	AGE UK
John Welham	Future Years
Julia Pride	SEEFA
Jocelyn Pearson	Passenger Focus
Shelagh Marshall	Older People Champion for North Yorkshire

Apologies

Charles Musselwhite	Swansea University
David Shalit	Positive Aging in London/London Regional Forum
David Sinclair	ILC UK
Morag Rethens	DfT
Julia Barrand	RNIB
Stuart Murray	Transport Group for Greater Manchester

Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and Introductions

Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the apologies. He asked that it be noted that there were no representatives from DWP or DfT, but information could be fed to the DWP through the AAA Secretariat.

Item 2 - Action Points from Last Meeting

Action Points 1, 4, 6 and 8 have been dealt with

Action Points 2 and 3

Bus Shelters

Roger Mackett has sent through all the information that he has on bus shelters to John Kerry. John Kerry is still putting his Report together and until this is complete, together with evidence, the Group cannot approach DWP and DfT about a national specification. John Kerry was asked to present a draft of his report at the next meeting of the Working Group. John Welham suggested that DfT are invited to the next meeting and the findings presented to them. The City Bench Project in NYC provides interesting evidence of what can be achieved. Helen Creighton ILCUK will forward information about the City Bench Project.

Action Point 5 will be covered by Helen Creighton ILCUK later on the Agenda.

Action Point 7 This has not been progressed, but the Group could produce a list of ways in which access could be improved for older people for presentation the relevant DfT minister after the election. Members of the Working Group were asked to send suggested points to Roger, copied to Deborah. The LGA could provide local information and rural information could be obtained from Parish Councils? The LGA's Strategy for Ageing will be published in June 2015. Roger Mackett will prepare a summary statement for discussion at the next meeting. He may contact members of the Group in the meantime regarding content of the statement.

Mobility Scooters

Roger Mackett raised the issue of mobility scooters and insurance since it may become necessary for users of mobility scooters to be insured. Training and insurance are not currently mandatory, but Class 3 have to be registered with DVLA. General comments from the meeting were:

- Insurance policies need to be looked at carefully – what do they actually cover?
- Insurance is not expensive but could be out of reach of those on low incomes.
- If you have a disability scooter you do not have to demonstrate a disability
- Sales of mobility scooters are not recorded (what about second hand sales)
- Buses take scooters, but what about insurance/damage to buses?
- Have the costs of implementation and enforcement been taken into account?

Agenda Item 3 – Helen Creighton ILC UK

Helen thanked the Group for supporting the October event Future of Transport on Ageing and encouraged attendance at the follow up Workshop on 17 April 2015. This will cover four areas: Transport for health, Convenience of public transport, Transport for people in rural areas, Active transport (walking and cycling). Helen gave a short presentation which she will forward for circulation with the notes.

Discussion followed around:

- Supporting people with health issues to access transport
- Encouraging people to use public transport
- The lack of understanding of the impact on people who have to stop driving whether for health or financial reasons

The final Report from the October and April workshops will be launched on 18 June in the House of Lords.

Agenda Item 4 – Nick Chase, ACRE

Nick discussed the issues for older people living in rural communities and explained the areas that ACRE is highlighting through their Manifesto. For further information <http://www.acre.org.uk/news/2015-03-17-community-transport-needs-cash-and-volunteers>

Agenda Item 5 – Joe Oldman Age UK

5.1 The Road Safety Foundation Older Drivers' Strategy is concerned with the safety of older drivers mainly:

- Improving safety and support for older people
- Safety technology – recording reasons for accidents
- Improving driving and/or the alternatives

The Report will be available in 2016.

5.2 DVLA policy review of driver licences for over 70s.

A recent Court case (details provided with these notes) decided that a DVLA appraisal was unfair and made false assumptions about age related cognitive impairment - as the basis for revoking the licence of an older driver. The DVLA are currently reviewing their policy on older licence holders. Age UK has invited the DVLA to speak at the Mobility Roadshow event to discuss their policies with an audience of older drivers.

There is a change to the funding criteria for Motability (under the Specialised Vehicles Fund (SVF)). The text of the new criteria states:

The test requires that a vehicle funded under this scheme sees "*extensive and essential use to support substantive employment, education, volunteer working or to enable the disabled driver to provide vital and sole care to another, for example, a school-age child or children or a disabled loved one who resides with the disabled person*".

Age UK have written to Motability with concerns that these criteria discriminate against older people.

5.3 EU Regulations – travel concessions

Joe explained that when travelling in the EU older people should be entitled to whatever benefits are available for older people in that member state. However, there are restrictions between the UK and Scotland and the UK and Wales.

5.4 The Mobility Roadshow runs from 25th – 27th June and the conference will be on the Friday. Participants can turn up for the session they are interested in and spend the rest of the time in the exhibition. <http://www.mobilityroadshow.co.uk/>

Agenda Item 6 – Shelagh Marshall, Older People’s Champion for North Yorkshire

Shelagh made the following points to help the Group understand Transport and Concessionary Fares:

- Local Authorities are responsible for issuing bus passes
- They have the power to reimburse some of the cost of the free travel
- The DfT issues guidelines on how much a local authority can pay a bus operator i.e. in North Yorkshire operators are reimbursed 42% - bus operators are then expected to make up the shortfall with fare paying passengers.
- There is a bus operators grant paid by Government this is based on the number of miles/km they travel and so much a litre of fuel used. Government pays 20% direct to operators. Operators take account of what is commercial.
- A Local Authority in the area where a passenger starts his/her journey is responsible for reimbursing the travel of the concessionary fare user.
- If a Local Authority increases its contribution then Government reduces the grant it pays the operator so there is a no win situation.
- Local Authorities have the discretion to allow bus passes to be used on community transport, but many do not. The traveller needs to pay an annual subscription and then pay to use the transport.

Future Years, the Yorkshire and Humber Forum on Ageing, is interested in hearing the views of older people about concessionary fares and bus passes. The survey will gather the views of older people about the use of bus passes in terms of their social value in helping individuals to lead independent fulfilling lives. Please circulate the survey around your Networks https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Future_Years

Actions

- 1.** John Kerry was asked to present a draft of his report at the next meeting of the Working Group.
- 2.** Helen Creighton will send information to Deborah Clarke about the City Bench Project, a request for case studies that demonstrate barriers faced by older people when using public transport and a copy of the briefing 'The Future of Transport in an Ageing Society' (complete). Helen will send a copy of her presentation for circulation.
- 3.** Joe Oldham will send details of the Court ruling against the DVLA.
- 4.** Roger Mackett will draft a note summarising the points on improving access for older people that have been submitted to be sent to the new minister after the election.

Date of next meeting to be advised