

Fare for All? Steering Group

Minutes of the Meeting of 20.05.05

Present:

Paul Martin	Member of the Scottish Parliament
Helen McNeill	Glasgow Council of Voluntary Service
Jess Thomson	Friends of the Victoria
Frank Creighton	Healthy Castlemilk
Jim Thomson	Fair Deal
Fran Lundi	Glasgow City Council, Community Safety
Irene Forrest	North Area Transport Association
Arlene Cook	North Glasgow Healthy Living Community
Niall McGrogan	GGHB, Community Engagement
Kate Munro	GGHB, Community Engagement
Mark McAllister	GGHB, Community Engagement
Carol Kane	GGHB, Community Engagement

1. Apologies:

Agnes McGroarty	West of Scotland Seniors Forum
Morag McKay	Glasgow Disability Alliance
Leah McKend	Age Concern
Gerald McLaughlin	Red Cross Glasgow
May Price Mason	Arthritis Care Glasgow North
Anne Marie Robertson	Alive and Kicking
Lorna Thomson	Capability Scotland

2. Background to the Work of the Fare for All? Group

Niall outlined the reasons for the development of the Fare for All? Group by describing the work already undertaken by the Community Engagement Team on transport and the feedback they had received on this issue from many groups across the city. The planned changes to Glasgow's Hospitals reinforced for the NHS the difficulties regarding transport. These difficulties already exist and will continue to exist wherever we put our hospitals. Many of our patients are elderly, infirm or disabled and they experience huge challenges using public transport whatever the destination.

Factors such as an increasingly elderly population and the drive to reduce car usage because of growing pollution and global warming fears have led to a willingness to re-examine transport provision. Recent years have seen a significant investment in Scottish Transport coupled with a growing realisation that some initiatives such as the free fares scheme don't help certain communities. Thus, it would appear to be a good time to collate the information that is available to the Fare for All groups and to put it into the public domain with a view to creating a momentum and alliance with all stakeholders that could influence the billion pound spend on transport.

4. Role & Remit of the Steering Group

Following discussion the role, remit and responsibilities of the group were agreed as follows.

Group Remit: To oversee the process of gathering and presenting information and evidence on the difficulties experienced by certain communities in using mainstream public transport with a certain focus on travel to hospitals.

Role of members of the group:

- 1) To provide advice to the community engagement team on the process of gathering and presenting information on the difficulties experienced by certain communities in using mainstream public transport.
- 2) To ensure that information is fed back to member organisations and other community or voluntary organisations.
- 3) To help publicise the project, through participation in publicity activities and by communicating with other stakeholders.
- 4) To lend goodwill and practical support to the project where possible.
- 5) To inform and lobby stakeholders in transport

Responsibilities of the group:

- Meetings should start promptly at 10am and finish by 11.30am.
- In order to facilitate discussions it was agreed to keep presentations to a minimum and to limit them to 10 minutes
- As the task is potentially very wide ranging it was agreed to keep a clear focus on the group's remit.

5. Mapping out the next few months

A plan for the work of the group was presented and discussed (Attached 1). Paul outlined some of the developments such as the new Regional Transport Partnerships and amendments to the Transport Act that could provide opportunities for the group.

It was agreed that as a lobby group we would both need to know what we are about – gathering evidence in a holistic way – and know how to use this information to influence and inform. Paul suggested that there were a number of avenues for reporting and disseminating that could be developed in addition to the conference that is planned for October. These include:

- A possible private meeting with the Minister for Health and Community Care, Andy Kerr.
- Possible session with Local Government Committee
- Lobby/information session for MSP's
- Public Petitions Committee in Parliament

Action: Paul will take these forward.

6. Information gathering process

Kate presented a paper that gave an outline of the proposed information gathering process (attached 2). The aim of this process is to build a holistic picture of the issues through a range of techniques including photographs, literature reviews and surveys. It is envisaged that a core data set will be produced but there will also be scope to address the particular needs or interests of group members.

A draft questionnaire was distributed and members asked to provide Kate with feedback on it before the next meeting. A draft incorporating this feedback will then be available at the next meeting.

Action: Kate

There was considerable discussion of the most effective method of developing geographic profiles. Several ideas were discussed and it was agreed that Kate would produce a 1-page paper on the options for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Kate

There were several other suggestions for gathering information that included access to existing studies and reviews produced by group members and video diaries to illustrate the issues for specific groups.

7. Dates of future meetings

Three dates for future meetings were agreed.

17 th June	Mitchell Library	
12 th August	Conference Room	Dalian House
16 th September	Board Room 2	Dalian House

Fare for All?

Mapping Out the Next 6 Months

	June	July	August	September	October
Planning					
Gathering Evidence					
Research – data collection					
Geographic profiles					
Literature search					
Analysis					
Writing up					
Conference					
Dissemination of results					

Fare for ALL?

Information Gathering Process

1. Gathering Evidence

The collection of evidence, including photographs and personal testimonies that illustrate the difficulties for people using public transport in Glasgow.

2. Research

Survey forms and focus groups will be used to collect a core data set on the main issues for public transport users. These will include access, community safety, information and barriers to public transport.

3. Geographic Profiles

A picture of each area of the city will be compiled using existing demographic and transport information.

4. Literature Search

A literature review will be conducted to identify relevant policies and initiatives for public transport and to establish the national picture. A particular focus of the literature search will be the identification of best practice and how other parts of the country have tackled similar difficulties.

5. Writing Up

The final stage of the evidence gathering will be the analysis of the information to identify the current issues for Glasgow and the potential ways forward. These will form the basis of the programme for development at the conference.