

EQUALITIES AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FORUM
10:00am Tuesday 28th September 2023

Present:

Brian Butler (Chair) (BB)	SEStran
Cheryl Fergie (Minutes) (CF)	SEStran
Keith Fiskén (KF)	SEStran
Hattie James (HJ)	SEStran
Tom Flanagan (TF)	SEStran
Linda Bamford (LB)	Non-Councillor Member
Mike Harrison (MH)	Midlothian Disability Accessibility Panel
Rhianne Forrest (RF)	Children's Health Scotland
Andrew McLellan (AM)	East Lothian Council
Douglas Bryce (DB)	Disability Equality Scotland
Steven Dora (SD)	Transport Scotland
David Trainor (DT)	Sentireal
Colin Melville (CM)	CTSI (Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface)
Diana Budziosz (DBu)	East Lothian Council
Anne Cowan (AC)	Fife Council
Adeola Owolabi	Mental Health Foundation
Elif Yardim	Mental Health Foundation
Adil Qaid	Mental Health Foundation
Menesia Keister	Mental Health Foundation
Khaleid Ahmed	Mental Health Foundation
Mary Wanjiru	Mental Health Foundation

Apologies:

Doreen Steele (Chair)

Ewan Doyle

Cllr Marie-Clair Munro

Cllr Jenny Linehan

Ken Reid

Iain Sneddon

Laura Jones

Anthea Coulter

John Scott

Catriona Burness

Cllr Jule Bandel

Ian Aikman

Allan Lindsay

Cllr Robin Lawson

Non-Councillor Member

Scottish Borders Council

Edinburgh Council & SEStran Board Member

Scottish Borders Council & SEStran Board Member

East Lothian Access Panel

NHS Lothian

RNIB Scotland

CTSI (Clacks Third Sector Interface)

McGill's Buses


RNIB Scotland

Edinburgh Council & SEStran Board Member

Scottish Borders Council

Young Scot

Fife Council & SEStran Board Member

Ref.		Actions
1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Brian Butler welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.	
2.	MINUTES FROM WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2023	
	The minutes of the last meeting were approved.	
3.	ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL FRAMEWORK ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN	
	<p>Steven Dora from Transport Scotland updated the Forum, there was a discussion and comments made on the points below:</p>  <p>Equalities and Access to Healthcare Forum 1</p> <p>New programme approach for delivery under the Accessible Transport Framework – Key Themes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Improving the passenger experience across all modes 2: Journey planning, integrated ticketing and wayfinding 3: Clear pathways 4: Transport to health & social care 5: Blue badge 6: Trunk roads 7: Measuring progress 8: Beyond the current ATF <p>Accessible Travel Framework evaluation project by Disability Equality Scotland</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Develop an understanding of the monitoring and evaluation work. 2: Use the valuable feedback and data that DES gathered as evidence. 3: Develop a richer and more up-to-date understanding of the priorities of disabled people traveling in Scotland. 4: Reflect on how the work of the framework could be monitored in the future and consider how it is currently being monitored, evaluated, and reported on. <p>Transport to Health and Social Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 27 recommendations taken forward, with high level actions. • To work with Scottish Government health colleagues to ensure disabled people are equipped with the information and services they need to ensure that they are able to travel safely to medical/health appointments. 	

New guidance on Inclusive Design for Town Centres and Busy Streets

- Consultation response is close to launch soon.

Blue Badge

- LEZs for Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow launched formally on 31 May 2022
- Enforcement commenced in Glasgow on 1st June 2023 for all vehicles (residents living within the zone 12 months later)
- Dundee – 30th May 2024
- Aberdeen and Edinburgh 1st June 2024
- Successful pilot of new accelerated badge award process for people with MND
- Now exploring wider application in the new year

RF said that Childrens Healthcare Scotland have struggles obtaining blue badges, rare conditions can make things difficult. SD suggested that he put his email address in the chat facility so they can link up and discuss.

SD

LB raised the following:

- Whether the evaluation report would be ready and suggested it would be good to measure the progress of the last seven years, also to forecast the next three years.
- Why are trunk roads are mentioned in the Disabled People Accessibility Programme.
- There should be scope to look at commonalities in women and girls' safety, a new approach will help with this. The framework must include new issues as they arise.

