



Project Report August 2009

The travel buddy scheme is about supporting people with learning disabilities to travel on public transport as well as walking with the support of a 'Buddy' to become independent or just to increase their self-confidence and esteem.

News



Super Sarah & Toby

There are three new Travel Buddy Coordinators now working on the Travel Buddy Scheme.

Sarah Howse and Toby Watkins both started in July, Sarah is working four days, and Toby is working one day a week. Nicola Mayne will be joining the team in September for one day a week.

Plans and Ideas

The new team worked on a brain storming exercise on what they would like and will achieve within the first few months.

First Quarter

1. To meet members of the Travel Buddy Scheme and look at the current numbers of journeys. What works and what we can improve on.
2. To review the travel buddy schemes policies procedures and Risk Assessments. Also to review each of the current journeys with the buddies to make sure they are still going well. Create an action plan with short



to long-term plans, objectives and targets.

3. To increase awareness of the scheme across the County and Nationally.

What we have done so far



1. We contacted all the current Buddies and invited them to a meeting at Grace Eyre for a friendly meeting and to talk about what the Buddies would like help with and their ideas.
2. A review has started for all the schemes policies and procedures
3. To carry out research on other Travel Buddy Schemes, to talk to people who have been involved.
4. Talk to the Council and local bus companies to see what ideas and thoughts they have. Meet face-to-face with the people involved.
5. Commitment to make all future minutes and letters accessible

Outcomes of the actions taken



1. From the Travel Buddy meeting -
 - We have all now met face-to-face
 - A Drop in for Travel Buddies on every Tuesday from 10am to 12am has been started.
 - More ideas of how we can help support the Travel Buddy volunteers.
 - Travel Buddies would like more training - courses are being booked.
2. We need to simplify the reviews and monitoring of the goals for all trainees. Risk Assessments are to be reviewed in a new accessible layout. A target for three Risk Assessment to be updated a week has been put in place.
3. We are putting forward for a grant to the council for £500 for "NO CAR DAY 2009." If the grant is successful we have proposed the idea of Bike Buddies and hiring specialist bikes for people with disabilities from a company in London. Then we will promote the travel buddy scheme on car free day .
4. A meeting with the local bus company is booked. It is hoped that Buddies will be able to meet with the drivers at there works canteen.

Travel Buddy Journeys



- Number journeys a week - 13
- Number of new referrals - 7
- Number of Travel Buddy's - 13
- Number of Trainees - 18

Further Action



- Organise "No car day".
- Link with Bike for disabled people down in the South of England.
- Approach colleges and schools about volunteers to work on the Travel Buddy scheme.
- Update the 12 week lesson plan with three modules about road safety .
- Re assess and rewrite all Travel Buddy journeys.

Quotes from some of the trainees

"I like using the bus, but I'll be scared on my own"



"I like having a Travel Buddy, I feel safe and I will soon be able to get the bus on my own"