

Report

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Report to:	Roads Safety Forum
Date of Meeting:	29 June 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	School Travel Plan Co-ordinator Initiatives
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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 Council's School Travel Plan Co-ordinators.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Forum notes the content of the report and continues to support the role of the School Travel Plan Co-ordinators.

3. Background

3.1. School Travel Plans

The School Travel Plan Co-ordinators have now contacted all Primary, Secondary and Additional Support Needs (ASN) schools to raise awareness of School Travel Plans, their advantages to children and the support and help that the Co-ordinators can offer. To date, 48 School Travel Plans have been completed, 59 schools are actively working on a School Travel Plan and 44 are currently not progressing. One of the schools which recently completed a Travel Plan, in March 2011, was Uddingston Grammar. This excellent Travel Plan involved the Forestry Commission, Sustrans, South Lanarkshire Council and staff and pupils from the schools working together. Extensive research was carried out into current travel modes and what would encourage people to choose a more sustainable method of transport. Further surveys are due to be conducted in September 2011 to evaluate the success of any initiatives, campaigns and measures.

3.2. Speed Activated Display

3.2.1 The School Travel Plan Co-ordinators have been using the 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.

3.2.2 The schools visited with the Speed Indication Display Sign last school term include Coalburn Primary and Kirklandpark Primary.

3.3. **Walk to School Week 2011 (16 to 20 May) – “Walk Smart with Strider”**

3.3.1 Walk to School Week 2011 was a huge success throughout South Lanarkshire. This year there was a 50% increase in walk to school activities reported throughout South Lanarkshire.

3.3.2 Two photo calls were organised, one prior to Walk to School Week at Rigside Primary School and one during the week, at Chapelton Primary School.

3.3.3 All Nurseries, Secondaries, ASN's and Private Schools received Walk to School Week posters and Primary Schools received posters, wall charts, wall chart stickers and parent leaflets. Posters were also sent to sports centres and displayed on South Lanarkshire Council notice boards.

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

3.4.1 In 2010/2011, the WOW scheme was offered to all Primary 5 children, a stage when children are beginning to become independent travellers. A WOW diary was designed for pupils to record their mode of travel for the school journey. 64 primary schools registered and participated in WOW during 2010/2011.

3.4.2 Schools contact the Road Safety Team four times a year and inform them of the number of children who have been frequently walking to school, for rewards to be issued to these pupils. In 2009, the number of schools participating in WOW was 60 and the number of pupils 1796. In 2010, the number of participating schools rose to 64 with 2087 participants.

3.4.3 In the 2011/2012 term, the scheme is continuing and all primary schools have been invited to participate for the new school term.

3.5. **Cycle Friendly School Award**

3.5.1 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.

3.5.2 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.

3.5.3 The process towards gaining the Cycle Friendly School Award starts by completing a Self Assessment Form. Once this Form has been completed, a School Travel Plan Co-ordinator contacts the school to arrange a meeting to discuss. If the school meets all the criteria it will gain Cycle Friendly School Award status. If the school is unsuccessful, it will receive recommendations to help the school work towards the Cycle Friendly School Award in the future.

3.5.4 There are currently six schools that have Cycle Friendly School Award Status. They are Blacklaw, Halfmerke, Kirklandpark, St. Blane's, St. Mary's (Lanark) and Tinto Primary School.

3.6. **Annual Travel Survey**

3.6.1 The national survey is a partnership project funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by Sustrans and School Travel Co-ordinators across all of Scotland's Local Authorities. Last year, more than 415,000 children (approximately 59 per cent of all

pupils in Scotland) took part in the survey, providing up-to-date information on how school children in Scotland travel on the school journey.

3.6.2 Annual Travel Survey Week took place between 13–17 September 2010 when all schools were asked to complete the survey one day during the week. Sustrans had designed A4 posters to promote Travel Survey Week and these posters were e-mailed to establishments. Pupils were asked how they travelled to school and this was recorded on the survey which was then returned to the School Travel Plan Co-ordinator. The surveys were inputted into a spreadsheet for each school and this information was sent to Sustrans.

3.6.3 For South Lanarkshire Council, the Primary school results are as follows: – Walk - 46%, Cycle - 2%, Scooter/Skate - 0%, Park and Stride – 11%, Driven – 32%, Bus – 7% and Taxi – 2%. In 2009, these figures were Walk - 45%, Cycle - 1%, Scooter/Skate – 0%, Park and Stride – 9% Driven – 32%, Bus 9% and Taxi 2%. Secondary school results are as follows: – Walk – 43%, Cycle – 0%, Scooter/Skate – 0%, Park and Stride – 7%, Driven – 15%, Bus 32% and Taxi – 2%. In 2009 these figures were Walk – 41%, Cycle – 0%, Scooter/Skate – 0%, Park and Stride – 9% Driven – 14%, Bus – 33% and Taxi – 1% respectively. Sustrans have issued a full report with the National Annual Travel Survey Information. The number of children walking to primary school is decreasing both locally and nationally.

4. Employee Implications

4.1. None.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. Cost of International Walk to School Resources - Posters £130.00 Funded by Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Budget.

5.2. Cost of Walk to School Week Resources £2148.00 and WOW diaries £604.67 funded by Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Budget.
Safe Start Leaflets £180.80 funded by the Road Safety Revenue Budget.

6. Other Implications

6.1. There are no risks associated with this paper.

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 schools to ascertain pupils' modes of travel was conducted.

Colin McDowall

Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

8 June 2011

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

24 November 2010

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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