

EQUALITIES AND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FORUM  
10:00am Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Present:**

Doreen Steele (Chair) (DS)  
Cllr Danny Aston (DA)  
Cllr Jule Bandel (JB)  
Cllr Colin Cassidy (CC)  
Cllr Paul Garner (PG)  
Cllr Derek Glen (DG)  
Cllr Russell Imrie (RI)  
Cllr John McMillan (JMCM)  
Linda Bamford (LB)  
Mike Harrison (MH)  
Rhianne Forrest (RF)  
Andrew McLellan (AM)  
Douglas Bryce (DB)  
Jennifer Watson (JW)  
Diana Budziosz (DBu)  
Anne Cowan (AC)  
Dorota McMillan  
Kirstie Henderson  
Mark Craske  
Adil  
Ewan Doyle  
Graham Dunn  
Mahdi Saki  
Nikki Boath (Minutes) (NB)  
Beth Harley-Jepson (BHJ)  
Cameron Duck (CD)  
Michael Melton (MM)  
Rachael Murphy (RM)

NCM  
City of Edinburgh Council  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Midlothian Council  
Falkirk Council  
Fife Council  
Midlothian Council  
East Lothian Council  
Non-Councillor Member  
Midlothian Disability Accessibility Panel  
Children's Health Scotland  
East Lothian Council  
Disability Equality Scotland  
Transport Scotland  
East Lothian Council  
Fife Council  
East Lothian Council  
RNIB Scotland  
NHS Forth Valley  
  
Scottish Borders Council  
MACS  
The Mental Health Foundation  
SEStran  
SEStran  
SEStran  
SEStran  
SEStran

**Apologies:**

Cllr Robin Lawson  
Catriona Burness  
Cllr Jane Cox  
Laura Jones  
Ken Reid  
Keith Fiskin  
Jason Hedley  
Allan Lindsay

Fife Council  
RNIB Scotland  
Scottish Borders Council  
RNIB Scotland  
East Lothian Access Panel  
SEStran  
Scottish Borders council  
Young Scot

Ref.		Actions
1.	<b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
	DS welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	<b>MINUTES FROM WEDNESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2023</b>	
	<p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved.</p> <p><u>Actions arising from the minutes of the last meeting</u>  RM has written to KF to find out if he has linked up with Andrew McLellan from East Lothian Council regarding VoyagAR app.</p>	RM/KF
3.	<b>TRAVEL TO HEALTHCARE</b>	
	<p>RM provided an update and emphasised having a Travel to Healthcare strategy in place within the SEStran region that sits in parallel to RTS. RM proposed actions that SEStran would like to undertake in 2024/25 and asked for feedback on these actions from EAH Forum members.</p> <p>Feedback was as follows:</p> <p>LB suggested requesting “did not attend” appointment statistics from the Health Boards. LB highlighted that one of the main reasons that people are unable to attend appointments is that patients are unable to secure transport or the transport is cancelled.</p> <p>LB suggested inviting Public Health Scotland to meetings with Health Boards. DS suggested inviting IJBs to meetings.</p> <p>AMcL explained that East Lothian Council have appointed a Public Transport Monitor who assesses access to buses and bus stops. The Monitor also travels on the bus to various healthcare centres. AMcL highlighted that wayfinding has been an issue and mentioned that people who are unable to use public transport are signposted to Handicabs and RVS within East Lothian area.</p> <p>MC suggested inviting Scottish Ambulance Services (SAS). RM confirmed that she already has been in touch with SAS.</p> <p>MC is keen to develop active travel and healthcare. MC will forward presentation slides from an Active Travel conference. NB to circulate the slides with the minutes from this meeting.</p> <p>RF queried if any of the children’s hospitals and/or charities are involved. RM said that this idea hadn’t been considered. However, RM will arrange a meeting with RF to discuss this idea further.</p> <p>DS suggested speaking with Specialist Centres.</p> <p>RM will send MC a copy of the Scottish Government Transport to Health Delivery Plan.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>RM</p> <p>RM</p>
4.	<b>ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL FRAMEWORK DELIVERY PLAN</b>	