AM noted trunk roads local development plans were mentioned in the accessibility programme because of increased volume of anxiety. It's about the effect of congestion extended roadworks has on the person. LB asked the following in the meeting chat facility "Is that more around roadworks awareness, reducing congestion/ switching modes and a just transition to net zero including reducing car kilometers by 20% by 2030 for those who can, which in effect would reduce congestion and journey times for those who need to use a car? I.e., disabled people and their carers". AM agreed.

AM also stated that the way in which the Blue Badge is allocated is being looked into, in particular the occupational health assessment and one year award before diagnosis.


AC said there has been an increase in the volume of applications, but this was not necessarily the correct forum to discuss this. A meeting with relevant people would be good.

It was agreed that the guidance needs to be clearer, and SD will look into this.

SD

4.	THISTLE ASSISTANCE UPDATE	
	<p>Keith Fisken gave a brief verbal update: The Thistle Assistance Programme has been running since 2005 to create more support for people that have issues using public transport. There is an agreed yearly budget to support this and the RTPs regularly contribute. SEStran have been working with Sentireal exploring a journey planning element for the last couple of years. VoyagaAR has been a welcomed addition and will align with Thistle Assistance Programme well when rolled out.</p> <p>David Trainor from Sentireal demonstrated VoyagaAR to the forum and the following features were noted and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door to door journey planning with disability friendliness built in • Ability for a carer to plan a journey for a disabled person • Voice command as well as typing so accessible • Help button, can call for designated assistance • Website for carer to use to set journey up • Mobile app for the disabled person to carry with them • Instructions can be read out to the person • Chat functions with the carer and the traveler • Augmented reality • Navigational indicators • Carer can track travelers progress <p>LB suggested The Scottish Ambulance Service could use this for people not eligible for transport and if there was potential in the app for the correct feel for distance or gradient. If not, can this be added in the future. DT said third parties provide certain information regarding timetables and geographical information, that information would not be directly provided. Technically it is possible, but the information would need to be sourced.</p> <p>DB attended a meeting with Kevin Hamilton, there is a website to monitor roadworks and the data to help others can be shared. DT said data that's gathered by others could be useful and anxiety reducing.</p> <p>AMc wrote in the chat facility he would be interested in showing his Social Work Children & Families and Adult Services colleagues, he is going to speak with the Heads of Service and get back to KF. KF suggested he was happy to facilitate this and likewise for others.</p> <p>DB said Disability Equalities Scotland are happy to assist with promotion where they can.</p> <p>KF noted collaborative work has been appreciated and there is great potential to adapt in the future as technology develops. The next steps are the launch stage, promotion, marketing and linking with Thistle Assistance.</p>	<p>AMc & KF</p>

5.	MOBILITY AND ACCESS COMMITTEE FOR SCOTLAND (MACS) TRANSPORT TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE REPORT	
	<p>LB provided a background to the report. The first initial report had 27 recommendations, these were broken down to 9 at the second session. The 9 recommendations were then reported to Ministers and commitments that they would take the recommendations forward were received. It was noted that it is important to have a joined-up approach, this is integral to the care pathway. The following points were raised and discussed:</p> <p>Transport to Health and Social Care Report, December 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the transport barriers faced by disabled people and older people when accessing health and social care appointments and facilities • Consulted around 40 stakeholders, including individual disabled people, Disabled People’s organisations, Community Transport Association, Transport Scotland, Regional Transport Partnerships, representatives from NHS Boards, Access Panels and Local Authorities • Undertook an extensive evidence gathering exercise capturing the voices of over 1000 disabled people <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEStran Strategy Manager – Rachael Murphy – joins from CoMoUK on 31 October. One of Rachael’s key priorities will be Access to Healthcare • Set up a short life working group – led by Linda Bamford and Rachael – to scope project, including governance, stakeholders, outcomes, benefits, timescales etc • SLWG will start work around mid - November • SLWG will work to implement Scottish Government Primary Care Team’s “Transport to Healthcare Delivery Plan”, which is currently in draft <p>SD agreed to invite Doreen Steele to the Accessible Travel Framework Steering Group, specifically for transport to health and social care issues. It was discussed that KF has attended these meetings previously regarding Thistle Assistance.</p> <p>AM suggested Rachael Murphy links up with all local authorities as they have lots of things in place to help with taking this forward. The information is not published, this is something to consider. Iain Sneddon would be a good person to talk to regarding this.</p> <p>The National Audit Office review in 2011 had very similar recommendations but there has been no significant progress.</p> <p>LB said Health Boards should be approached now as there are significant opportunities for collaborative working.</p>	SD

