

Report

Report to:	Roads Safety Forum
Date of Meeting:	20 February 2024
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	School Travel Works/Initiatives Paper
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise the Forum of the School Travel Plan programme within South Lanarkshire

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Forum is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and the development of future School Travel Plans be supported.

3. Background

3.1. All educational establishments are offered assistance and guidance with the creating and review of their School Travel Plan.

3.2. A School Travel Plan process involves pupils, parents and staff with School Travel Plan template and sample available for editing. The aims include:-

- ♦ to engage and foster more sustainable travel journeys
- ♦ increasing walking, cycling and scooting to and from school levels
- ♦ reduce air pollution and contribute to clearer air quality
- ♦ focusing on the safety of the environment within the school grounds and out with

3.3. A variety of initiatives and campaigns are available to assist with the delivery of safe and sustainable objectives to focus on improving walking, cycling and scooting participation. For those who must travel by car, we ask if they can park and stride or car share, when viable. All these changes to travel habits all generate and support towards decreasing the number of cars near the school locus, thus reducing emissions. A focus on contributing to helping create a safer environment, helping target congestion, increase health and sustainable travel habits and choices in the future.

3.4. The first stage of the School Travel Plan journey is to ascertain travel modes to and from school, through the completion of a survey. Surveys are available for pupils, parents and staff to record travel methods to and from school as well as introducing them to Walking Bus and Cycle Train projects plus Park and Stride Campaign to see if support and suggestions or car parking areas which can be used. A meeting is arranged to discuss the results of the surveys and next steps with the school. This allows the completion of the targets and initiatives section within the School Travel

Plan document and a selection of the survey results can be included to verify outcomes.

- 3.5. The completion of a School Travel Plan will result in the establishment being a recipient of a School Travel Plan Award certificate, banner and postcards to raise awareness. Communication will be continued on an ongoing basis with the School Travel Plan being a working document, with updates and changes recorded to reflect the implementation of the School Travel Plan.
- 3.6. At present, 82 school have completed their School Travel Plan, with a further 56 schools developing theirs.
- 3.7. The Traffic and Transportation Section are in regular contact with schools about various local and national road safety campaigns. Schools can be contacted directly should any issues be highlighted to the Traffic and Transportation Section through any communications and enquiries received. The School Travel Plan Award's promotional resources, including certificate, banner, postcards and stickers help to raise awareness in the school community. The completion of a School Travel Plan not only acknowledges the existing work and ongoing that schools already fulfil but incorporates upcoming and prospective targets and campaigns.
- 3.8. The School Travel Plan process is incorporated and endorsed in Health and Safety Traffic Management Audits and plans conducted by colleagues in Health and Safety. The detailed audits allow for recommendations to be included and the completion or review of a School Travel Plan, which is included as a potential action point. All educational establishments will receive an offer of assistance at any stage of their School Travel Plan and will be contacted on completion of their Traffic Management Audit where appropriate.
- 3.9. The School Travel Plan/Review provides the opportunity for not only educational concepts to be devised, but scope to include engineering targets for future investigation. This can include improvements within the locus, in the form of extra signage, road markings and guard rail, where appropriate. Previous projects have seen the addition of extra carriageway road markings to complement existing part-time 20mph speed limits. Potential future works are reliant on funding, and this has an impact on the installation of physical works.
- 3.10. To support schools, a selection of materials are available consisting of pre-printed road safety workbooks, leaflets, banners and promotional items.
- 3.11. Throughout the year, there are some excellent examples of School and Nurseries who have completed their School Travel Plan and continue to deliver the important road safety message throughout the school year, here are some examples: -

◆ Cairns Primary School, Cambuslang

An action from their School Travel Plan was Park and Stride, with the school focusing on this campaign with the main aim of improving safety within the school car park and on Ivybank Avenue, which is the road on approach to the school car park. Due to limited car parking spaces, the message of Park and Stride was incorporated in a leaflet designed to ask car users to think about their journey. For those who must drive, we ask that they park away from the school and walk the remaining distance. The Junior Road Safety Officer Team launched their Park and Stride message at parent's evening in November, where they had a stall to which they communicated to all parents and carers who attended to encourage safe and sustainable travel.

