

## **Age Action Alliance Transport Working Group 22nd May 2014**

### **Attendees**

|                     |                                          |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Roger Mackett       | Centre for Transport Studies UCL (Chair) |
| Charles Musslewhite | Swansea University                       |
| Bill Ions           | Years Ahead                              |
| John Kerry          | East Midlands Later Life Forum           |
| Gwyneth Pedler      | Transport for All                        |
| Julia Pride         | SEEFA                                    |
| Ron Douglas         | President NPC                            |
| Roselle Thoreau     | Researcher, Mobility Scooters UCL        |
| Ken Cooper          | DWP & Alliance Secretariat (Notes)       |

### **Apologies**

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Martin Hawkins | ACRE                                   |
| Adrian Lindop  |                                        |
| Peter Raynor`  | Transport Advisor NPC                  |
| David Shalit   | Positive Ageing in London              |
| Dan Taylor     | Passenger Focus                        |
| Stuart Murray  | Transport Group for Greater Manchester |
| John Welham    | Future Years                           |

### **Welcome and Introductions**

1. Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting and Ken advised of apologies for absence.

### **Mobility Vehicle Survey**

2. Roger said that he was moving this item to the top of the agenda as Roselle had to leave for another meeting shortly.
3. Ken reported that since the last meeting he had arranged for the survey to be advertised in the newsletters of the Disability Action Alliance and Age UK's local networks, as well as reminding Alliance members through the Weekly Update.
4. Unfortunately these had all produced very disappointing results, and the overall number of replies had not been significantly increased. In fact the total number of responses received had only been 18 responses from users, plus three with comments from non users.
5. Ken said that this obviously did not provide a statistically valid response, but said that from those responses received a number of trends had emerged:

- 16 were the primary users.
  - 16 were class 2 vehicles
  - 10 had been purchased new
  - 13 were from specialist suppliers (inc. 1 from internet)
  - 15 had insurance
  - 7 had undergone training, but only 5 of remainder were unaware that training was available.
6. Roselle said that she had received a similarly poor response to the separate survey she had run. Ken reported that he had heard from RICA that their independent survey for DfT (on different aspects of Mobility Vehicles) had received 480 responses. It was not known how these were collected, but he assumed that it had been face to face.
  7. Although the response to the Alliance survey had been so small, the results did seem to show some general patterns. Ken said that he would put the results into tabular form and would load onto the website. He would also forward to DfT, although its use to them was probably limited. **Action Point: Ken to provide Mobility Survey results in tabular form and load onto website.**
  8. Bill informed the group of a joint initiative between Middlesbrough Shopmobility and Middlesbrough Council to offer training for scooter users. They are running a three part course at various locations in Middlesbrough. The courses cover Public Perceptions, Scooter Safe and 1 to 1 support, and are free to attend. A report Bill has produced is attached to the meeting notes.
  9. Gwyneth, as a mobility scooter user herself, stressed the importance of users knowing how to use their vehicles safely.

### **Overcoming the Barriers to Access for Older People (Paper)**

10. Roger said that since the last meeting he had filled in some of the gaps and expanded other sections. The document was almost ready for publication, although by the nature of the information, it was constantly changing and it was likely to need revision on a fairly regular basis.
11. The plan is to have the full document available on the Alliance website, with an Executive Summary of the main findings. Given the nature of the information, consideration would be given to the best way of displaying it.
12. It was proposed that the full document be available on the website, but with a contents that provided hyperlinks to each section. It was felt that this, in conjunction with the Executive Summary, would provide the best access to the information. **Action Point: Roger to prepare an Executive Summary of the Overcoming Barriers paper for the next meeting.**
13. Roger planned to have a draft of the Executive Summary and the main document ready for publication by the next meeting.

## **Bus Shelters**

14. John provided the group with a draft of his Good Practice sheet on Bus Shelters, which was well received. It was suggested that an additional item should be added on Real Time displays as it was felt that these information boards were extremely helpful for older people who would not always be able to read the usually smallish print timetables found at bus stops.
15. Ken asked John whether he would be able to also supply a fuller document which followed the points made on the Good Practice sheet, but gave some explanation why these were considered Good Practice. John agreed that this would be possible. Once Ken has both documents he will send around the group for sign off, and then publish on the Alliance website. **Action Point: John to expand on Good Practice Guide and forward to Ken.**

## **SEEFAs Key Issues on Valuing the Older Population**

16. Julia, spoke to the group about the South East England Forum on Ageing's (SEEFAs) Policy Panel. She said that in putting together their Key Issues on Valuing the Older Population (which was circulated to the group) it had been noted that transport had a number of impacts.
17. She asked for the groups help in helping to identify some of these issues and impacts. She also asked whether the group thought that the approach to the topic was useful.
18. The discussion raised a number of positive items including:
  - The role played by older people as volunteer drivers, particularly hospital transport in many areas;
  - Transporting grandchildren to & from school/activities etc.
  - Participating in events and activities that result in contributions to the economy (e.g. leisure activities, shopping etc.),
  - For those still in the workforce, travelling to and from work.
19. Transport can have a negative impact as well: the lack of public transport can prevent, or severely reduce, older people's participation in the activities listed above.
20. It was suggested that groups look at, and try to have input into local transport plans as these can have a considerable affect on local outcomes.
21. Julia asked the group to let her have any further thoughts they may have on the topic.

## **AOB**

22. There was no AOB

23. The next meet on **8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at UCL,**

### **Summary of Action Points from Transport Group meeting 22.5.14**

**AP1: Ken to provide Mobility Survey results in tabular form and load onto website.**

**AP2: Roger to prepare an Executive Summary of the Overcoming Barriers paper for the next meeting.**

**AP3: John to expand on Bus Shelter Good Practice Guide and forward to Ken.**