

5b HTAP Annual Report 2015

o Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Board members with regard to the Health & Transport Action Plan (HTAP), and to seek approval of the HTAP Annual Report 2015.

o Background

The Regional Transport Strategy identifies the need for more detailed sub-strategies, one of which is in relation to Health & Transport. A Health & Transport Action Plan refresh was agreed by the Nestrans Board in 2014 and is available on the Nestrans' website at:

http://www.nestrans.org.uk/db_docs/HTAP_refresh_final.pdf

An HTAP Steering Group consisting of representatives of each of the seven partners (Nestrans, NHS Grampian, three local authorities, Scottish Ambulance Service and Community Transport Association) along with a patient representative, oversees delivery of HTAP initiatives and is supported by a full-time Programme Manager.

o Annual Report 2015

The Programme Manager has produced a Draft Annual Report which is attached as Appendix A to this report. Members are asked to approve the report for their part and to request that it be presented to each of the three Community Planning Partnerships in the Grampian area.

o Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board:

- a) Note the contents of this report and the HTAP Annual Report 2015; and
- b) Request that the report be forwarded to each of the Community Planning Partnerships.

RD/19 March 2015

Health & Transport Action Plan Annual Report 2014-2015.

Introduction

In 2008, the North East Scotland Joint Public Sector Group approved a Health & Transport Action Plan (HTAP) for the region. The HTAP was developed by JMP Consultants on behalf of NHS Grampian, Nestrans and their partners and set out long-term strategic actions to improve integration between transport and health outcomes.

This annual report presents details of progress made by partners in relation to the aims of the Health & Transport Action Plan covering the financial year 2014-2015.

Part one focuses on the review of the Health & Transport Action Plan document and the groups governing the delivery of the plan. Part two focuses on the projects delivered during the year.

PART ONE

Review of the HTAP

A refresh of the Plan was considered necessary to reflect lessons learned during the delivery of HTAP since 2008 and of changes to the funding environment, to policy and regulation and JMP were again commissioned to prepare a revised Plan. The refresh also accounts for initial considerations of the deeper integration of the delivery of health and social care services arising from the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Bill.

The review of the document was completed in June 2014. The purpose of the refreshed HTAP is:

“To enable providers of transport, health and social care services to work together in a more co-ordinated manner in order to improve outcomes and efficiency of service delivery, both in reducing the adverse impacts of transport choices on public health and in improving access to health and social care.”

The final plan has now been endorsed by the three Community Planning Partnership Boards in Grampian, the NHSG Board and Nestrans Board.

Governance Structure

Following the refresh of the document, membership of the groups delivering the HTAP were reviewed.

The following governance structure has been confirmed:

The Steering Group will continue to be chaired by Gerry Donald, NHSG, and vice-chaired by Derick Murray, Nestrans. The Steering Group membership is drawn from NHSG, Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Moray Council, Scottish Ambulance Service, the Community Transport Association and a Patient/Public Representative. Future meetings will now also include a Chief Officer of Integrated Health & Social Care and a senior Third Sector representative, both of whom will act as conduits to their peers in the three local authority areas of Grampian.

The Steering Group oversees two themed sub-groups.

The **Transport & Public Health Sub-Group** is chaired by Caroline Comerford, NHSG, and vice chaired by Rab Dickson, Nestrans. This group has helped establish closer alignment between Public Health, the Regional Transport Partnership and Local Authority activity by initiating knowledge sharing, developing evaluation and other new forms of partnership working.

The **Access to Health & Social Care Sub-group** is chaired by Rab Dickson, Nestrans, and vice chaired by John Gallagher, NHSG. Each sub-group has now developed a work plan covering a range of actions in support of the HTAP vision. This group oversees the ongoing THInC (Transport to Healthcare Information Centre) project and other pieces of work related to improving access to health and social care with particular regard to access for people with disabilities.

The annual report is submitted to all three Community Planning Partnership Boards, the Nestrans Board, the NHSG Board and local authority committees.

Programme Manager

The post of HTAP Programme Manager continues to be jointly funded by NHSG and Nestrans and hosted by Aberdeenshire Council.

