

Report

Report to:	Roads Safety Forum
Date of Meeting:	22 June 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	School Travel Plans
----------	----------------------------

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 are noted, and the development of future School Travel Plans be supported.

3. Background

- 3.1. The aim of the School Travel Plan is to encourage more sustainable modes of travel, such as walking and cycling, hence reducing congestion outside schools, increasing safety, improving health and environmental awareness and ultimately setting active travel patterns for life. The local context, including pupil travel patterns, is researched, and presented in the Plan. This then allows appropriate solutions to be identified and targets for implementation to be set. The process puts the onus on pupils, parents, and teachers to monitor the travel situation, develop appropriate aims and identify targets and timescales for actions. The Plan is an active document with a monitoring regime included, so the progress of any measures can be followed and new ones added as it continues to develop.
- 3.2. School Travel Plans continue to be developed and implemented with 71 schools having a School Travel Plan in place and 65 working towards this. Remote support, initiative and campaign materials continue to be on offer to facilitate safe and sustainable school travel.
- 3.3. School Travel Plan support has continued to be offered to schools during the current COVID-19 pandemic with many schools making progress regarding this initiative. The School Travel Plan Co-ordinator has also contacted schools in response to enquiries and correspondence received by Roads and Transportation Services in relation to school journey matters. The School Travel Plan Consultation can take place on-line with survey links being made available for parents, pupils, and staff.

4. The School Travel Plan Process

- 4.1. The Council's School Travel Plan Co-ordinator contacts all schools on a regular basis to engage with the school community. The co-ordinator has initial discussions with a school representative to discuss the School Travel Plan process, potential initiatives, and associated resources available.
- 4.2. The School Travel Plan Process was detailed fully in a School Travel Plan paper at a previous Roads Safety Forum on 10 October 2018.

5. School Travel Plan – 5 STEPS to completion award

- 5.1. This award has been introduced as part of the School Travel Plan process. Schools will be encouraged to complete the five steps towards their first School Travel Plan or their review, as detailed below: -
 1. **Start** with a meeting with your School Travel Plan Co-ordinator
 2. **Talk** about different initiatives and resources available for your school
 3. **Engage** with parents, pupils, and staff to complete questionnaires
 4. **Plan** initiatives and targets for implementation
 5. **School Travel Plan** complete and reviewed
- 5.2. On completion of the 5 STEPS, a certificate and a banner are supplied to each school. The display of these items will demonstrate the school's commitment and partnership working with parents, pupils, and staff in a bid to encourage safe and sustainable travel to and from school.
- 5.3. Additional items are available to support and promote School Travel Plan development. This includes a parental information flyer, pupil stickers and '5 STEPS to a School Travel Plan' school leaflet.
- 5.4. The Council's School Travel Plan work, including the 5 STEPS Award, was nominated, and won the Best Practice in Travel to School and Work Scheme category at the Scottish Transport Awards in October 2020.

6. School Travel Plan Initiatives

6.1. Walk to School Week 2020 (6 to 10 October 2020)

All schools in South Lanarkshire were encouraged to participate in Living Streets National Walk to School campaign. This aims to help children get more active over the five days and was held during October in 2020 rather than the usual month of May. The Living Streets website hosted a variety of resources that schools could use to help ensure that their Walk to School Week plans were a success.

6.2. Walk to School Week 2021 (17 to 21 May 2020)

Living Streets National Walk to School Week 2021 took place week commencing 17 May. All school and Junior Road Safety Officer Co-ordinators were informed and sent information and a link to resources on the Living Streets website. A communications pack was also sent to help them promote any plans for the week. The five-day challenge had a theme of 'Walking Superpowers' and was promoted on the Council's social media channels.

6.3. WOW – Walk on Wednesday or Walk Once a Week

The WOW scheme is usually offered to Primary 5 pupils, however, due to COVID-19 and the time and practical commitment to fulfil this initiative, this has been unable to be offered to schools during academic year 2020/2021. It is our intention to invite schools to participate in the new 2021/2022 academic year.

6.4. **Starting School**

The road safety leaflet titled 'Starting School' is usually provided for all primary schools prior to Primary 1 enrolment week held in January for onward distribution to parents/guardians and pupils. This booklet covers a variety of important points including stop, look and listen, safer crossing places, school gate parking, park and stride and has a fun activity poster inside.

- 6.5. Enrolment week 2021 took place electronically due to COVID-19. Booklets for Primary 1 pupils starting in August 2021 will therefore be provided to schools before the summer holidays in preparation for the new academic term. These booklets have been funded by Road Safety West of Scotland.

6.6. **Sustrans Cycle Parking Funding**

Sustrans Cycle and Scooter Parking Funding is available for all local authorities to apply for with a 50% match funding on offer. A successful bid was submitted during 2019 allowing additional infrastructure at three schools during the academic year 2019/2020: -

- ◆ Newfield Primary School and Nursery – 1 shelter, 8 cycle hoops, 20 scooter spaces
- ◆ Park View Primary School – 1 shelter, 5 cycle hoops and 10 scooter spaces
- ◆ St. John's Primary School, Blackwood – 1 shelter, 8 hoops and 20 scooter spaces

- 6.7. A further match funding bid was submitted to Sustrans for the 2020/2021 academic term. This was successful with funds providing additional storage and a shelter to complement existing cycle and scooter provision at the following establishments: -

- ◆ Cathkin Primary School and Nursery – 1 shelter, 5 cycle hoops and 10 scooter spaces
- ◆ Kirklandpark Primary School and Nursery – 1 shelter, 8 hoops and 20 scooter spaces
- ◆ Muiredge Primary School and Nursery – 1 shelter, 5 hoops and 10 scooter spaces

- 6.8. Schools are prioritised based on their School Travel Plan activity and potential to support and increase sustainable travel to and from school.