◆ Craigbank Primary School, Larkhall

The school has completed their School Travel Plan Review and received their School Travel Plan certificate at a school assembly. At this assembly, campaigns and targets of the School Travel Plan were shared with pupils and staff, as well as a special visit from Road Safety Simone. Road Safety Simone reinforces the message about safe places to cross the road and how to keep safe, especially 'Be Safe, Be Seen', to coincide with the clock change at the end of October with the darker mornings and evenings.

◆ Spittal Primary School, Rutherglen

The Junior Road Safety Officer team (JRSO's) spoke at assembly to promote 'Be Safe, Be Seen' and how to keep safe. They presented a very informative PowerPoint presentation on how to keep safe. The School Travel Plan Award was handed over and pupils were enlightened to the contents and actions. Road Safety Simone was in attendance and presented a selection of pupils with Road Safety Calendar Competition 'Highly Commended' certificates, from this year's competition. The school have on-loan the Little Parking Buddies in an aid to alleviate parking issues near the junction and near the school car park entrance and exit.

◆ Our Lady and St. Anne's Primary School, Hamilton

Road Safety Simone and their Junior Road Safety Officers visited the school assembly to discuss their recently completed School Travel Plan. Modes of travel to and from school were discussed and more importantly, how we can keep safe and be more sustainable. Park and Stride was promoted as we wished to encourage those who must travel by car for the school journey to park at the Co-operative Store Car Park on Mill Road and walk the remaining distance along the path that leads to the school. Air quality was included in discussions with a reminder to all drivers regarding switching off their engine during drop off and pick up times. The pupils enjoyed their visit from Road Safety Simone and the school was recipient of School Travel Plan banner, certificate and postcards.

The schools listed below have engaged in 'Go Safe with Ziggy' resources and borrowed the Ziggy Mascot. Ziggy promotional items have been provided by Road Safety Scotland to assist with their plans.

- ◆ David Livingstone Memorial Primary School, Blantyre
- ◆ Avondale Early Learning Centre, Strathaven
- ◆ Woodhill Nursery, Kirkmuirhill

4. Road Safety Through Curriculum for Excellence/Local Initiatives

- 4.1. A road safety approach which emphasises on a 'whole life' method for all road users is implemented by South Lanarkshire Council. Starting at the earliest and youngest age group, continuing the delivery of ongoing safety messages contributes to the creation of safer lifestyles and behaviours.
- 4.2. Road Safety within Curriculum for Excellence 2022/2023 publication is available for use and reference by all schools to provide information on road safety learning resources, developed specifically to support Curriculum for Excellence.
- 4.3. The Road Safety Framework to 2030, sets out a compelling long-term vision for road safety, 'Vision Zero', in which there are no fatalities and injuries on Scotland's roads by 2050. The journey to achieving this vision also includes ambitious interim targets where the number of people being killed or seriously injured on our roads will be halved by 2030. If this is to be achieved, we must maintain excellent road safety support

systems that exist in our schools and communities. By engaging our children at an early stage in their road safety learning journey, it is hoped this will provide them with strategies for a lifetime, helping to keep themselves and others safe in the road environment.

- 4.4. Road Safety learning at every level offers opportunities to engage children and young people through active and interdisciplinary learning. The document can be viewed at <https://roadsafety.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Curriculum-for-excellence-2022-23.pdf>

