

## Borough of Poole Equality Impact Assessment

<b>Function:</b>	Concessionary Travel
<b>Service Unit:</b>	Transportation Services
<b>Names &amp; roles of officers/ partners undertaking EQIA:</b>	Unit EQIA Working Group consisting of:- Kay English- Parking Services Manager, John McVey – Passenger Transport & Accessibility Manager, Elaine Buckley – Business & Performance Manager, Ken Pearce – Local Transport Plan Manager.
<b>Date completed:</b>	16 March 2009
<b>Aims of the <u>Function</u></b>	
<p>The aims of the function are to meet the statutory requirement to issue free of charge bus passes that allow free off peak local bus service travel to people over the age of 60 and younger people with qualifying disabilities.</p> <p>It aims to benefit people over the age of 60 and younger people with qualifying disabilities specifically:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blind or partially sighted</li> <li>• Without Speech</li> <li>• Having a serious learning disability</li> <li>• Profoundly or severely deaf</li> <li>• Without use of both arms</li> <li>• Having a long-term disability that seriously impairs ability to walk.</li> <li>• Having a disability that prevents person from obtaining a driving licence (other than on grounds of alcohol/drug misuse)</li> </ul> <p>John McVey Passenger Transport &amp; Accessibility Manager is responsible for the function and it is implemented by the Passenger Transport &amp; Accessibility team primarily by Di Maton and Karen Fry.</p> <p>Qualifying people can either download an application form from the website, call into either the Civic Centre, St. John's House (Transportation Services) or one of the Libraries or telephone for a paper application form. Once completed applicants present themselves at St. John's House with proof of eligibility. Personal details are entered onto a secure database, a pass is produced incorporating the holder's photograph and they are then free to start using the service.</p> <p>The English National Concessionary Travel scheme has been publicised locally on a number of occasions through the Council's Poole News and the local press. Further national advertising took place to promote the revised scheme which allows free travel anywhere in the country.</p> <p>Younger people with a qualifying disability are often referred by Adult Social Service and Poole Forum (representing learning disabled people).</p> <p>The scheme is actively promoted (including presentations at Day Centre and residential establishments) and information is also available on the Council's website. Occasional press releases are produced as well as printed information including on the Area Bus Map. Visually impaired people</p>	

have been informed about the scheme through an event at Poole Lighthouse.

The policy complies with the requirements of the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 - free off-peak local bus travel in England for Senior and Disabled Residents and supports the Council's Corporate objectives of Promoting Health & Well Being and protecting Poole's environment. It also supports the Council's priorities of meeting the needs of our ageing population and reducing Poole's carbon footprint.

Qualifying applicants unable to use ordinary bus services due to problems with their mobility may, from 1 July 2009, be issued with a supply of vouchers for use on the Poole Community Transport Service.

Equality Strand	EQIA Evidence	SMART Actions	Performance Measures
<p><b>People from different age groups</b></p>	<p><b>Key findings:</b>  <b>The take up rate amongst Poole residents is high compared to other Local Authority areas across the country.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The take up rates for people over 60 identified by the Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers (ATCO) Benchmarking Survey for other Unitary Authorities ranged between 40% and 87% for the period 2007-08.</li> <li>- In Poole the rate for the period 2007-08 was 73% placing, meaning that it was one of the top 25% Council's in the country.</li> <li>- The take up rate for the scheme at the 31 March 2008 was 76% against a target of 73% (see BoP performance indicator 11). By the end of December 2008 this figure had risen to 79.14%.</li> <li>- The benefits of concessionary travel schemes have been highlighted in the following publications:</li> <li>- <i>Making the connections – Social exclusion and Transport (Social Exclusion Unit, 2003)</i></li> <li>- <a href="http://www.carplus.org.uk/Resources/pdf/Making_the_Connections_Final_Report_on_Transport_and_Social_Exclusion.pdf">http://www.carplus.org.uk/Resources/pdf/Making_the_Connections_Final_Report_on_Transport_and_Social_Exclusion.pdf</a></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase the take up rate for the scheme for 2009-10 to 80% by further promotion of the scheme.</li> </ul>

- *In the right place – Accessibility, local services and older people (Help the Aged, 2005)*
- <http://policy.helptheaged.org.uk/policy/Community/Access/default.htm>
- *Older People; their transport needs and requirements (WS Atkins / DETR, 2001).*
- The number of over 65s currently living in Poole equates to the projected figure for England and Wales in 2028. Poole is also likely to have the largest percentage increase between 2004 and 2028, where it shows that by 2028 people over 65 will make up nearly 29% of the total population, i.e. nearly 1 person in 3 is likely to be aged over 65years old. (*Poole in Profile – Older People in Poole Demographics*).

