

Equality Forum
11 April 2011
Q&A

Community Transport Review / Issues;

1. Geraldine Moore's question raised access issues for hospital visiting/health appointments. Disproportionate effect that possible charges to community transport on older people who may also face losing services due to the rise in the level of eligibility for care with less of moderate level support – increased isolation. Older People need to be involved in the consultation.
2. Marel Urry was concerned that in several rural areas – Withnell, Withnell Fold, Hoghton, Brindle etc there was no public transport (bus or train) to give access to Chorley. She was aware that there was currently a review being undertaken by LCC on Concessionary Travel. For some of the more vulnerable groups living in the rural areas, Dial-a-Ride and similar schemes form our sole affordable means of access to the social and other facilities (hospital, supermarkets etc) enjoyed by others in the Chorley Borough area. Ms Urry was aware LCC have supported rural and concessionary transport as a discretionary rather than a statutory provision, and thanked them for their previous effort and support. Having a blue badge and her NOW card had really improved her quality of life. It made a big difference to a persons self confidence being able to leave the house and go to Chorley. Ms Urry was sure she was not alone in feeling less isolated and still a part of the local community. Social access and interaction was important for all members of our community. Ms Urry asked that LCC bear that in mind when discussing and reaching their decisions on concessionary and rural transport to enable true equality of opportunity and access.
3. From Concessionary Travel discussion;
Members of the Forum had asked for a number of issues to be considered within the consultation including:
 - consider those areas not covered by a bus service at the moment
 - older people visiting hospitals as patients or hospital visitors
 - the feelings of isolation that would be felt by those people who were reliant on these services if they were cancelled.

4. Douglas Bailey's was concerned with the decision of LCC not to replace bus stops and time tables.

Lancashire County Council Response to all the issues raised;

Tony Moreton, Lancashire County Council's Assistant Director for Sustainable Transport, was in attendance at the meeting and will consider the issues raised and comments made as part of the wider consultation process

CVS Funding

1. Could it be reported back to LCC that is unfair the funding for certain districts of CVS has been cut.
2. Joyce Morris expressed her concern that Lancashire County Council had decided to withdraw funding to the Chorley and South Ribble CVS.
3. Eileen Bee advised that she shared Joyce Morris' concern that Lancashire County Council had decided to withdraw funding to Chorley and South Ribble CVS

Lancashire County Council Response;

Lancashire County Council's overall grants budget for 2011/2012 is the same as last financial year, it has not been reduced. All seven CVS's in Lancashire applied for funding from the County Council but it was felt by the assessment panel and subsequently by the cross party VCFS Cabinet Working Group that only two of the applications met the revised criteria.

In general, the key areas where CVS's failed to meet the criteria were (i) around demonstrating a viable business plan for moving away from reliance on core funding/management costs and (ii) demonstrating that they were targeting activity and outcomes around the priority area of helping to prepare VCFS groups to be able to deliver public services in the future

There is a second funding round for the unspent Central Gateway Grant monies and CVS's are free to re-apply.

Town Centre Accessibility

1. Comments made around the ongoing need for enforcement of pavement cafes and A Boards to ensure that the pavements remain clear of obstructions has been passed on to Alan Capstick, the Public Realm Manager for Chorley at Lancashire County Council.