7. **Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey (HUSS)**

- 7.1. All nurseries and schools are invited to take part in the Annual Travel Survey – Hands Up Scotland Survey. This survey requires to be completed on any one day during the second week of September. The information gathered is entered via an on-line portal organised by Sustrans.

- 7.2. Sustrans, the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, uses the data to collate a report on school travel across Scotland for the Scottish Government. Following the passing of a Parliamentary Order on 1 June 2012, Hands Up Scotland Survey has been published as Official Statistic status in Scotland.

- 7.3. The Hands Up Scotland Survey (HUSS) Summary Survey 2019 shows that 508,169 schools and nursery children took part in this Scottish survey. This involved 3,109 schools and nurseries. This included 34,323 South Lanarkshire school and nursery children.

- 7.4. During 2019 South Lanarkshire had 65 nurseries, 101 Primaries, 15 Secondary and 2 SEN schools participating in the survey.
- 7.5. The 2019 figures were published on 18 June 2020 which contained the overall data for each local authority within Scotland. This showed the travel modes for all school types (excluding nursery) for South Lanarkshire being: -
- ◆ Walk = 37.6%
 - ◆ Cycle = 2.8%
 - ◆ Scooter/Skate = 1.9%
 - ◆ Park and Stride = 9.5%
 - ◆ Driven = 28.2%
 - ◆ Bus = 17.0%
 - ◆ Taxi = 2.5%
 - ◆ Other = 0.5%
- 7.6. There were 59.3% of children travelling to primary and secondary school by active or public transport during 2019 (excluding nursery). This is a decrease of 0.4% when compared to 2018 data which was 59.7%.
- 7.7. The National results for 2019 (all school pupil responses excluding nursery) children were: -
- ◆ Walk = 41%
 - ◆ Cycle = 4.1%
 - ◆ Scooter/Skate = 2.7%
 - ◆ Park and Stride = 10.2%
 - ◆ Driven = 23.8%
 - ◆ Bus = 16.0%
 - ◆ Taxi = 1.7%
 - ◆ Other = 0.6%
- 7.8. Nationally in 2019 and 2018 the percentage of children travelling to primary and secondary school by active transport during 2019 (excluding nursery) was 63.8% and 64.9%, showing a 1.1% decrease.
- 7.9. Detailed local authority level information is provided directly to Council's as an Excel spreadsheet for internal use. The HUSS data is used for inclusion within School Travel Plans, as evidence for Sustrans Bids and as a tool for schools to oversee travel modes.
- 7.10. The 2020 HUSS was communicated to all educational establishments and participation encouraged despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Preliminary response rates were understandably lower with 44 nurseries, 74 primaries, 9 secondary and 1 SEN school participating in the survey. Results are expected to be available around June 2021.
- 8. Sustrans Big Pedal (19 to 30 April 2021)**
- 8.1. Sustrans Big Pedal is the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge that inspires pupils, staff, and parents to be involved and take active journeys to school. Schools could choose to take part in a 5 day challenge or a 1 day challenge over the 2 week timescale.

- 8.2. Schools register on-line and compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils, staff and parents cycling, walking, scooting, or using a wheelchair to school. Pupils learning remotely were also able to take part by completing an activity or journey at home.
- 8.3. A school's best five days will determine their final position and schools at the top of their leader boards will receive a certificate. All schools that took part were entered into a daily prize draw if over 15% of their school took an active journey or complete an activity / journey at home.
- 8.4. Free resources were available for schools in the form of daily classroom activities, suitable for remote learning, a school account on the Big Pedal website, leader boards and top tips, presented in a fun and interactive manner.
- 8.5. Several primary schools took part in the Big Pedal challenge. Official results have yet to be confirmed, but provisionally, the leader board indicated St. John's Primary School in Blackwood was overall 5th place for the small school 5 day challenge and 2nd place in Scotland. In the large school 5 day challenge, Wester Overton Primary School in Strathaven was placed overall 11th and 3rd in Scotland.

9 Employee Implications

- 9.1. The School Travel Plan process involves working in partnership with schools, pupils, and parents. The School Travel Plan Co-ordinator offers initial and ongoing support and guidance to the school. This presently accounts for 60% of the officer's working time.

10 Financial Implications

- 10.1. Promotional items and engineering works are funded from a variety of sources such as the Roads Revenue budget and external partners such as Road Safety Scotland, Road Safety West of Scotland and Sustrans.

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 active and sustainable travel schemes and those which promote pedestrian skills 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 reliance 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.
- 13.2. Consultation information in relation to School Travel Plan is undertaken through parent, pupil, and staff questionnaires.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

3 June 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- Make communities safer, stronger, and sustainable.
- Protect vulnerable children, young people, and adults.
- Support our communities by tackling disadvantages and deprivation and supporting aspiration.
- Get it right for children and young people.
- Focused on people and their needs.

Previous References

Roads Safety Forum 8 August 2019

Roads Safety Forum 10 October 2018

List of Background Papers

None.

Contact for Further Information

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

Colin Smith, Engineering Officer, Roads and Transportation Services

Ext: 3757 (Tel: 01698 453757)

E-mail: colin.smith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk