

# SEStran Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum -Terms of Reference

## Title

The steering group shall be called the Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum.

## Constitution and Context

Part 3 of Schedule 19 to the 2010 Act sets out that a Regional Transport Partnership established by Section 1(1) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 (“the 2005 Act”) falls within the definition of a public authority for the purposes of the 2010 Act.

SEStran is covered by the public sector equality duty (PSED), as set out in the 2010 Act. The PSED requires that SEStran must, when exercising its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Involve and inform equality groups right from the start of discussions on any new proposals, policies, or projects, progressing on to a more structured assessment in any subsequent stages.
- Ensure Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) are carried out prior to policy decisions or projects.
- Seek ways with partners who represent the interests of people with the relevant protected characteristics to improve accessibility.

## Purpose

SEStran aims to develop a sustainable transportation system for the South-East of Scotland that will enable business to function effectively and provide everyone living in the region with improved access to healthcare, education, public services, and employment opportunities.

## Membership

Any interested party from Equalities Groups, Local Government and Health Board partners and other groups with a responsibility for transport related to health and wellbeing, including those listed in Appendix 1.

## Chair

The chair will be appointed by SEStran.

## Meetings

Are held twice per financial year.

Papers will be issued one week in advance of the meeting via the partnership website.

The secretariat will be provided by SEStran.

## Governance

The names of the attendees present at the meeting will be recorded in the minute of the meeting, and the names of other persons in attendance will also be recorded.

SEStran will appoint an employee to prepare the minutes.

The agenda will be drawn up by partnership officers and discussed with the Chair. Items can be suggested by other forum members.

Minutes will be presented to the Partnership Board

The forum can appoint sub-groups to take forward projects, etc. and to report back to the forum.

Strategic risks arising from meetings will be incorporated within the SEStran Risk Register.

The forum will operate on the basis of consensus. In the event of an issue arising on which consensus cannot be achieved, the matter will be reported to the Partnership Board for a view.

All participants appreciate that some of the information discussed at the forum will be confidential in nature, and by participating agree to comply with any requirement for confidentiality advised by the Chair.

## Role

The forum is designed to assist the Board to meet the priority of health, wellbeing, and equalities, in line with SEStran's Regional Transport Strategy (RTS)

## Delegated Authority

The forum has the delegated authority from the Partnership Board to discuss and consider any matters within its responsibility and duties. For this purpose it may ask people from outwith the forum to attend the forum to speak or give views on matters of interest to the forum.

## Remit

The forum's remit, subject to available resources, may include the following:

- Assisting SEStran in meeting its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- Strategic transport needs both within the SEStran area and where crossovers occur on a wider travel basis.
- Improving engagement and discussion on issues related to the forum with key stakeholders.
- Acting as a voice and advocate for Thistle Assistance.
- Acting as a voice and advocate for the Hate Crimes Charter.
- the requirement for Councils, Health Boards, and other public bodies to have regard to the statutory RTS when drawing up their own statutory documents and plans.
- Working with partner organisations to identify problems or issues when new services or a change of service location is discussed to advise on transport requirements.
- equal access and inclusive transport to all facilities.
- Advising on the design of transport services.
- A forum for consultation on e.g. the Fairer Scotland Duty, the Scottish Government's Scotland's Accessible Travel Framework, and other similar initiatives.
- Assisting in the improvement of information via RTPI.
- Assisting in the continued development of integrated transport and the concept of the 20-minute neighbourhood.
- Providing a forum for discussion on integrated and all other transport matters.
- Advising on the equalities implications of transport data.
- Review with partners key outcome indicators to assist the forum progression.
- Review when requested by SEStran to do so any consultations from other bodies.

## Appendix One – List of Member Organisations

SEStran  
SEStran constituent councils  
Health Boards (Lothian, Fife, Borders, Forth Valley)  
Age Scotland  
Support for Ordinary Living  
Cross Country Trains  
Scotrail  
Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights  
RNIB Scotland  
Centre for Equalities  
Chartered Trading Standards Institute  
HCL  
SURF – Scotland’s Regeneration Forum  
Edinburgh and Lothians Equality Council  
Equality Human Rights Commission  
Midlothian Voluntary Action  
Edinburgh Voluntary Sector  
Centre for inclusive living Perth & Kinross  
Childrens Health Scotland  
Interfaith Scotland  
Lothian Community Transport Services  
Transport Scotland  
Equality Network  
YoungScot  
Midlothian Disability Accessibility Panel (Middap)  
The Bridge (Scottish Borders community transport)  
MacMillan Cancer Support  
Edinburgh Access Panel  
Scottish Youth Parliament  
Stonewall Scotland (LGBT equality)  
Strive (East Lothian Voluntary Sector)  
Traveline Scotland  
Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian  
Transport for Edinburgh  
Suzanne Zeedyk Ltd  
Safe Hands Thinking Minds  
Inclusion Scotland  
Gabor Mate  
Tigers Ltd  
Disability Equailty Scotland

[for discussion – taken from contacts list]