PART TWO

Projects

At times the existence of the HTAP and the aims embedded within it have been used to support or add value to existing or new pieces of work being carried out by partner organisations, such as the Concessionary Travel Pilot carried out by Transport Scotland and Aberdeenshire Alcohol & Drugs Partnership, the NHS Transport Overview Group, the GetAbout review and region-wide circulation of the Travel to ARI leaflet produced by Nestrans.

The remainder of this annual report details projects specifically initiated and delivered by partners in relation to the HTAP.

THInC

Established in 2013, the Transport to Healthcare Information Centre (THInC), is one of the lead projects being delivered by partners working on the HTAP. The service provides a dedicated telephone service offering guidance on accessing suitable transport options to get to and from appointments when they have no means of personal transport. The centre can provide details of suitable bus or train times, contact telephone numbers and other services such as local community transport, dial-a-bus or voluntary car schemes. THInC is jointly funded by the Steering Group public sector partners.

Initially the project was staffed by Scottish Ambulance Service staff and located in Elgin. During the course of 2014-2015 the project experienced challenges around staffing and location resulting in the transfer of calls to Aberdeenshire Council.

Promotional materials are now being distributed to promote the updated THInC telephone number (01224 665568). Members of the public can now also get advice on transport options by emailing travel@thinc-hub.org

THInC also provides information on availability of services and levels of demand and has enabled the HTAP partners to identify gaps in transport provision within Aberdeen City. THInC have collaborated with Buchan Community Dial A Bus and successfully secured Change Fund monies, awarded by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations, worth £43K. This has enabled a pilot to be established providing transport for those otherwise unable to access health and social care in Aberdeen with bookings managed by THInC. The pilot launched on 2nd March 2015 and will run for one year. Initial indications are that the project can help to provide transport options where none were otherwise available. It is already demonstrating a need for greater understanding by health professionals running clinics of the access issues facing their patients and highlighting the specific needs of some patients with disabilities but not eligible for Patient Transport Service.

Partners are seeking to identify similar gaps and opportunities in Aberdeenshire and Moray and further work with the third sector and others to integrate transport.

An evaluation of THInC was conducted in July/August 2014. This coincided with the unplanned relocation of the project. However, feedback from a range of stakeholders and the ongoing potential around integrating transport resulted in agreement from the Steering Group to continue with the project. Aberdeenshire Council then prepared details of costs requiring funding to ensure the continued delivery of the project. The cost in total to partners for maintaining the project is £36.5K per year. This was approved by the Steering Group in February 2015 on the basis that the project will run for two years with a six month notice of withdrawal agreed, along with a funding package involving the six main HTAP partners.

Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards & Recruitment Drive

The inaugural Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards were developed by HTAP partners, including community transport groups, to help raise the profile of the work done by the community transport sector, particularly volunteers, in helping people access important services.

An awards presentation took place on Tuesday 7th October with three £200 prizes awarded for Volunteer Driver of the Year, Volunteer Escort of the Year and Community Contribution of the Year.

Mike Solomon won Volunteer Driver of the Year following a nomination from Friends of Inch Hospital and Community. Mike has spent the last 12 years providing a free transport service to local patients and shown he is always happy to go the extra mile.

Volunteer Escort of the Year was awarded to Greta Bowie for her dedication and hard work for Buchan Dial a Community Bus. Greta was amongst those who established the group and has given her time over the last 20 years to assisting local residents with their transport needs.

Due to their continual support for local residents the Silver Circle Community Transport Scheme & Hospital Driver Scheme won Community Contribution of the Year. The group has helped older people in the Upper Donside area for almost 20 years. They organise the hospital volunteer driving scheme, in addition to a day centre, lunch club and shopping bus for local residents.

John MacDonald, Director for Scotland of the Community Transport Association highlighted the success of the awards, "It was great to see so many community transport organisations submit nominations for the awards. The number of submissions was much higher than similar initiatives which have taken place in other parts of the UK and shows how much volunteers are valued in north-east Scotland."

Prizes were kindly sponsored by First Aberdeen and Stagecoach North Scotland.

Following the Awards a second phase of the project began focusing on recruiting additional volunteer drivers and escorts.

An evaluation of the project is being carried out and will report in April 2015, making a recommendation on whether to repeat the Awards and Recruitment Drive.

