

Report

Report to:	Roads Safety Forum
Date of Meeting:	13 June 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	School Travel Works / Initiatives
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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. School Travel Plan support is offered to all schools, whether it be their first School Travel Plan Development or undertaking a review of their current School Travel Plan.
- 3.2. The objective is to encourage more sustainable travel to and from school and towards contributing to a safer environment around the school. The whole school community can be involved, ranging from pupils, parents and staff to parent Council members and local groups. The Traffic and Transportation team work alongside the school to offer help, support and guidance throughout.
- 3.3. Ideas and campaigns are discussed with the school to encourage all car travellers to think about their journey and how they can be more sustainable, for example, walking, cycling and park and stride. This all helps in the creation of a safer environment around the school with less cars and reducing congestion and emissions. It is hoped through targeted campaigns and initiatives, more emphasis will contribute to a healthier, safer journey and encourage future sustainable reliance.
- 3.4. At an initial meeting with the school, the first progression takes place in the form of a consultation exercise through surveys for parents, pupils and staff. Surveys are used to raise awareness of the School Travel Plan process and used to establish travel modes to and from school. Questions included aim to capture future travel suggestions and exploration of campaigns, such as Walking Buses, Cycle Trains and Park and Stride, to ascertain support. Reports of the results are produced and discussed with the school, allowing targets and initiatives to be discussed and included in the School Travel Plan document. A certain selection of survey results can be included in the document, with the rest referred to in the Appendix Section.

- 3.5. On completion of their School Travel Plan, the school will receive a School Travel Plan Award, banner and School Travel Plan postcards. Ongoing monitoring and support will be extended with the active document. Any updates submitted into the plan with initiatives, targets and programme of implementation being revisited.
- 3.6. At present, there are 78 Schools who have complete their School Travel Plan, with a further 60 who have started the process.
- 3.7. All schools are inspired to engage in the School Travel Plan journey with regular communication throughout the year detailing contact details for the Traffic and Transportation team. The concept of a School Travel Plan Award has acknowledged the work and commitment of school's involved in the process. Award campaign materials include a school certificate, banner, information postcards and stickers are available for the school community. Continuing ongoing support and assistance is extended to all schools at every stage of their School Travel Plan, helping many schools to address issues with the document supporting future plans and an aid regarding provision of funding.
- 3.8. Colleagues from the Council's Health and Safety team have been conducting on site Traffic Management Audits and completing Traffic Management Plans for all educational establishments, thus resulting in an increase in enquiries and offers of assistance with School Travel Plan work.
- 3.9. Engineering opportunities can be designed to help improve the amenity around the school such as introducing additional guard rail, signage and road markings. Recently, a focus on speed awareness has seen a significant number of schools benefiting from new carriageway road markings, supporting their existing part-time mandatory 20mph speed limits. Installation of physical works is dependent on the availability and prioritisation of suitable funding.
- 3.10. A wide selection of campaign materials is available to support schools with School Travel Plan actions in the form of printed leaflets/booklets and posters, social media packs, banners, signs and on-site visits with a portable Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS).
- 3.11. Provided below are some positive examples of School Travel Plan/Road Safety contributions over the last year. These works raise awareness of road safety/ active travel matters within their school community:-
 - ◆ Carnwath Primary School (Clydesdale)
The school have been the latest recipient of School Travel Plan Award certificate and banner on completion of their review. The Junior Road Safety Officers have been working towards planning a road safety awareness day during walk to school week and will be working towards implementing the actions from their review, which include a focus on parking and the speed of traffic.
 - ◆ Mossneuk Primary School (East Kilbride)
Their Junior Road Safety Officer team have held monthly meetings to discuss their plans and ideas resulting in a 'Parking Pledge', road safety poster design competitions, questionnaires for their School Travel Plan review and visits with a mobile Speed Vehicle Activated Sign. The JRSO team have been actively promoting and participating in the 'WOW Living Streets' Travel Tracker and Living Streets Walk to School Week 2023.