	<p>SD noted that this work links in with Transport to Health and Social Care Deliver Plan and there will be a lot of cross boundary work happening.</p>	
6.	HUMAN RIGHTS BILL CONSULTATION RESPONSE	
	<p>Tom Flanagan updated the Forum, the following points were noted:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Human Rights Bill.pptx</p> </div> <p>The Human Rights Bill proposes to incorporate four UN human rights treaties into Scots law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) • International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) • Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) • Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) <p>SEStran Response, Comments Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a follower of the Human Rights Consortium Scotland (HRCS), SEStran would like to align itself with the comprehensive response it has provided. • Question 14, page 26: What are your views on the proposed approach to including an equality provision to ensure everyone is able to access rights, in the Bill? <i>We agree that there should be an equality provision, and that LGBTI and older people should be specifically named. This is because there is significant benefit in these groups being visible in the Bill given the consideration needed to address barriers to their rights.</i> <p>The consultation is due to be submitted on the 5th October.</p>	
7.	GO E-BIKE FUNDING	
	<p>Brian Butler gave a brief update: The service provider Bewegen is now liquidated. There are bikes remaining and they are being audited now. There is currently no e-Bike hire scheme in place in the SEStran area. Transport Scotland have been supportive, there will be clearer information on the remaining budget after a meeting that is taking place today. SEStran have put 1 adapted bike to a community group in the Borders. BHJ pasted the following link to the chat facility.</p> <p>https://www.cyclinguk.org/cycle-share-fund</p>	

	BB said when SEStran have a clearer idea of remaining budgets there will be a new strategy put in place incorporating LB suggestions and this will be reported back to a future forum.	
8.	WOMENS-SURVEY-2023-TRANSPORT-REPORT	
	BB noted this paper was circulated for information and that this could be brought to a future forum for discussion if necessary. LB said an intersectional approach would link with equalities outcomes, a lot of the issues were similar to the transport to health and social care report. BB stated SEStran and RTPs can tackle these views.	
9.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	At the time of this meeting the next meeting date was to be confirmed. The proposed date of the next meeting is 29th February 2024	

Action Status Report

EQUALITIES & ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FORUM

Meeting Date: 28 September 2023

Minute/Date	Agenda Item	Action	Person	Date Initiated	Due Date	Current Status	Date Completed
31/03/22	LOOKING AHEAD – EARLY ENGAGEMENT WITH NHS ON FUTURE PLANS AFFECTING TRANSPORT	Flag up that NHS Lothian need to link up with RTPs and members of this group regarding movement of services.	IS	31/03/22		Outstanding, Iain Sneddon did not attend on 12th October 2022. Iain Sneddon did not attend on 28th February 2023. Email sent Aug 23	
28/09/23	ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL FRAMEWORK ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN	Steven Dora to link up Rhianne Forrest from Children's Health Scotland to discuss the Blue Badge.	SD	28/09/23		Steven Dora put his email in the chat facility of the forum.	
28/09/23	ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL FRAMEWORK ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN	Steven Dora to look into the way that the Blue Badge is allocated.	SD	28/09/23			
28/09/23	THISTLE ASSISTANCE UPDATE	Keith Fiske to link up with Andrew McLellan from East Lothian Council regarding the VoyagaAR app.	KF & AMc	28/09/23			
28/09/23	MOBILITY AND ACCESS COMMITTEE FOR SCOTLAND (MACS) TRANSPORT TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE REPORT	Steven Dora agreed to invite Doreen Steele to the Accessible Travel Framework Steering Group, specifically for transport to health and social care issues.	SD	28/09/23			