

Age Action Alliance Transport Working Group 20 March 2013

Attendees

Roger Mackett	Centre for Transport Studies UCL (Chair)
Julia Barrand	RNIB
Ron Douglas	East of England Forum & President NPC
Emily Georgeiou	Age UK
Catriona Henderson	Dept of Transport
John Kerry	East Midlands Later Life Forum
Greg Lewis	Age UK
Charles Musslewhite	Swansea University
David Shalit	Positive Ageing in London
Ken Cooper	DWP & Alliance Secretariat (Notes)

Apologies

Marjory Broughton	SEEFA
John Eastwood	CSPA Manchester & District Group
Martin Hawkins	ACRE
Bill Ions	Years Ahead
Stuart Murray	Transport Group for Greater Manchester
Julia Pride	SEEFA
David Sinclair	ILCUK
Lynn Strother	Age UK London
John Welham	Future Years
Janet Whitehouse	U3A

Welcome and Introductions

1. Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised of apologies for absence. The inclement weather had led to a number of people deciding not to attend or being unable to travel on the day.
2. Roger summarised the previous meeting and hoped that this meeting would allow the group to focus on some specific areas where we could achieve some positive results. He reminded everyone that there was no pot of money to use, and apart from the AAA website, the resources available were ourselves.

Discussion

3. The group had a general discussion, building on the outcomes from the last meeting, to try and find a consensus on some specific work to take forward.
4. Charles highlighted the fact that many older people were drivers who wanted to keep using their cars. For them the issues were how to adapt to

driving as they got older; and if they could no longer drive, having to face navigating other transport options – possibly for the first time since their youth.

5. Greg said that there was a need to look at access to transport, and in particular how it affected older people; but it was important not to get hung up on age as many of the issues around transport affected other demographic groups as well.
6. John felt that the issue of public transport was crucial; roads have far too many cars on them, and there is no money for new roads even if there was a desire to build them. He felt that it was important to move the culture around public transport and look at communication and bus design as well as looking at ways to draw strands together in a coherent way.
7. Emily felt that public health was such a priority now that any approach to transport solutions should seek to engage with that agenda. Looking at age friendly approaches that could maximise the cost benefits had the potential to provide positive results. Getting it right could benefit a number of different agendas.
8. John agreed and felt that aligning Patient Pathways with Transport Pathways could be beneficial. Private sectors runs some bus services at a loss, but believed that NHS would need to commission transport to meet its needs.
9. Roger said that walking was good for health and getting people out of their homes was good for mental health. But for many older people, the distances involved were too great and there was a danger that people would not go out and thus increase their likelihood of social isolation and poor health. It was in the private sectors interest to get older people out spending, particularly as they tended to frequent local shops and facilities if these were accessible.
10. John felt that there was a need to instil confidence in older people; if they take a journey, can they reasonably get back home. Sometimes it is difficult to see how services fit together.
11. Catriona said that the Cabinet Office currently have a really big push on making information available.
12. John was keen for the group to push for a required standard on bus shelters. He said that many are not fit for purpose in terms of older and disabled people, in particular those with sloping seats. There were many suitable designs, but no consistency.
13. Catriona said that she felt that the Transport Minister would be uncomfortable about prescribing specifications for shelters to local authorities due to Localism. But she felt that the group could look at what is best and provide the information to local authorities. DfT might put it on

their website as good advice and maybe the LGA could promote to its members.

14. Ken felt that pulling together examples of good practice in terms of innovative transport solutions from around the country would also be a useful product; but to be really useful to prospective local authorities, it would be necessary to find out why the scheme worked, and perhaps more importantly given the current financial situation, how much it cost to set up and operate.
15. Emily had, produced a short paper which mapped potential links between the transport Group and other Alliance working groups. The paper demonstrated that transport issues are a factor in almost all of the other working groups and highlights the importance of transport generally for the well being of older people. Key groups would appear to be 'Loneliness and Isolation', 'Excluded Groups', Public Health & Active Lifestyles' and, 'Age Friendly Environments'; whilst 'Healthy Workplaces' 'Attitudes to Ageing' and 'Research' also have strong links.
16. Once the Group finalises its initial work areas, it would be useful to explore how these topics could gain from/assist in the work of the other groups.

Outcomes

17. Roger said that he would put together a paper on how transport influenced the lives of older people looking at such issues as attitudes and behaviour, affordability, and providing the right kind of information to allow older people to accurately plan their journeys. He also intended to highlight the economic benefits the older people bring to the economy. The aim would be to place it on the AAA Website.
18. Julia agreed to trawl the internet to find out what is 'out there' around transport solutions in the 3rd Sector.
19. Catriona would supply Ken with the contact details for the Confederation of Passenger Transport, and the Rail Delivery Group.
20. Ken will send Catriona a copy of Charles' paper on Successfully Giving Up Driving.
21. Ken will work with Roger and Charles to look at a questionnaire aimed at establishing good practice and local policies that are evidence based.
22. The Group felt that the main themes to take forward initially should be:
 - Championing an integrated approach to transport issues;
 - Producing a resource that identified good transport solutions around the country, and;
 - Producing some recommendations for bus shelter specifications aimed at local authorities and bus companies.

23. Given the interest in transport amongst Alliance members it was suggested that the above topics are looked at separately by sub groups which reported to Roger as Chair. This would have the advantage of keeping meetings manageable as the sub groups could proceed at their own pace, and there would be less need for full meetings.

Summary of Action Points from Transport Group meeting 20.3.13

- AP1** Julia agreed to trawl the internet to find out what is 'out there' around transport solutions in the 3rd Sector.
- AP2** Catriona would supply Ken with the contact details for the Confederation of Passenger Transport, and the Rail Delivery Group
- AP3** Ken will send Catriona a copy of Charles' paper on Successfully Giving Up Driving.
- AP4** Ken will work with Roger and Charles to look at a questionnaire aimed at establishing good practice and local policies that are evidence based