

TRANSPORT SUMMIT

REPORT



SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER

ABBNEY SPORTS CENTRE

By Karl Owen

With assistance from:

**Ashleigh Greathead, Michelle
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investing in children



Y SPEAK

Transport Agenda Day
Abbey Sports Centre
Saturday 15th October 2005

Last year Investing in Children held a transport summit concerning the issues young people had about transport. We got lots of positive feedback from the representatives from County Hall and Gary Wheatley who was there to represent Go North East. Although we thought that we were going to take this meeting further and get the ball rolling, it wasn't the case. We lost touch with the County Hall representatives and we basically were just going around in circles.

So a year passed and the transport group decided to have a follow up agenda day to see if there was any progress made after the last agenda day. We invited over 50 young people to the agenda day plus some councillors and Gary Wheatley again.

The turnout on the day was really good we got a good variation of age and also some young people with disabilities, which was great because we could get a much wider view of young people's experiences and problems that they encounter on the public transport.

The Agenda day started firstly with Ashleigh Greathead from Investing in Children welcoming everyone and telling everyone what the day was all about and what was on the agenda for the day.

We then had Richard Startup from Corporate Services talking about what has come from last years agenda day and where the county council are now at the moment. His presentation was very informative as the group on a whole thought there wasn't that much progress made by Durham County Council but from what we seen from Richards presentation is that the wheels are in motion and we are starting to make an impact.

Next we had Nicola Owers do a short presentation on the Investing in Children card and after school transport. The main issues were that the Investing in Children card can only be used at certain times and the card was not very well advertised to the public although anyone under 16 can use it to get half price bus fare.

The next person to do a short presentation was Karl Owen. He was talking about the routes between Durham and Peterlee and also commented on how low a standard the buses were hygienically. He suggested more direct bus's and could the bus companies renovate or even buy new buses as the Peterlee route seem to be getting the old buses(Councillor Pye confirmed that this was correct and Peterlee bus station were to receive more/used buses).

The final presentation was made by 2 brothers (Carl and Craig) whom have no sight. They presented there issues about their difficulties

getting on the bus without no help and the consideration of the drivers which was of a low standard to say the least. They also came up with their problems acknowledging which stop they were at; they used the train system as an example and the tube where there is an automated voice clearing telling passengers which stop they are at. This inspired everyone and I think that this will be put forward to the transport companies in the very near future.

After our presentations we split up in to small groups to talk about our own experiences and what we have encountered on local transport, all ideas that were put forward are below all of them are very strong and need addressing to make an impact.

Please note that a lot of the groups repeated what each other were saying and so the notes below are the key themes that came out of all groups.

- ✚ IIC card should be available to use 24/7
- ✚ More buses to go to the major towns and cities from the rural areas
- ✚ A better scheme should be brought in to practice to prove the age of a young person. A card was suggested for this and if the young people didn't have the card to show then they would have no choice other than to pay full fare
- ✚ The young people wanted the age increasing to be classed as a adult to pay adult fare
- ✚ More advertisements and notice should be brought in on increasing the fares
- ✚ All timetables need to be updated
- ✚ Buses for should all be set to a standard what is relevant for disabled people
- ✚ Old buses should be modified to a more up to date standard
- ✚ Lengths of routes are extended increasing journey time significantly
- ✚ They should be a audio system for the visually impaired so they know what stop they are at
- ✚ Drivers should be more aware and helpful with all disabled people
- ✚ Majority of bus drivers are very arrogant and have a bad attitude towards young people
- ✚ Change bus companies from privatised to public ownership
- ✚ Bus drivers should wait till everyone is seated before moving away
- ✚ More CCTV on buses and better lighting in the bus stops
- ✚ Litter bins in buses to accommodate rubbish
- ✚ Emergency doors should not be partly blocked by seats

- ✚ It should be mandatory for people to give up there seats for the elderly and disabled

Our next steps following the agenda day are working with Gary Wheatley from Go North East to go and see the driver training programs and hopefully to work with the new recruits to explain some of the issues that were raised and also work with Richard Startup to hopefully look at the issues around fares and accessibility.

We would like to thank everyone that took part in the transport summit.

- ✚ Amanda Witherspoon
- ✚ Danielle Hudson
- ✚ Natalie Howe
- ✚ Robbie-Lee Jardine
- ✚ Kizzie Tyers
- ✚ Issobella Atkinson
- ✚ Pearl-Annie Tyers
- ✚ Caroline Sowerby
- ✚ Hannah Sowerby
- ✚ Claire English
- ✚ Emma Herbison
- ✚ Daniel Taylor
- ✚ Phillip Marshall
- ✚ Natalie-Helen English
- ✚ Catherine Peacock
- ✚ Michael Foreman
- ✚ Carl McGee
- ✚ Craig McGee
- ✚ Claire Thorp
- ✚ Kim Thorp
- ✚ Donna Thorp
- ✚ Tabatha Tilley
- ✚ Richard Startup
- ✚ Gary Wheatley
- ✚ Cllr Ray Pye
- ✚ Cllr Joe Armstrong
- ✚ Ian Mackenzie
- ✚ Helen Mulhearn
- ✚ Ashleigh Greathead
- ✚ Michelle Fenwick
- ✚ Nicola Owers
- ✚ Karl Owen.