5. South Lanarkshire Council WOW – Walk Once a Week / Walk On a Wednesday P5 Initiative

- 5.1. The WOW scheme, Walk Once a Week/Walk On a Wednesday is offered to Primary 5 pupils. This year group has been selected as they are progressing towards independent travel with the aim to encourage future sustainable travel.
- 5.2. WOW is a scheme to help reduce the number of children who are driven to school, increase their level of physical activity, reduce emissions, and contribute towards climate change. WOW has valuable links with Health Promoting Schools, ECO Schools and can be included in School Travel Plans.
- 5.3. WOW offers the provision of 4 ‘rewards’ during the academic years to children who fulfil their commitment to walk (or wheel/scoot/cycle) to school at least once a week. It is acknowledged that not all children are able to walk/wheel/scoot/cycle to school and Park and Stride is an acceptable as a suitable alternative.
- 5.4. Schools are sent an e-mail to register their school to take part, with a dedicated member of staff appointed to oversee the programme. There was also an opportunity to sign up at the Junior Road Safety Officer Day in September 2023, when staff members shared and displayed information about the scheme with JRSO's and their Co-ordinator.
- 5.5. 34 schools have signed up to the WOW challenge for 2023/2024 school term. South Lanarkshire Council's PR Design and Graphics Section completed a A3 promotional poster and seasonal wall charts design, which allow pupils to record their journeys.

6. Cycle Friendly School Fund – Cycling Scotland

- 6.1. Cycling Scotland continued to offer their Cycle Friendly School Fund for the year 2023/2024. This has been offered on a yearly basis, providing the chance to submit a bid on behalf of schools, when possible. This funding will enable the procurement and installation of cycle and scooter storage and shelters as well as the repairs to current structures.
- 6.2. During summer 2023, the Traffic and Transportation Section submitted bids through the Cycle Friendly and Social Housing development grant on behalf of seven schools. Bid applications were submitted by 27 July 2023 with the outcome date notification being 1 September 2023. All submissions were awarded with no match funding required.
- 6.3. The grant funding will allow the procurement and progression of the following works:-
- ♦ **St. Mark's Primary School and Nursery, Hamilton**
 - ♦ A 5 metre shelter with 5 cycle hoops and 10 capacity scooter rack and a further 5 cycle hoops at the rear of the school.

- ♦ **Newton Farm Primary School, Cambuslang**
 - ♦ A 10 metre shelter with 20 cycle hoops and a 20 capacity scooter rack.
- ♦ **Duncanrig Secondary School, East Kilbride**
 - ♦ A 5 metre shelter, 5 cycle hoops and a location on the grassed area, which will require a concrete base.
- ♦ **Woodpark Primary School, Lesmahagow**
 - ♦ A 5 metre shelter with 6 cycle hoops, 2 x 4 metre shelters containing 5 cycle hoops and 20 capacity double sided scooter racks.
- ♦ **Muiredge Primary School, Uddingston**
 - ♦ Repairs to existing cycle shelter and provision of new cycle hoops.
- ♦ **Hunter Primary School, East Kilbride**
 - ♦ Repairs to existing cycle shelter.
- ♦ **Netherburn Primary School, Netherburn**
 - ♦ Repairs and improvements to existing cycle shelter.

6.4. It is anticipated that the installation of works will be started imminently, and monitoring will be requested and provided to Cycling Scotland on an ongoing basis.

7. Sustrans Annual Travel Survey

- 7.1. The Sustrans Annual 'Hands Up' Travel Survey takes places on the second week of September. All educational establishments, including nurseries, are invited to complete the survey on any one day during survey week. All pupils are asked 'How do you normally travel to school?' during this period when answers then recorded. Set options available to choose from are: - Walk, Cycle, Scoot/Skate, Park and Stride (driven most of the way and then walked the rest), Driven, Bus, Taxi and Other
- 7.2. The data is used by Sustrans, the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, to collate findings on travel modes across Scotland for the Scottish Government. The Hands Up Scotland Survey has been published as Official Statistic status in Scotland since 2012.
- 7.3. All survey information is distributed via e-mail to all schools from Sustrans, initially, during and after survey week. This is supported with an e-mail from the Traffic and Transportation Section. Sustrans have an on-line portal system which sends automated e-mails, including reminders about survey week, inputting data and contact schools who have yet to complete a response to the survey link. Schools have an option to submit their data on-line, using the survey link and school data or they can send their survey / survey results through to the Traffic and Transportation Section, who will input their data on their behalf.
- 7.4. In 2022, the National Summary Survey for the Hands Up Scotland Survey showed participation of 497,640 school and nursery children from 3,280 schools and nurseries taking part in the survey across the country. This included 29,349 South Lanarkshire school and nursery children. The 2022 survey had 61 nurseries, 90 primary schools, 12 secondary and 2 Additional Support Needs schools taking part.

