

Health & Transport Action Plan (HTAP) Annual Report 2021

Executive Summary

The HTAP Annual Report 2021 updates the many partner organisations and stakeholders who are engaged in delivering the Health and Transport Action Plan (HTAP) across Grampian region and nationally.

HTAP partners are committed to two themes and visions, each with a sub-group reporting to the Steering Group. The main body of the report sets out how HTAP partners have delivered progress towards these visions and aims.

Progress on the Transport & Public Health theme

Supported physical distancing across transportation

HTAP partners worked together to promote and support each other with respect to changing guidance on physical distancing and how this impacted on residents across the region. This was evident in the work done around SfP (Spaces for People) at different levels of decision making and delivery, the directing NHSG to the SfP funding (over £800K was awarded), the exchange of lessons learned between local authorities and the NHSG SfP Project Manager through an HTAP Knowledge Exchange event and the development of associated active travel projects.

Promoted safer travel

HTAP facilitated the exchange between partners of best practice on travel information, awareness raising of safety measures applied by bus operators and promotion of the Getabout partnership website. Another element of how HTAP promotes safer travel is via the participation of Public Health in the work of the Road Safety North East Scotland and around Low Emission Zone work.

Promoting Awareness of Inclusion and Equalities Issues

The main report highlights the work done by HTAP to highlight to partner organisations the benefits of raised awareness of hidden disability across the health and transport issues partners consider. This includes the engagement with Disability Equality Scotland, the Mobility & Access Committee for Scotland, Deaf Scotland and others. The report also highlights the role of the HTAP Public Representative in advocating for issues around patient experience, rurality and equality.

Strategic Influence

The report captures feedback from key stakeholders regarding the value for them, the role of HTAP in supporting improved cross sector working, accessing funding and developing new initiatives supporting the whole system.

Progress on the Access to Health & Social Care theme

Maintaining Cross-Sector Dialogue

This was facilitated through the sub-group meetings and additional meetings with public, third sector and commercial transport operators, supporting information

exchange across organisations and supporting best practice dissemination, changing guidelines and helping inform forward planning by partners.

Enabled Integrated Co-ordination of Transport for Health

The Transport to Health Information Centre (THInC) continues to be funded by NHSG, Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council and has provided an excellent service to residents of Grampian during the pandemic giving travel advice and co-ordination getting to Test Centres, treatment and the Vaccination Centres. THInC has demonstrated the value of partnership working during the most challenging times. The project, hosted by Aberdeenshire Council, enables integrated co-ordination of multiple transport providers across the region, including community transport, to support residents and the pressures on Scottish Ambulance Service and NHSG. Partners acknowledged that already having the HTAP framework made responding to the challenges of the pandemic more straightforward than it might have otherwise been.

Working with and Supporting the Third Sector

HTAP has supported the role of the third sector in several ways. Examples include representation by Third Sector Interface bodies in Grampian and the Community Transport Association (Scotland) and initiatives such as the Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards and Volunteer Driver Recruitment Drive. The report also includes details of the excellent partnership working between NHSG, SAS, THInC and the Royal Voluntary Service. HTAP has also supported the free to end user community transport pilot, Be-Link'd, operating in the Buchan area with funding and support. HTAP have also secured a one-year extension to funding provided by Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership to continue the highly valued THInC in the City project.

Reducing the Need to Travel

HTAP partners monitor the widespread adoption of remote health appointments along with survey findings on public attitudes to online health consultations, working from home, changing travel patterns, etc. This in turn informs the decision-making processes of each partner organisation.

Going Forward

Transport & Public Health Theme: Partner organisations recognise the need to advance the progress across and between overlapping policy areas and to build on the progress already made building relationships and understanding between transport and public health professionals. Issues of relevance include community resilience, climate change, population health, road safety and air quality.

Access to Health & Social Care Theme: Partners are workshopping the cross-cutting impacts of the pandemic on all transport operators, the changing patterns of travel and location for in-person health and social care and how collective action can progress and align with the overarching aims of within this HTAP theme.

End.