- ◆ **St. John's Primary School (Blackwood)**
The school organised a Health and Wellbeing week in February which included road safety activities. They borrowed road safety games, distributed road safety work booklets and promotional items. A visit was also made with the mobile Vehicle Activated Sign to conduct and monitor speed surveys on Carlisle Road. The school's efforts in this year's Sustrans annual 'Big Walk and Wheel' challenge were great and they achieved well within the leader board for the 'small school' category. They have been working on their first School Travel Plan and have great ideas for cycle plans within the school.
- ◆ **Woodside Primary School (Hamilton)**
The school has completed their first School Travel Plan with a focus commencing on safe parking. A selection of items supplied to the school included Little Parking Buddies signs to be placed at the areas near the school gates. A 'Kids and Cars Don't Mix' banner was also placed along the frontage to discourage drivers from stopping or parking near the school entrances as well as the distribution of a leaflet, encouraging those who have to bring the car to park and stride. A review of carriageway lining and signing was also undertaken with some alterations and additions being progressed.
- ◆ **Netherburn Primary School**
Work on their School Travel Plan Review has been undertaken with the school focusing on speed awareness. Their Junior Road Safety Officer team delivered an excellent presentation at their school assembly with a visit from the 'Speeding Ted' mascot also taking place. After the Easter holidays, a visit with the mobile Vehicle Activated Sign was organised to help reinforce the message of travelling at a speed near the school.
- ◆ **Woodhill Nursery (Kirkmuirhill) and Avondale Early Learning Centre (Strathaven)**
Both establishments have been delivering road safety utilising 'Go Safe with Ziggy!' materials. The Ziggy mascot visited both establishments and a selection of Ziggy promotional items, including ponchos, bookmarks, stickers and Ziggy teddies were given to both nurseries raising awareness of road safety within the pupils and parent communities.
- ◆ **Braehead Primary School**
This village school has been completing their School Travel Plan questionnaires to assist them to review their School Travel Plan. A speed and traffic survey was conducted along Carnwath Road, with two visits conducted to gain speeds and vehicle types in both directions. The school's Junior Road Safety Officers and senior pupils joined Traffic and Transportation Section officers to monitor speeds of vehicles passing by and discover the different modes of transport passing the school. Both visits were valuable to help reinforce the message of driving at a slow speed when travelling by the school. Due to the location of the school, many pupils travel to and from school via school bus. 'Be Safe Bus Safe' booklets were provided for these pupils to remind them how to keep safe.

4. Road Safety Through Curriculum for Excellence/Local Initiatives

- 4.1. A "whole life" style targeted towards road safety education with initiatives aimed at all ages and types of road users is adopted by the Council. By introducing, educating and training young people and children at the earliest opportunity, establishes good habits which can be fostered.
- 4.2. Road Safety within Curriculum for Excellence 2022/2023 publication produced by Road Safety Scotland, comprises of a variety of road safety for all ages groups. The

aims are to engage young people in a number of activities that address risk taking, decision making and peer pressure. Encourages self-reflection regarding own behaviour in a road environment. The document can be viewed at www.roadsafety.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Curriculum-for-excellence-2022-23.pdf

- 4.3. 'Be Safe, Bus Safe' is a fun activity book containing important safety information of keeping safe on the bus. Aimed at primary school aged pupils, the booklets contain safety points regarding waiting and boarding the bus. Behaviour whilst on the bus is included to remind pupils to put their seatbelt on, sit in their seat for the length of the journey, not to distract the driver and to think about journey planning. A variety of fun activity puzzles are included for pupils for completion.

5. Cycle Friendly School Fund – Cycling Scotland

- 5.1. Cycle and scooter parking/cycle shelters requests can be included as an action in a School Travel Plan. Cycling Scotland's Cycle Friendly School Fund is available on a yearly basis which provides an opportunity to complete a bid on behalf of schools, when possible.
- 5.2. Following agreement between Transport Scotland, Cycling Scotland and Sustrans Scotland, from 2022/2023, local authorities and schools were eligible to apply directly to Cycling Scotland's 2022/2023 Cycling Friendly School Fund. Sustrans Scotland was previously responsible and will no longer operate the School Cycle and Scooter Parking as of the end of March 2022. The fund is designed to benefit either single or multiple schools and offers flexible criteria for local authorities who wish to improve cycle/scooter parking and storage facilities.
- 5.3. Cycling Friendly programme Cycling Scotland offers a programme of support, including funding from Transport Scotland, to help workplaces, schools, campuses, and communities across Scotland be cycling friendly and attain nationally accredited awards. The Cycling Friendly development funds provide grants for projects that improve cycling facilities and encourage travel by bike in their respective settings.
- 5.4. Registration can be completed on-line for Cycle Friendly Award and the individual programmes including Cycle Friendly Employer, Cycle Friendly Community, Cycle Friendly Campus, Cycle Friendly School and Social Housing Partnership Fund.
- 5.5. During year 2022/2023, the Traffic and Transportation Section submitted bids through the Cycling Friendly and Social Housing development grant on behalf of five schools. The fund supports the enhancement or improvement of facilities (existing and new) to enable more people to cycle or scoot. Applications were submitted on 23 May 2022, and we were notified on 4 July 2022 that all bids had been successful. Cycling Scotland allocated all funds resulting in no match funding being required.
- 5.6. The grant funding allowed the following work at these locations:-
- ◆ Cairns Primary School and Nursery – full reglaze of existing shelters and installation of scooter storage rack within current shelter infrastructure.
 - ◆ Craighbank Primary School – a shelter with cycle hoops and scooter parking.
 - ◆ Douglas Primary School and Nursery – installation of shelter and cycle and scooter parking.
 - ◆ Lesmahagow High School – 2 shelters with cycle hoops.
 - ◆ Rigside Primary School and Nursery – installation of shelter and cycle hoops.

