

5b Health & Transport Action Plan Update

NESTRANS		HTAP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Programme: Health and Transport Action Plan		Programme Manager Alex Geddes
Reporting Period:	From: 1 August 2010	To: 31 October 2010
<p>Section 1 – Current status:</p> <p><u>Air Quality Management Action Plan</u></p> <p>The draft Air Quality Management Action Plan for Aberdeen City Council was released for consultation in early October and the outcome will be reported in the next executive summary report.</p> <p>Arrangements are also being made to undertake three days of vehicle emission testing in November 2010. This involves the random stopping and checking of vehicle emissions to determine compliance with legal requirements. Failure to meet the emission standards may result in the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice on the driver of the vehicle.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils continue to monitor key sites in their areas, however none meantime meet the requirements to introduce an AQMA.</p> <p><u>NHSG Pilot Scheme in Banff & Buchan</u></p> <p>Following initial meetings, progress has slowed due to NHSG staffing issues in that area, but it has been confirmed a new structure is now being developed internally to ensure actions are followed through.</p> <p>Because of this new structure it would be anticipated that the momentum originally generated will now follow outstanding actions through to completion and a more detailed report will be available for the next meeting.</p> <p><u>NHSG Transport Interchange ARI</u></p> <p>During the development of the project brief it was identified that funding is an obstacle to delivering this proposal meantime.</p> <p>It has been agreed by the HTAP Steering Group that the current provision is revisited to see where improvements can be made, while developing the long term plan which can be delivered once the financial climate improves.</p> <p><u>Shared Patient Transport</u></p> <p>The HTAP Programme Manager was asked at the HTAP Steering Group of 18 August 2010 to revisit this proposal due to the change of personnel within the original sub group.</p>		

A meeting took place on 13 October and discussion centred around the effects that budget cuts will have on current services, not only in the public sector but also the third sector as funding streams are reduced or stopped.

It was clear this will impact significantly on the current resources available, and it also became evident that "Volunteer driver schemes" will also become limited due to the current reimbursement for expenses being inadequate, and with the potential increase in fuel costs in 2011 it is assumed this will mean even fewer services in the region.

It is likely that the current position, although unavoidable, will mean those most in need will be affected in 2011 and beyond, and this gives more reason for an "Integrated Patient Transport Service" to try and mitigate against this potential.

This will only become possible with full support from Heads of Service, or the current funding cuts are re-visited to ensure those most in need are not affected by the reduction in service.

In support of this proposal the programme manager has asked that NHSG review their patient booking system to establish how this could be re-aligned to current transport provision. However the reduction of current services will make this challenging, but again underlines the importance of an integrated patient transport service to ensure users are not affected by the changes being imposed.

A nationwide Audit Scotland investigation into patient transport services and the potential for greater efficiencies has been launched. Partners in the north east will be involved in the study and meeting dates have been arranged to speak to the people undertaking the work.

Links between NHSG, Aberdeen City and Moray Planning Departments

Links have now been confirmed between Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department and NHSG and in part with Aberdeen City.

Due to restructuring in the Moray Council this has still to be confirmed, however it remains as an open action within the HTAP Log.

Community Path at Inch

Since the last report the following progress can be reported:

- A planning application for a cycling/footbridge and connecting path has been submitted and comments are required by 18 November 2010. If there are no objections raised, the application will be considered at the area committee meeting of 30 November 2010. It is hoped to construct the link this financial year with support from Sustrans.
- The planning team are also in negotiations with the owner of the field that runs parallel to part of the path to buy some land from him and this looks favourable.
- This should bring the planning phase to a close on time by the end of the year, with the planned time for the start of the build being the beginning of February 2011.
- Weather permitting this gives enough time for completion by the end of the financial year.

If this is approved it will achieve a number of HTAP objectives and Scottish Government aims but most importantly improve access to the local health services, primary school and town centre and provide residents with a variety of active travel options within their community.

NHSG Moray "Access to Healthcare"

As per the NHSG Banff and Buchan pilot, work has slowed in this area due to NHSG staffing issues. However a meeting has been arranged for 8 November 2010 and progress will be reported in the next summary report.

Safe Journey Card – Try a Bus Day.

The Safe Journey Card was launched on 26 August 2010 at the "Try a Bus" event staged by First Group. The Safe Journey card enables passengers to indicate to a driver discretely if they have particular needs, to clearly have their destination indicated and other safety features.

The Try a Bus event was organised to allow those with disabilities to board a bus and see the latest safety features and provide feedback to First Group Managers on the service provision. This event was well attended and the feedback via the Disability Advisory Group [DAG] positive.

Since the launch of the card, which was devised by First Group in conjunction with the HTAP to support those with a range of disabilities use public transport in getting to and from health and social care services in excess of 5,000 cards have been handed out, with a waiting list currently being processed.

Paula Middleton from First Group, and Alex Geddes HTAP Programme Manager have attended two DAG meetings since the launch of the card to present their ongoing work to support those with disabilities use public transport and this has been well received.

Shared Mail Run Service

The HTAP Programme Manager has recently been asked to attend the Public Sector Property Group (PSPG) as clear links had been established between asset management and transport.

Following a presentation on low carbon vehicles facilitated by the HTAP it was identified that Community Planning Partnerships could apply for top up funding to purchase low carbon vehicles to the sum of £130,000 per CPP.

At the following PSPG, it was suggested that a shared mail service would have significant benefits and support for this was given at the table. The PSPG asked if the HTAP programme manager could link into the Facilities Sub Group and Transport Sub Group to deliver on this proposal, and working with the CPPs the full funding has since been confirmed.

The potential for this to reduce running costs and maintenance savings within the public sector is significant and should be seen as a main link within the "Links between Transport and Public Health" section of the HTAP, as less vehicles will be providing the service and the vehicles used will be low carbon. The proposal will also support efficiency savings by all members of the PSPG.

The delivery phase is now underway and progress will be reported through the HTAP governance structure

Section 2 – Comments on Variations: None

Section 3 – Opportunities - Risks & Issues:

All risks are captured in the risk log, which is available to view on request, however the main risk has been highlighted within the shared patient transport service section with regard to the effects that budget cuts will have on service provision.

Section 4 – Project Outlook:

Work progresses well on two fronts of the HTAP namely Active Travel and the Links between Transport and Public Health, however the budget cuts to patient transport services will impact on the Access to Healthcare section.

Although mitigating factors are being progressed it would be appreciated if consideration could be given to cuts made to transport provision for those in need, and more so in the rural areas.

Alex Geddes/20 November 2010