**Current mitigating actions/positive actions**

- A database is used to manage the scheme and currently holds the records of approximately 31,500 qualifying people.
- The scheme has been widely advertised both nationally and locally which has contributed to the high take up figure.

<p><b>Disabled people</b></p>	<p><b>Key findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A database is used to manage the scheme and currently holds the records of approximately 31,500 qualifying people. Approximately 1,500 passes have been issued to disabled people with a qualifying disability. It is difficult to establish accurate take up rates for people with disabilities as not all disability types are eligible for the concession and all people aged 60 years and above automatically qualify on grounds of age.</li> </ul> <p><b>Current mitigating actions/positive actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In addition, the number, routing and timing of services operating with low floor accessible buses may be a factor in the take up. However, this is a declining problem as all new vehicles manufactured since 2000 meet the accessibility requirements. All buses must be accessible by 2017.</li> <li>- The introduction of a voucher scheme (from 1 July 2009) against the cost of journeys on the Poole Community Transport Scheme as an alternative to the bus pass for people unable to use ordinary buses should increase concessionary travel take-up rates amongst disabled people.</li> </ul>	<p>To contact disabled persons groups e.g. Dorset Blind Association to establish take-up rates during 2009/10.</p>	<p>Increase the take-up rate of people with disabilities by 5% in 2010/11</p>
<p><b>People of different religions or faiths</b></p>	<p><b>Key findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No statistical information is collected about faith from Concessionary Bus pass holders. The database does not record this information. The eligibility criteria for Connect passes are based entirely on a person's age or qualifying disability.</li> </ul> <p><b>Current mitigating actions/positive actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- N/a</li> </ul>		

<p><b>Men, Women, Trans people</b></p>	<p><b>Key findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The scheme is directed to all and should have no impact on gender. However, at the present time a slight majority (approximately 57%) of the pass users are female but this is not out of step with the female/male split of this age group.</li> <li>- The 2007 ONS mid year estimate gives the total population aged 60+ in the Borough as 37,571 people. 20,929 of these are female, 16,624 are male. This gives a 56% to 44% female/male split.</li> <li>- The June 2006 “Older People in Poole – Transport Report” produced by Strategic Planning illustrates that more 60+ aged woman have less access to a car than 60+ aged men</li> </ul> <p><b>Current mitigating actions/positive actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- N/a</li> </ul>																																									
<p><b>Black and minority ethnic people</b></p>	<p><b>Key findings:</b></p> <p>Census 2001 showed Poole BME communities made up 4% of the population. Ethnicity statistics have been collected for new pass and replacement pass issues since 2008 with the following results:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 810 1238 1281"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Ethnic Origin</b></th> <th><b>No of Passes Issued</b></th> <th><b>%</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Caribbean</td> <td>4</td> <td>0.09</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chinese</td> <td>2</td> <td>0.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indian</td> <td>2</td> <td>0.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed - Other</td> <td>3</td> <td>0.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed White and Black African</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other - White</td> <td>8</td> <td>0.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Portuguese</td> <td>3</td> <td>0.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unspecified (not given)</td> <td>60</td> <td>1.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White British</td> <td>4303</td> <td>92.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White European</td> <td>37</td> <td>0.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White Irish</td> <td>17</td> <td>0.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>4440</b></td> <td><b>100</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Current mitigating actions/positive actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The scheme is advertised on the Council’s website, where information can be translated into other languages.</li> </ul>	<b>Ethnic Origin</b>	<b>No of Passes Issued</b>	<b>%</b>	Caribbean	4	0.09	Chinese	2	0.04	Indian	2	0.04	Mixed - Other	3	0.06	Mixed White and Black African	1	0.02	Other - White	8	0.17	Portuguese	3	0.06	Unspecified (not given)	60	1.29	White British	4303	92.72	White European	37	0.8	White Irish	17	0.37	<b>Total</b>	<b>4440</b>	<b>100</b>		
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<b>Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual people</b>	<b>Key findings:</b> - The scheme is directed to all and should have no impact on Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual people. Data on people's sexual orientation is not requested or held in the database used to manage the scheme. The sexual orientation of people applying for a concessionary bus pass is not one of the qualifying criteria.  <b>Current mitigating actions/positive actions</b> - N/a		
<b>Review date<sup>1</sup>:</b>	2010/11	Sent record to PERD Rep and <a href="#">Improvement and Policy Officer – Equalities</a>	Yes

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<sup>1</sup> In at least 3 years time