	<p>JW presented the slides and mentioned that a Strategic Board is being developed. JW mentioned that since the last EAH meeting in September 2023 the team has expanded and the DES Evaluation Report was published in December. JW will send link for the DES Evaluation Report to RM to circulate.</p> <p>Cllr McMillan raised a concern about the Blue Badge application process. Cllr McMillan will forward his questions directly to JW.</p> <p>There was a general discussion regarding the Blue Badge application process and a number of concerns were mentioned which included an increase in the number of badges being issued, the potential need for more spaces and parking enforcement.</p>	<p><b>JW</b></p> <p><b>JMcM</b></p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>ACTIVE TRAVEL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE</b>	
	<p>Michael Melton &amp; Beth Harley-Jepson presented slides in relation to Active Travel Behaviour Change, the below topics were included and discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Funding Context</li> <li>• What's Changing</li> <li>• New Funding Model</li> <li>• Progress to Date</li> <li>• Purpose of the Regional Plan</li> <li>• The Regional Plan</li> <li>• Implications for Accessibility and Inclusion</li> <li>• Next Steps</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Cassidy asked how local communities can be persuaded to change their behaviour to be more engaged with Active Travel projects. BHJ suggested engaging the local communities early in Active Travel projects. Cllr Cassidy asked MM to contact him directly regarding opposition from local residents towards a project within Dalkeith. Cllr McMillan offered Cllr Cassidy some live case studies which have been undertaken within East Lothian area.</p> <p>LB will forward MACS document called to Small Change Big Difference to SEStran.</p> <p>LB asked how the Equality Impact Assessments are being done. BHJ explained that it is currently a desktop exercise. MM said that the intention is to include those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>MC mentioned a project done in collaboration with Forth Environment Link to encourage more active travel to work. MC highlighted that there are now waiting list for bikes. MC invited BHJ/MM to meet with him to discuss how to develop this further.</p> <p>ED explained that the Workforce Mobility project has provided recommendations to link up Active Travel with the public transport. Below is the link</p>	

	<a href="https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55c87967e4b05aa55020f656/t/654e3acaa5a2e20d8373e2ad/1699625677072/WMF_Bikes+on+Buses+Performance+Review+%26+Recommendations+Final+Report+November+2023.pdf">https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55c87967e4b05aa55020f656/t/654e3acaa5a2e20d8373e2ad/1699625677072/WMF_Bikes+on+Buses+Performance+Review+%26+Recommendations+Final+Report+November+2023.pdf</a>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>VOYAGAR COMMUNICATION APPROACH</b>	
	<p>CD presented the slides for VoyagAR.</p> <p>CD highlighted that the App will be launched in the Spring but the date is still to be confirmed.</p> <p>CD explained that he is involved in the creative design and marketing materials for the App. CD asked for volunteers from this Forum to look at the creative design of the App to ensure inclusivity. Any interested Forum members should contact CD at <a href="mailto:Cameron.duck@sestran.gov.uk">Cameron.duck@sestran.gov.uk</a>.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
	The date of the next meeting is <b>26<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>	

## Action Status Report

EQUALITIES & ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FORUM

Meeting Date: 29 February 2024

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		RM to speak to KF for update following EAH meeting on 29/2/24	
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			
29/2/24	TRAVEL TO HEALTHCARE	Mark Craske will forward presentation slides from an	MC/NB	29/2/24			

		Active Travel conference. Nikki Boath to circulate					
29/2/24	TRAVEL TO HEALTHCARE	Rachael Murphy will arrange a meeting with Rhianne Forrest.	RM	29/2/24			
29/2/24	TRAVEL TO HEALTHCARE	Rachael Murphy will send Mark Craske a copy of the Scottish Government Transport to Health Delivery Plan.	RM	29/2/24			
	ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL FRAMEWORK DELIVERY PLAN	Jennifer Watson to send link for the DES Evaluation Report to Rachael Murphy to circulate.	JW & RM	29/2/24			
	ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL FRAMEWORK DELIVERY PLAN	Cllr McMillan raised a concern about the Blue Badge application process. Cllr McMillan will forward his questions directly to Jennifer Watson.	Cllr McM	29/2/24			