

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Road Safety Forum</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>24 November 2010</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>School Travel Plan Co-ordinator Initiatives</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Advise the Forum of the initiatives being progressed by the School Travel Plan Co-ordinators within South Lanarkshire.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the contents of the report are noted.

## 3. Background

### 3.1. School Travel Plans

The School Travel Plan Co-ordinators have now contacted all Primary, Secondary and Additional Support Needs schools to raise awareness of School Travel Plans, the advantages to children and the support and help that the Co-ordinators can offer. To date, 44 School Travel Plans have been completed, 61 schools are actively working on a School Travel Plan and 46 are currently not progressing.

### 3.2. Speed Activated Display

The School Travel Plan Co-ordinators have been using their mobile Speed Indication Display Sign at schools throughout South Lanarkshire. The sign advises drivers of the speed at which they are travelling and features a “smiley face” for drivers complying with the speed limit and a “sad face” for those who do not.

The schools visited with the Speed Indication Display Sign last school term include Castlefield Primary, Coalburn Primary, Mount Cameron Primary, St. Patrick’s Primary and Wester Overton Primary.

### 3.3. International Walk to School Month

To promote International Walk to School Month 2010 in October, posters were distributed to all nurseries, primary schools, libraries, sports centres and South Lanarkshire Council notice boards. Secondary Schools received “Leave Green Footprints, Not Carbon Footprints” posters which were designed by a secondary school pupil.

### 3.4. Walk to School Week 2010 – “Walk your way with Strider”

Walk to School Week 2010 was a huge success throughout South Lanarkshire. This year Walk to School Week took place between 17 – 21 of May with the theme being “Walk your way with Strider”.

Many events took place during Walk to School Week including an exciting week of activities at Kirklandpark Primary School in Strathaven. At Kirklandpark Primary all pupils made an excellent effort to walk during the week and one pupil walked 7 miles each day of Walk to School Week.

Hareleeshill Primary School in Larkhall combined Walk to School Week with their Health and Eco Week. A walking competition was organised with pupils, parents, carers and staff walking laps around the school with the target total of 603 laps, the same distance from John O'Groats to Land's End in a straight line (603 miles). A total of 3443 laps were completed during the week.

St. Elizabeth's Primary School in Hamilton held their end of term Health Day event. The children learned about road safety by playing the Road Safety Game and they visited the Eddlewood Training Academy. On route to the Training Academy, the pupils learned about crossing the road safely and discussed different types of traffic, road signs and road markings.

At Chatelherault Primary School a whole school walk was organised. The children enjoyed a healthy, mile long walk during which they observed many road signs with the Junior Road Safety Officers encouraging pupils to walk to school safely.

### 3.5. **Walk on Wednesday or Walk Once a Week (WOW)**

In 2009/2010, the WOW scheme was offered to all Primary 5 children, a stage when many children are beginning to become independent travellers. A WOW diary was designed for pupils to record their mode of travel for the school journey. Sixty primary schools registered and participated in WOW during 2009/2010.

Schools contact the Road Safety Team four times a year and inform them of how many children have been frequently walking to school, for rewards to be issued to these pupils.

In the 2010/2011 term the scheme is continuing to be popular with sixty-four schools registered and taking part in the WOW scheme.

### 3.6. **Cycle Friendly School Award**

The Cycle Friendly Schools Award aims to help primary schools assess how cycle friendly they are and provide practical advice and information on how to make improvements that will ultimately provide the opportunity for more children to make an active school journey.

The implementation of cycle friendly measures can be part of School Travel Plan development and contribute to the achievement of Health Promoting School status and Eco Schools accreditation.

The following schools have recently achieved Cycle Friendly School Award status – Blacklaw Primary, Halfmerke Primary, St. Blane's Primary, St. Mary's Primary (Lanark) and Tinto Primary.

### 3.7. **Park Smart**

The Park Smart Campaign highlights that stopping on the road inappropriately outside schools is selfish, irresponsible and dangerous for children. It encourages drivers to think about where they are parking and consider pedestrians and other road users. We are frequently informed of parents' double parking, parking on zig-zags, blocking the school entrance and blocking neighbouring residents' driveways and access. It is hoped that the Park Smart Campaign will continue to raise awareness of the dangers and encourage people to park safely and walk with children the remaining distance to the school gates. The campaign also stresses the fact that road traffic congestion at the school entrance could delay emergency services gaining access.

Many schools in South Lanarkshire have the Park Smart campaign in operation and use the Park Smart resources of banners, posters and leaflets.

Schools who have received Park Smart visits from the School Travel Plan Co-ordinators this term include – Coalburn Primary, Glenlee Primary, Mount Cameron Primary, St. Patrick's Primary and Townhill Primary School.

### 3.9. **Uddingston Grammar Active Travel Group**

In summer 2009 the School Travel Plan Co-ordinators were approached by Sustrans to support a project at Uddingston Grammar School. Initially, the school completed the School Travel Plan Questionnaires to gain travel mode information. From the surveys, many problems were identified which discouraged pupils from walking and cycling to school. Sustrans has been working with the School Travel Plan Co-ordinators to help encourage more walking and cycling to school. Walking routes have been improved and Sustrans have installed a cycle shelter, supplied bikes for the school as well as providing training for the teachers, so they can include cycling in the curriculum. The School Travel Plan Co-ordinators held a workshop with the Active Steering Group which consists of eleven pupils and two teachers. Within the group the pupils have been given roles and are going to be writing their School Travel Plan, organising Bike to School Days, cycle maintenance workshops and encouraging more sustainable travel. A review will be completed in September 2011 when the pupils, parents and staff will complete the School Travel Plan Questionnaires.

## 4. **Employee Implications**

4.1. None.

## 5. **Financial Implications**

5.1. International Walk to School Resources - Posters £130.00 – funded by walking, cycling and safer streets budget.

5.2. Walk to School Week Resources £630.00 – funding from walking, cycling and safer streets budget.

WOW diaries £604.67 – funding from walking, cycling and safer streets budget

Safe Start Leaflets £182 – funded by road safety revenue budget

WOW Photo call £100.00 – funded by walking, cycling and safer streets budget

## 6. **Other Implications**

6.1. There are no risks associated with this paper.

6.2. All School Travel Plan initiatives contained in this report support sustainable and active travel.

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

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. Consultation with pupils to ascertain travel modes was undertaken at Uddingston Grammar School by the completion of School Travel Plan questionnaires.

**Colin McDowall**

**Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)**

8 November 2010

### **Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values**

- Improve community safety
- Improve health and increase physical activity
- Improves lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults
- Sustainable development
- People focused

### **Previous References**

- Road Safety Forum 2 September 2009

### **List of Background Papers**

None.

### **Contact for Further Information**

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

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