- 7.5. The 2022 National Hands Up Survey results were available on 25 May 2023 and included an overview set of data for South Lanarkshire Council.

Modes for all school types (excluding nursery pupils) for South Lanarkshire stated the following:-

- ◆ Walk = 37.3%
- ◆ Cycle = 3.0%
- ◆ Scooter / Skate = 2.6%
- ◆ Park and Stride = 10.4%
- ◆ Driven = 26.4%
- ◆ Bus = 17.0%
- ◆ Taxi = 2.6%
- ◆ Other = 0.7%

Travelling to primary and secondary school by active or public transport by pupils (excluding nursery pupils) was recorded at 59.9%. This figure is a slight increase of 0.9% when compared to the 2021 data, which was 59.0% (40.4% walked, 2.9% cycled, 2.3% by scooter / skate and 13.4% by bus).

- 7.6. National Results for 2022 for all school pupil responses, excluding nursery pupils, were detailed as follows:-

- ◆ Walk = 42.6%
- ◆ Cycle = 3.9%
- ◆ Scooter/Skate = 2.9%
- ◆ Park and Stride = 9.5%
- ◆ Driven = 23.1%
- ◆ Bus = 15.8%
- ◆ Taxi = 1.6%
- ◆ Other = 0.5%

For travel nationally, the percentage of children travelling to primary and secondary school by active travel (excluding nursery pupils) in 2022 was 65.2% (42.6% walked, 3.9% cycled, 2.9% by scooter/skate and 15.8% by bus) and in 2021 was 64.8%, showing a 0.4% increase.

- 7.7. Each year, a detailed local authority level information Excel spreadsheet is provided to the Council, for internal use. This is a helpful tool with the data assisting in a variety of projects including School Travel Plan development and review work, funding bids and used as a monitoring tool for schools for comparison of previous years data.
- 7.8. Sustrans Annual Travel Hands Up Survey week 2023 took place during the week commencing 11 September 2023. All schools and nurseries were asked to complete the Hands Up Survey, on any one day during this week. The preliminary results for 2023 will be available early in 2024 with finalised data published around May 2024. Further information can be found at <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/ukwide/scotland/hands-up-scotland-survey>.

9. Employee Implications

- 9.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1. Item 6.3 'Cycle and Scooter Parking and Shelters' was funded by a grant of £95,000.
- 10.2. Item 5.5 'WOW A3 Scheme Posters', quantity of 100, cost £16.63.
Item 5.5 'WOW A3 Seasonal Wall Charts', quantity of 100 per season, cost £57.72.
- 10.3. Promotional items are available from Road Safety Scotland which are ordered when required, free of charge, dependant on availability.

11. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 11.1. There are no significant implications in terms of climate change, sustainability and environmental implications associated with this report. It should be noted, however, that the active and sustainable travel schemes may have a positive impact on the environment by reducing reliance on private vehicles, supporting South Lanarkshire's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy. Reduced motorised vehicle journeys will improve health and wellbeing, whilst reducing on fossil fuels, and supports improvements in air quality through reduced vehicle emissions.

12. Other Implications

- 12.1. There are no significant risks associated with this report.

13. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 13.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

David Booth

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

22 January 2024

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

Values

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Working with and respecting others
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Ambitious, self-aware and improving
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable

Priorities

- ◆ We will work to put people first and reduce inequality
- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places
- ◆ We will work to recover, progress and improve

Outcomes

- ◆ Our children and young people thrive
- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities
- ◆ People live the healthiest lives possible

Previous References

- ◆ Roads Safety Forum Paper, 'School Travel Works / Initiatives', 13 June 2023
- ◆ Roads Safety Forum Paper, 'Education, Training and Publicity', 31 January 2023

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect any of the background papers or want any further information, please contact:-

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