

# Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report



**Name Of Project:** Travel Buddy Scheme

**Project Lead:** Chris Bland

**Project Targets from bid:**

- 7 new trainees per year
- 7 Travel Buddies per year,
- 1 group of 4 people receiving travel training,
- Start evening journeys
- Start weekend journeys
- Set up "Walking buses" within Brighton & Hove,
- Start supporting people on train journeys.
- Working together within the different services for people with learning disabilities.

*The targets were revised as only half of the requested funding has been received.*

**How the bid says the project will do this work:**

- Supporting people with learning disabilities to travel on public transport with the support of a 'Buddy'
- Providing training and support to develop a range of educational, social and personal skills necessary for a person to realise their individual potential to travel safely and independently.
- The "trainee" is shadowed by a "buddy" on a series of journeys
- The scheme also expands during evening hours to support friendships as well as weekend trips into town.
- Half of our volunteer buddies are people with a learning disability. In acting as a buddy they increase their confidence and self esteem as they learn how to teach others their knowledge.
- Travel Buddies are provided with training and supervised.

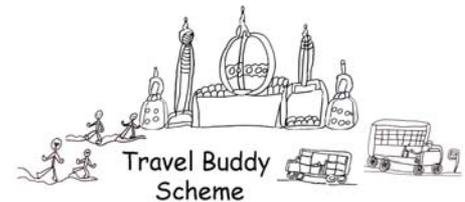
*The targets are revised as half of the funding has been received.*

**How much LDDF money the project got in 2008/9:** £10,350

**Name of person completing this report:**

Michaela Rossmann

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## What the Travel Buddy Scheme has done in April through July 2008:



### 1+2) Recruitment of Trainees and Travel Buddies

- ❖ Two new trainees and one new Travel Buddy have been recruited and are now travelling together.
- ❖ One potential Trainee would like to join the Travel Buddy Scheme after finishing the Travel Training.

*"I like my buddy. It's going really well. I know the route now and I'm looking forward to doing it on my own."* Jo P., Trainee.



### 3) Travel Training

- ❖ A group of 5 people started travel training. This includes learning how to cross roads safely and how to use busses.
- ❖ The training is planned for 12 weeks.

*"I like going to visit my friend, and now she's going to come to our place. I've always wanted a bus pass and now I've got one. I like using it."* Peter C., Trainee



### 4) Train journeys

- ❖ The Travel Buddy Scheme provided information about the Train Assisted Travel provided by Southern Rail.

## 5) Working together with different services for people with LD



- ❖ The Travel Buddy Scheme has been given a grant to celebrate the Streets for People-Car Free Day at Grace Eyre, on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> September '08.
- ❖ The Travel Buddy Scheme is currently recruiting new Travel Buddies to expand the journeys to evenings and weekends, in collaboration with Speak Out and other local services and organisations.



## What the project has done in August through November 2008:

### 1+2) Recruitment of Trainees and Travel Buddies

- ❖ One new Travel Buddy has been recruited and two potential Travel Buddies have been interviewed.
- ❖ Two trainees are now travelling independently!
- ❖ Two potential Trainees would like to join the Travel Buddy Scheme after finishing the Travel Training.



### 3) Travel Training

- ❖ The travel training has completed the general road safety sessions and it is now focussing on using the buses safely.
- ❖ The training is planned for 12 weeks.
- ❖ One walking bus has been set up. The journey goes from Grace Eyre to College and back to Grace Eyre.



### 4) Train journeys

- ❖ The travel training will focus on how to use trains once the bus training is finished.

## 5) Working together with different services for people with LD

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an example of 'Best Practice', covering participation, empowerment and freedom from discrimination.

- ❖ The Travel Buddy Scheme was part of the Streets for people- Car Free Day event. Speak Out, Health Walks and the B&H Transport Department took part of the celebration too.
- ❖ The Travel Scheme started to link up with the Bus Company and soon it will be part of their "I'm on the bus"-campaign.
- ❖ The Brighton & Hove City Council produced a DVD in August '08, highlighting the Travel Buddy Scheme as an example of 'Best Practice', covering participation, empowerment and freedom from discrimination.
- ❖ The B&H City Council who won the National Bus Award for Accessibility and the Travel Buddy Scheme got highlighted as part of this award as a pioneering project.

## What the Project has done in December 2008 through March 2009

### 1+2) Recruitment of Trainees and Travel Buddies

- ❖ 2 new Travel Buddies have been recruited and are now waiting for the CRB checks to come back. Once this has happened, new journeys will be set up.
- ❖ The 2 trainees who travel independently are still very happy that they have achieved this success and feedback to the co-ordinator after their journeys.
- ❖ One Travel Buddy who had a break from travel buddying is back and supports the weekly Walking Bus.
- ❖ The current Co-ordinator has resigned (mid Jan.'09). The Scheme will continue through the Grace Eyre Day Service until a new Co-ordinator is found.

### 3) Travel Training

- ❖ There is still a high demand for the Travel Training. It is very person centred because every participant can choose a destination on a weekly rota basis.
- ❖ One of the participants is part of the Walking Bus to Pelham College and her road safety has improved a lot. She recognises landmarks such as the Brighton Train Station and her confidence and her road safety knowledge increased too.

### 4) Train journeys

- ❖ The Travel Training is focussing on Walking and Bus journeys at the moment and will focus soon.

### 5) Working together with different services for people with LD:

- ❖ The Travel Buddy Scheme started to link up with Age Concern's Lifeline project

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and there might be a possibility to recruit more volunteers, seen that the project will function like an agency for elderly people who would like to volunteer in the community.

- ❖ The Travel Buddy Scheme continued to link up with the Bus and Coach Company. The Company offered a special price for a bulk of Day Saver Bus Tickets.
- ❖ The Travel Buddy Scheme also secured successfully future funding from other charitable trusts:
  - Argus Appeal (£ 3,000): travel costs plus a black cab Taxi, plus 12 ½ % saving on bus tickets
  - Gurney Charitable Trust (£ 1,000): travel costs
  - Sussex Community Foundation (£ 5,000): travel costs
  - Henry Smith Foundation (£ 52,800): travel costs

## The future...

We have some very good news that we have now secured funding to keep the project going for another 2 years! So far we have raised **£63,300** to continue our good work until April 2012. We are also still waiting to hear from other sources that have been applied to, as we have not got all the money yet that we hoped to raise at this time.