

# Report

Report to:	<b>Roads Safety Forum</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>31 January 2023</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Education, Training and Publicity Initiatives</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide some examples of ongoing education, training and publicity initiatives in 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 future road safety education, training and publicity activity in South Lanarkshire be supported.

## 3. Background

3.1. Junior Road Safety Officer Scheme (JRSO)

3.1.1. Annually, all South Lanarkshire primary schools are given the opportunity to participate and appoint Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO's), with JRSO's being selected from Primary 6 or Primary 7 stage. A total of 108 schools are taking part in the JRSO scheme during 2022/2023.

3.1.2. JRSO's are vital in our school network for the whole school community to establish road safety promotion, including local and national campaigns and peer learning. The role of a JRSO links to the Curriculum for Excellence and includes speaking at school assemblies, running competitions, having a notice board and changing this to reflect different seasons and messages.

3.1.3. A JRSO Open Day was held at Chatelherault Country Park on 13 September 2021. From the 108 schools, 68 were able to join our Open Day and resulted in 164 Junior Road Safety Officers and 72 JRSO Co-ordinators in attendance.

3.1.4. The Open day was a 'drop in' event between 9.30am and 2.30pm. On arrival to the registration desk, the JRSO's received a JRSO organiser, with badge and pen as well as a JRSO Lanyard and name badge. Various stations were set up within Chatelherault Park rooms including a Selfie Station, Road Crossing Quiz, Bikeability, Brake Reaction Timers, Smoothie Bike, School Travel Plan and Go Safe with Ziggy mascot and information. Many more campaigns, seasonal information, initiative posters, leaflets and resources were available for collection. In the car park area, Police Scotland attended with a vintage police car and colleagues from the Safety Camera Partnership brought along their safety camera enforcement vehicle. Logistics company Gist attended with an HGV to discuss the dangers of such vehicle types with

JRSO's. Traffic and Transportation Section staff were involved in the delivery of activities and to assist throughout the day. The JRSO Open Day was a great success and found beneficial to those that attended.

3.1.5. Throughout the year, seasonal road safety information, activities and campaign information will be sent to assist the JRSO with their plans.

### 3.2. Calendar Competition

3.2.1. All schools are invited on an annual basis to participate within the road safety calendar competition. Competition guidelines featuring topics for each of the 5 age group categories and competition details are sent to all schools with teachers asked to send in the best 5 entries within each year group category from their school.

3.2.2. Topics for 2022 were:- 'safe crossings and people who help us' for Primary 1 and 2, 'safety when walking, cycling, scooting or wheeling for Primary 3 and 4, 'dangers of crossing near parked cars' for Primary 5 and 6, 'safety at school entrances' for Primary 7 and 'pedestrian or driver/rider distractions' for S1 to S6 pupils.

3.2.3. The closing date for submissions was 23 September 2022 and 3,133 entries from 100 schools were received by South Lanarkshire Council's Traffic and Transportation Section. The top 5 entries in each category were thereafter finalised and judged to determine the overall winner and group winners.

3.2.4. "Cross where you can be seen, not in between", created by Christopher Agnew from St. Mary's Primary School in Hamilton, was the winning design. This entry features a drawing to illustrate the dangers of crossing in between parked cars, demonstrating a pedestrian standing in between parked cars, indecisive as to whether to cross or not. He receives £100 prize money and an individual trophy, with the school being the recipient of the Road Safety Calendar School Trophy for the year ahead.

3.2.5. Guidelines for the 2023 competition will be issued to all schools during May 2023.

### 3.3. Park Safe

3.3.1 'Park Safe' is the focus of a new leaflet design by the Traffic and Transportation Section which focuses on these main points:-

- ◆ School entrance and School Keep Clear markings
- ◆ Safe Speeds
- ◆ Plan your journey – look for safe places to cross the road, the Green Cross Code
- ◆ Pavement parking
- ◆ Disabled space parking
- ◆ Plan your journey – Walk, wheel, cycle or scoot to school where possible.

3.3.2. Inconsiderate and dangerous parking and driving experiences are reported on a regular basis to both the Council and Police Scotland, in particularly at schools or within school car park areas. This leaflet aims to inform drivers of the risk and explanations of why certain driving practices are unsafe. A section containing graphics to illustrate the Green Cross Code has also been included to educate and encourage more to walk to school when possible. A large focus relating to school journey travel is on sustainable travel and our contributions to climate change and road safety, asking those who can, to walk, wheel or scoot when possible. This has been an important theme during the pandemic and one we continue to focus upon.

3.3.3. As well as the leaflet, social media images and banners are available to schools for support of the park safe message. Schools can promote the park safe images on their social media platforms and school newsletters with waterproof external banners also being provided where appropriate. These materials have been given to many schools for distribution to help assist with their safe parking messaging to the school community. Information is also available on the council website at the following link :- <https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/parksafe>.

#### 3.4. 'Parking Buddies' signs

3.4.1. The Traffic and Transportation Section have a number of 'Parking Buddies' which are cut-out child shaped portable signs made of a reflective, light weight metal material which are fixed into a weighted base. These featuring a road safety message displayed on a lollipop style sign which the child is holding. These are an effective and friendly way to help remind motorists to be considerate when driving past, picking up or dropping off outside the school gate.

3.4.2. The signs are available for schools to borrow for a fixed period of time for positioning within the school vicinity. Messages displayed on the signs include 'Watch out, Kids About', 'Please park away from our school', 'Think 20mph' and 'Slow down'. 'Car Free Zone' signs were also purchased to support this initiative at our two Car Free Zone Schools. The signs have proved popular with the schools in promoting road safety messages with some schools thereafter purchasing their own.

#### 3.5. Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel

3.5.1. Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is the UK's largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school to improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world. This took place between 21 March and 1 April 2022.

3.5.2. This involved schools completing the on-line registration process which is available to all schools in the United Kingdom. Upon registration completion, schools use their login to access to record their journeys on each day of the challenge and can view how well their school is doing by following the school category leader boards. This was a great opportunity for schools to get involved with the theme of travelling actively and sustainably as well as contributing to clearer air around the school environment.

3.5.3. Sustrans have a variety of fun, flexible and informative interactive school resources, detailing how small changes can make a huge difference. Schools can access these free resources including curriculum linked lesson plans, top tips and school assembly presentations. In addition, there are fantastic prizes on offer with all schools being entered into daily prize draws if they have participatory of over 15% by walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling on each day of the challenge. Prizes include accessories and equipment to help sustainable journeys.

3.5.4. The challenge has 3 overall categories: small primary school (1 to 250 pupils), large primary school (250+ pupils) and secondary schools. The leader boards display progress and track of all journeys with the top 5 schools on each board received an exclusive framed Big Walk and Wheel 2022 certificate. In 2022, 2,400 schools registered to take part, 494,605 pupils participated and an amazing 2,096,336 active journeys to school logged.

3.5.5. Two South Lanarkshire schools won their categories in the national Big Walk and Wheel Challenge 2022. Wester Overton Primary School in Strathaven won in the 'large primary school' category, finishing in first place for Scotland and 16th place nationally. St. John's Primary School (Blackwood) won in the 'small primary school' category (tie at first place for Scotland with 2 other schools, same position nationally). Both schools have previously contributed and engaged the challenge and at Wester Overton the reduction in traffic was noted, with over 95% of pupils choose to walk, scoot or cycle to school.

3.5.6. Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel Challenge for 2023 is scheduled for 20 to 31 March 2023 and will be promoted by the Traffic and Transportation Section to all schools. Further information can be found at <https://bigwalkandwheel.org.uk>.

### 3.6. Sustrans Annual Travel Survey

3.6.1. The Sustrans Annual 'Hands Up' Travel Survey takes place during the second week of September each year. All schools and nurseries have the opportunity to take part in the survey. Pupils are asked the question 'How do you normally travel to school' which can be completed on any one day during this week. Options are read out and pupils select their answer by raising their hand. Pupils can choose from the following options – Walk, Cycle, Scooter/Skate, Park and Stride (driven most of the way and then walked the rest), Driven, Bus, Taxi and Other. 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. Up Scotland Survey has been published as Official Statistic status in Scotland since 2012.

3.6.2. All educational establishments receive a survey to record the results and have the option to submit their data on-line or return their survey form to the Traffic and Transportation Section. The Sustrans on-line portal has a system in place to send automated survey week information, e-mail reminders and an e-mail to remind the school to take part by inputting their data.

3.6.3. In 2021, the National Summary Survey for the Hands Up Scotland Survey showed participation of 455,218 school and nursery children from 3,153 schools and nurseries. This included 24,759 South Lanarkshire school and nursery children. The 2021 survey had 75 nurseries, 84 Primary schools, 11 Secondary and 2 SEN South Lanarkshire schools taking part.

3.6.4. The 2021 National Hands Up Survey results were available on 26 May 2022 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 = 40.4%
- ◆ Cycle = 2.9%
- ◆ Scooter/Skate = 2.3%
- ◆ Park and Stride = 11.5%
- ◆ Driven = 26.9%
- ◆ Bus = 13.4%
- ◆ Taxi = 2.1%
- ◆ Other = 0.5%

Travelling to primary and secondary school by active or public transport by pupils (excluding nursery pupils) was recorded at 59%. This figure is a slight decrease of 0.8% when compared to the 2020 data which was 59.8% (39.4% walked, 2.8% cycled, 1.9% by scooter/skate and 15.7% by bus).

3.6.5. National Results for 2021 for all school pupil responses, excluding nursery pupils, were detailed as follows:-

- ◆ Walk = 43.6%
- ◆ Cycle = 4.0%
- ◆ Scooter/Skate = 2.7%
- ◆ Park and Stride = 9.9%
- ◆ Driven = 23.2%
- ◆ Bus = 14.5%
- ◆ Taxi = 1.5%
- ◆ Other = 0.6%

For travel nationally, the percentage of children travelling to primary and secondary school by active travel (excluding nursery pupils) in 2021 was 64.8% (43.6% walked, 4% cycled, 2.7% by scooter/skate and 14.5% by bus) and in 2020 was 65.3%, showing a 0.5% decrease.

3.6.6. The Council receive a detailed local authority level information each year, provided as an Excel spreadsheet for internal use. This data assists with School Travel Plan development and review work, funding bids and as tool for schools to monitor travel modes each year and compare previous years data.

3.6.7. During the week commencing 12 September 2022, all schools and nurseries were asked to complete the Sustrans Annual Hands Up Survey. The preliminary results for 2022 will be available early in 2023 with finalised data published around May 2023. Further information can be found at <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/uk-wide/scotland/hands-up-scotland-survey>.

### 3.7. Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (V.A.S)

3.7.1. The Traffic and Transportation Section have available a mobile Vehicle Activated Sign to assist with speed awareness visits. The portable sign is fixed onto a tripod and can be located at the side of the road to detect the speed of oncoming traffic (one direction only). It can measure the speed of approaching vehicles and show this alongside the text 'Your Speed' on the front of the sign. The sign also has the capability of allowing a variety of messages to be displayed to drivers including text and a happy or sad face. The aim of this is to inform drivers of their speed and can be a useful tool to slow down traffic by alerting drivers with responsive information.

3.7.2. One of the first schools to receive a visit with this sign was Kirkfieldbank Primary School. The Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) Team monitored the speed of vehicles travelling past their school on Riverside Road with the JRSO team having a high presence wearing their high visibility jackets. Various vehicle types were seen passing the school in both directions with variable compliance observed. Local press coverage of the visit was achieved which heightened the 'slow down at schools' message even further.

### 3.8. Roadstars

3.8.1. Roadstars is the latest creation from Road Safety Scotland which features characters and interactive road safety missions. The missions aim to help young people learn about road safety and to practise staying safe around roads. Resources are available for Early Level and include a 'Roadstars Code' song, 'Help us be seen' and 'Name that Crossing'. The resource, in particularly the Roadstars Code song, was promoted at the Junior Road Safety Officer Day.

3.8.2. Roadstars is one area of learning on the Road Safety Scotland learning website which features content for all areas of the 3 to 18yrs curriculum. The website content continues to be promoted to all schools and can be accessed via the following link:- <https://roadsafety.scot/children-and-educators>.

### 3.9. Education Mini COP Event (COS1)

3.9.1. From 11 to 13 October 2022, Hamilton Palace Grounds was the venue for the first Conference in Schools (COS-1) event which focused on Climate Change and Sustainability. The event, over the 3 days, saw more than 500 primary aged children in attendance. The event was organised by Education Resources in partnership with secondary school pupils and many colleagues and organisations. Various sessions included clothing, compost, cycling, virtual reality (VR) headsets, smoothie bike, Active Schools and air quality.

3.9.2. Traffic and Transportation Section staff provided a supply of cycle helmets and bikes, in various sizes, for use during the event. Staff were in attendance and worked alongside other Council colleagues and secondary school pupils to deliver a cycling session. Pupils were allocated into small groups and cycled a route around the Palace Grounds. This activity created interest in Bikeability cycle training and generated discussion regarding sustainable modes of travel and the importance of cycle helmet wearing and high visibility clothing. At the close of the event school attendees were asked to commit to a set of pledges and to raise awareness across the rest of the school.

## 4. **Employee Implications**

4.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

## 5. **Financial Implications**

5.1. Items associated with this report were funded from the Council's Revenue Budget.

## 6. **Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

6.1. 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.

## 7. **Other Implications**

7.1. There are no significant risks associated with this report.

## 8. **Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

8.1. 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)**

5 January 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 - 30 November 2021
- ◆ Roads Safety Forum - 17 November 2020

## **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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