- 5.7. Installations were completed in November and December 2022 and an interim report has been completed for each school for Cycling Scotland in February 2023.
- 5.8. Future funding opportunity for 2023/2024 has now opened and an initial expression of interest has been made. More information about Cycle Friendly School projects can be found on the Cycling Scotland website, at:-
www.cycling.scot/what-we-do/cycling-friendly/school

6. National Walk to School Week, Living Streets – 15 to 19 May 2023

- 6.1. Living Streets National Walk to School Week took place 15 to 19 May 2023 with a 5-day walking, fun, engaging, challenge in celebration of the walk to school.
- 6.2. Living Streets were able to offer support to schools in the form of Walk to School Week packs. These were offered, free of charge, to South Lanarkshire Council Junior Road Safety Officer schools with the week-long activity being built to make pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. 58 Schools accepted this offer with 242 P1 to P3 and 270 P4 to P7 free packs being claimed. Each Walk to School Week Pack contained teacher guidance, one double-sided classroom wallchart/pledge poster, daily stickers for pupils and wallchart, 30 pupil activity diaries and 30 end of week pupil rewards.
- 6.3. 'Walk with Wildlife' was this year's challenge encouraging children to travel actively to school every day of the week. Pupils who walked, wheeled, cycled and scoot to school every day of the week earned stickers, with a special reward being up for collection at the end of the week. Meeting various animals along the way, they learned about the important reasons to walk and the difference it can make for individuals, communities, and the planet.
- 6.4. A different topic was given for each day during Walk to School Week with pupils being encouraged to 'Get ready to walk for' – inclusion, sustainability, health and friendship.
- 6.5. Through this Walk to Week challenge, pupils will be on their way to accomplishing their goal of a recommended 60 minutes minimum of physical activity per day, before they even reach the school gates.
- 6.6. Walk to School Week is an inclusive week and everyone can get involved. Parents are encouraged to support parking a little way from the school, thus contributing to a reduction in congestion and air pollution at the school gates whilst improving road safety. More information about National Walk to School Week can be found on the Living Streets website, at:-
www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/walk-to-school-week

7 WOW Travel Tracker Living Streets

- 7.1. Living Streets Travel Tracker is a comprehensive system to acquire insights into school travel habits through recording modes of travel through the on-line platform.
- 7.2. It can be set up and used on classroom interactive whiteboards, computers/iPads meaning it is easily accessible for the daily input of data. Pupils can select and submit their travel mode to school and at the end of each month, pupils who have walked, wheeled, cycled, scoot or park and stride a minimum of once a week for that month, are rewarded with a WOW badge.
- 7.3. Pupils with additional support needs and disabilities are included by travel by wheelchair or mobility scooter. On the Travel Tracker, users select the 'Walk/Wheel'

icon which includes pupils walking with the use of mobility aids, including wheelchairs or wheeled walkers.

- 7.4. Living Streets WOW Travel Tracker has been offered to approx. 18 schools in South Lanarkshire Council with continued support from Living Streets School's Co-ordinator being available. More information about the Travel Tracker can be found on Living Streets website, at:-

www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/wow-travel-tracker

- 7.5. Continued partnership working is an important factor in taking steps to sharing, educating and conveying the message of safe and sustainable journeys. Linked work has continued with colleagues in Environmental Services to assist with Engine Idling and Air Quality matters. Funding was also obtained, in the sum of £10,000 through their Air Quality Fund, allowing us to offer the Living Streets WOW Travel Tracker and project support to a select number of schools.

- 7.6. Ongoing liaison will continue with Living Streets regarding their walking campaigns.

8. Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2023

- 8.1. Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel took place between 20 to 31 March 2023 with 2,666,937 live journeys being counted. Overall United Kingdom wide, 2,722 school registered with 918,149 pupils taking part. South Lanarkshire Council had 34 schools sign up, inspiring pupils to make active journeys to school.

- 8.2. This is the UK's largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge with school's registering their participation on-line. Available to all schools across the United Kingdom, once registered, schools can record and monitor their journeys throughout and see their status on the daily school leader boards.

- 8.3. This is a fantastic opportunity for schools to relay the active travel theme, focus on sustainable travel, contributing to a clearer air environment around the school and pupils being more alert. The challenge is free of charge with a catalogue of resources in a fun, flexible and interactive Curriculum linked lesson plans.

- 8.4. Throughout the challenge an array of prizes are up for grabs with schools who have a participation rate of over 15%. During the challenge, the website displays the overall categories leader boards showing the status of participating schools for small primary school (1 to 250 pupils), large primary school (250+ pupils) and for secondary schools.

- 8.5. The leader boards display progress and tracks all journeys with the top 5 positions of the national leader boards board receiving a Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel frames certificate.

- 8.6. South Lanarkshire Schools St. John's Primary School (Blackwood) and Wester Overton Primary School (Strathaven) placed well nationally and Scotland specific leader boards are currently being finalised. Further details can be found at: www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk.

9. Employee Implications

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

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1. Item 7.5 'WOW Travel Tracker' was funded by an Air Quality Grant of £10,000. Item 5.6 'cycle and scooter parking and shelters' was funded by a grant of £38,395 from

Cycling Scotland. Other general items within this report were funded from the Council's revenue budget.

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 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.

David Booth

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

25 May 2023

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, Parking/ Road Safety at Schools - 1 November 2022
- ◆ Roads Safety Forum, School Travel Plans - 22 June 2021

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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