

AGENDA ITEM NO: 10

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY / DISTRICT COUNCILS

AT A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE LIAISON GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON TUESDAY 9 MARCH 2010

PRESENT: Councillor T Leadley (Chair)

Councillors T Brice	-	WYITA
S Khan	-	WYITA
Z Ali	-	Bradford MC
A Denham	-	Kirklees MC
S Balfour	-	Wakefield MDC

Officers in Attendance:

P Hart	-	Bradford MC
C Perkin	-	Leeds CC
N Holt	-	Metro
A Pilling	-	Metro
T Newton	-	Metro
R Chaplin	-	WYITA

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Bentley (Leeds), G Lowe (WYITA) and Paula Oldroyd (Calderdale).

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members at the meeting.

11. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2009 be approved.

12. YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY UPDATE

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on delivery of the Young People's Strategy.

It was noted that the 'Here to Get Youth There' conference held on 14 October 2009 had been a great success and feedback from the conference had been collated. A copy of the post conference brochure was

attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report and was also available on the Generation M website.

It was noted that although the Youth Transport Forum meetings had provided valuable feedback, it had been difficult for some young people to attend the meetings. Other means of consultation were therefore being considered including the use of the Generation M website and through the SAFEMark scheme.

The Liaison Group had previously been advised of work being undertaken by consultants in respect of 'free travel' for young people. It was reported that this was considered unaffordable in the current economic climate although the findings would inform future discussion regarding young people within the concessionary fares scheme. The importance of tickets being simple and easy to understand was acknowledged and members were advised that Metro would be discussing options with operators in the coming year.

A review of the Young People's Strategy was being undertaken to ensure that the conference outcomes were captured, new governance arrangements reflected and the action plan for the year agreed.

RESOLVED - That progress in delivering the Strategy be noted.

13. EDUCATION TRANSPORT SPECIAL NEEDS AND INDEPENDENT TRAVEL TRAINING – PROGRESS REPORT

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on progress made in relation to SEN Transport and Independent Travel Training.

It was reported that Metro had attended the bi-annual Regional Travel Trainers Meeting which was a forum to enable trainers to share best practice and develop new initiatives. Members were advised that the Bus Buddying Scheme, previously funded through the Urban Bus Challenge scheme, had been a great success. However it had not been possible to continue with the scheme because Metro had been unable to secure additional funding from other sources.

The Liaison Group discussed the training measures currently in place. It was reported that Metro's Education Transport Team was carrying out research into travel training arrangements to identify any existing partnership arrangements and, if so, whether there were any examples of good practice that could be applied to West Yorkshire. Progress would be reported to a future meeting of the Group.

RESOLVED -

(a) That the report be noted.

- (b) That progress on the development of partnership working with the Independent Travel Trainers be reported to the next meeting.
- (c) That the findings of the research into partnership arrangements between travel trainers and bus service co-ordinators or operators be reported to the next meeting.

14. COMMUNICATIONS PROGRESS REPORT

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of progress with the SAFEMark scheme and the work of the Metro Schools Communication Team.

It was reported that following a review of the SAFEMark Award Scheme, consideration was being given to the adoption of a new approach to future delivery. This would enable Metro to communicate relevant information to all high schools at key times of the year and continue to meet the key elements of the SAFEMark criteria including the implementation of initiatives to address pupil behaviour. The new approach would also allow Metro staff to spend more time delivering Junior SAFEMark workshops to year 6 pupils.

With regard to the GenerationM website, it was reported that during August 2009 – January 2010 the number of users had increased by nearly 10,000 compared to the same period in 2008. Over 12,198 'hits' had been recorded for January 2010 when the website had been regularly updated during the period of adverse weather. Feedback on the information provided at that time had been very positive.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

15. SCHOOL BUS ISSUES

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which reported on the school bus tender timetable, requests for changes to the timings of the school day and the Education Transport Agency Agreements.

School Tender Timetable

It was noted that the duration of the Tender Programme had been extended to accommodate the renewal of contracts for the operation of Mybus services. The School Tender Programme was attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report and the results of the tendering exercise would be reported to the next meeting.

Changes to Timing of the School Day

Members noted the requests for changes of timing to the school day in the Calderdale District which were outlined in the submitted report. It was noted that discussions were ongoing with First and Calderdale LEA in relation to the requests received from Hipperholme & Lightcliffe School and Holy Trinity High School. The changes at both schools would require extra vehicles and therefore incur additional costs which would be met in full by the schools and/or Calderdale LEA if progressed unamended.

Agency Agreements

It was reported that agreement in principle had been reached with all of the existing Agency LEAs into the implementation of new Agency Agreements and it was anticipated that all parties would be in a position to agree the new arrangements by 1 May 2010.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

16. EDUCATION TRANSPORT MONITORING – PROGRESS REPORT

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on progress made in relation to the monitoring of school bus, Mybus and taxi services. Members were also briefed on progress with the Electronic Data Capture project for monitoring services, the development and implementation of a penalty points system for managing operator performance and other monitoring priorities.

Members noted the summary of monitoring activity which had taken place during the 2009/2010 academic year to date. As a result of the monitoring and associated partnership work with VOSA and district licensing authorities, 21 Formal Warning Investigations had been instigated resulting in the issue of 8 Formal Warnings. One contract had been terminated for poor service delivery.

With regard to the Electronic Data Capture project, it was noted that the majority of software and encryption issues had been resolved but a number of minor issues remained. However it was expected that the system would be operational by April 2010 and applied across the network in the new academic year.

It was reported that a penalty points scheme had been developed and was being piloted on Calderdale and Wakefield taxi and minibus services. A summary of the quality standards and the number of points incurred for non compliance was attached at Appendix 2 to the submitted report. If the pilot proved successful it would be included in Metro's Conditions of Contract for the 2010/11 academic year. It was noted that a similar pilot would be undertaken for bus services in the 2010/11 academic year.

The monitoring of school bus, Mybus and taxi services was welcomed by the District Councils and Metro officers were thanked for the swiftness in undertaking ad hoc surveys and providing information when requested.

RESOLVED - That the progress of Metro's monitoring team be noted.