Community Engagement

Over the year a lot has been done to build relationships with people working in communities across Grampian with a role in providing health and social care or transport services. This has included leading a discussion on Transport and Older People at the launch of Aberdeenshire's Charter for Older People, visiting various forums and individuals from community councils, charities and national bodies.

Through the Aberdeenshire Community Transport Forum work has begun to bring together those working with or for community transport groups across the wider region. It is hoped that more work can be done to share knowledge and best practice across the sector through joint training events.

Review of National Projects

The HTAP Programme Manager carried out visits and held meetings with colleagues working on similar health/social care and access issues before preparing a report on work being done by NHS Lothian at their "Hub" project, the Lochaber Project and work done by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. Further opportunities to learn from these projects will be sought through the work of the Access to Health Sub-Group.

Review of Travel Planning By Public Bodies in Grampian

At the request of the HTAP Steering Group, a review was commissioned to examine the current situation of Travel Plans for the main public bodies in Grampian. The report on this review recognised good work by partner organisations but also highlighted gaps, varying approaches and available resources and indicated a number of areas where improvements and efficiencies could be made around the delivery of Travel Plans. The report is currently with partners for their consideration.

Developing Travel Plans is the responsibility of individual partner organisations. Nestrans, the regional transport partnership promote a strategic approach. As one of the largest trip generators in the region NHSG have a clear remit to develop Travel Plans for their estate. With Travel Planning being a key tool in the promotion of active and sustainable forms of transport and the promotion of improved air quality and noise pollution, access and road safety the success of this activity is highly relevant to the aims promoted by the HTAP.

Following the review of GetAbout, the regional partnership of organisations promoting sustainable travel, a Steering Group comprising of managers from Nestrans, NHSG, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council will oversee the development this important area of work making due reference to the Review of

Travel Planning by Public Bodies in Grampian and making appropriate links to the developing NHSG Travel Plan Framework.

Both of the HTAP sub-groups have a direct link to the work done around Travel Planning in terms of where their successful delivery relate to the public health impacts of transport and in terms of access to health and social care services.

Looking Forward

A number of key actions being taken forward in the next financial year are contained within the workplans of the two HTAP sub-groups.

In terms of the Access to Health & Social Care theme these actions include:

- Undertake an audit of spending on transport to health and social care.
- Continue to work with community transport groups to promote best practice and knowledge sharing, while also working together to identify gaps across the region which have relevance to accessing health and social care.
- Promoting THInC to professionals and clients across health and social care.
- Examine ways to ensure access issues are considered early in the planning of new service locations.
- Working together to ensure high quality travel information is available for health and social care locations.

In terms of the Transport & Public Health theme actions include:

- Carry out a mapping of transport and health related activity across partners encompassing air quality improvement, noise pollution from transport, active and sustainable travel and road safety.
- Review current evidence on effective methods of improving health, changing behaviour and tackling health inequality through transport interventions.
- Undertake a cross partner validation and planning workshop to identify themes, gaps, synergies, pressures and opportunities for HTAP partners to consider, address and develop further.

Conclusion

Many activities described in this annual report have only been possible because of a willingness amongst HTAP partner organisations and others to support activities with funding, staff time, sponsorship or other forms of assistance. Projects have at times involved multiple partner organisations working across sectors or normal boundaries. In doing so much has been done to directly or indirectly support the purpose of the HTAP regarding working “*together in a more co-ordinated manner in order to improve outcomes and efficiency of service delivery.*”

The year 2014-2015 has been a busy one in terms of refreshing and reorganising the work of partners in respect to the Health & Transport Action Plan. Now that these activities are completed and there are two sub-groups in place with a clear remit to deliver their work plans it is anticipated that the focus for 2015-2016 will be more heavily geared towards delivery of projects.

The challenge will be to deliver actions involving a wide range of issues in an environment which will continue to see organisations having to manage sometimes conflicting priorities and varying levels of available resources. However, the refresh of the document renews the commitment of partner organisations and has also embedded the plan within the oversight of Community Planning Partnership Boards. This will all assist the HTAP partner organisations to progress actions being undertaken in support of the document’s vision and aims.

Andrew Stewart
HTAP Programme Manager
March 2015

For further information on the HTAP email: Andrew.Stewart@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
or call 01224 664092.

The Health & Transport Action Plan can viewed at: <http://tinyurl.com/ojdm5x3>