



HIGHLIGHT REPORT

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Project: Health and Transport Action Plan		Project Manager: Alex Geddes
Reporting Period:	From: 1 July 2009	To: 31 July 2009

Section 1 - Status Summary:

The Grampian Health and Transport Action Plan Programme Support Officer focused on the following aims during the July reporting period :

- Preparation for the Opportunities / Benefits and Risk workshop scheduled for 13 August .
- Finalising a position statement on the " Travel to Healthcare Charter" ahead of the workshop scheduled for 13 August.
- Scheduling meetings with :
 - Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department on 6 August to identify how the HTAP aims can be linked into the council planning process. A date for a similar meeting has still to be confirmed by Aberdeen City Council.
 - Agnes Taylor, Gordon Murdoch and John Tait NHSG, in conjunction with Russell Page SAS, regarding the proposed pilot in the Banff and Buchan area linking to Access to Healthcare. The July meeting had to be cancelled due to annual leave commitments in NHSG, and a date for August has still to be confirmed by NHSG.
 - Mike Ogg, Elizabeth Squires, Elaine Whyte, and Dr Cassidy regarding the proposed footpath linking a new housing complex to the village centre via NHSG grounds. This will take place on 20 August on site.

The meeting to progress the Air Quality Action Plan [AQMAP] within Aberdeen City Council was productive. It identified that support for the AQMAP will be provided by AECOM who are a global provider of professional, technical and management support services to a broad range of markets, including transportation, facilities, environmental and energy.

Currently this plan is still on track to be ready in Spring 2010.

Active Travel

There is a need for the "Get About" team to provide baseline evidence in relation to work being progressed in this area, with a view to the monitoring and evaluation of their work as part of the HTAP development.

Possible links between the "Get About" team and how the Moray Council can become part

of the scheme should also be investigated to identify any efficiencies that may be made.

The baseline evidence on the current position with regard to how many travel in an active way above needs to be progressed in August, and ready for September 2009.

Public Transport and Health

The development of the Air Quality Management Action Plan [AQMAP] continues to be developed within Aberdeen City Council.

There is no requirement for Aberdeenshire or Moray Councils' to prepare such a plan, and remains solely an Aberdeen City matter.

Tom Stenhouse from AECOM who are providing support for the AQMAP has been in touch to arrange a suitable date to identify how their work can support the aims of the HTAP, and early indications show this will be in September 2009.

The North East Consultative Forum [NESTRANS] is meeting on October 8 and will include a presentation by Tom Stenhouse and a workshop on the Council's proposals for the AQMAP. The Forum comprises of various stakeholders including transport providers, business and community representatives and provides an opportunity to feed into the Action Plan development.

In addition to that I can advise that environmental noise, including transportation noise is recognised to have a detrimental effect on health. The Environmental Noise Directive places a duty on member states to map the noise exposure of the population, specifically noise from road, rail and aircraft. Based on the mapping results, member states require to produce Action Plans to reduce noise levels where necessary and preserve environmental noise quality where it is good via "quiet areas".

Major roads in Grampian Area have been mapped by the Scottish Government and Candidate Noise Management Areas [CNMAs] identified. The CNMAs are being further assessed to determine appropriate Noise Management Areas [NMAs]. Local Authorities will be responsible for the development and implementation of Action Plans to reduce noise exposure in the NMAs. The noise maps for Scotland are available on www.scottishnoisemapping.org. All roads within Aberdeen require to be mapped by 2012 as part of the "second round" of the mapping process. Currently only population agglomerations of 250,000+ [i.e. Glasgow and Edinburgh areas] and major roads require to be mapped.

The AQMAP remains a priority for the HTAP, and support will be required from NHSG Public Health Department, to ensure the outcome of the report remains focused on the effects to public health of emissions, as opposed to only looking at the reduction of transport in the City.

Access to Healthcare

The proposed pilot in Banff and Buchan has not progressed due to annual leave commitments within NHSG locally. Hopefully progress will be made in August once staff have returned.

In support of the proposed pilot a meeting has taken place with Russell Page from the Scottish Ambulance Service [SAS]. The meeting had a positive outcome, with support being offered and potential links being identified to the current Scottish Ambulance Service Consultation document.

A meeting with Marion Mackay, Principal Officer (DRT, Fares and Ticketing) Public Transport Unit, was also positive, with support to the development of the pilot being offered in principal.

To ensure compliance with Clinical Governance in relation to the proposed pilot a meeting has been arranged for 13 August 2009, with Helen Robbins, Andrew Wood and Alex Geddes.

For the proposed pilot to be successful the baseline evidence required is essential and can only be provided locally, therefore an early meeting with NHSG will be pursued by the HTAP Programme Support Officer and/or the Programme Manager.

Section 2 – Comments on Variations:

None

Section 3 – Opportunities - Risks & Issues:

Opportunities

- The HTAP can support more effective attendance at NHSG appointments in the Banff and Buchan area through adopting a more integrated approach to transport solutions, which may provide a template to be rolled out in other areas.
- The HTAP can provide focus on the delivery of Air Quality Management Action Plans, and ensure health remains the main focus of the AQMAP.

Risks and Issues

- If no local input can be provided to the Banff and Buchan proposal, particularly in respect of identifying baseline information, then the pilot will not be able to progress.
- Links need to be made with Aberdeen City Council and the Public Health Department to ensure all health issues relating to air quality are addressed, and captured in the AQMAP.
- NHSG staff may be abstracted due to swine flu issues during the winter period, meaning the pilot projects will be delayed.

Section 4 – Products Completed During the Period:

- Message sent to the Scottish Government Statistics Office to ask for support on the KPIs, in relation to relevant evidence gathered in the national household survey which would benefit local needs.
- The "Travel to Healthcare Charter" will be progressed further at a meeting scheduled for 17 August 2009.
- Requirements for the proposed pilot in relation to Travel to Healthcare in the Banff and Buchan area still needs to be identified. This matter has been delayed due to annual leave commitments within NHSG in that area.
- Travel Planners have now been updated on the link to the discussion forum on the new NESJPSG web page as part of the communication strategy.
- Budget support for the HTAP has still to be confirmed by the Scottish Government, and/or the NESJPSG.

Section 5 – Products to be Completed During the Next Period:

- HTAP Action Log.
- Confirm who can provide baseline evidence for the HTAP at the Programme Implementation Group on 27 August 2009 in order to pave the way for effective impact evaluation, incorporating identified key performance indicators as appropriate.
- Ensure that sufficient baseline evidence for the HTAP Programme is made available by partners to enable a programme plan to be devised by the end of October 2009.
- Confirm support of the NHSG Public Health Department in relation to the development of the Aberdeen City Council Air Quality Management Action Plan.
- Present the June HTAP Highlight report to the NESJPSG at their scheduled meeting on 18 August, preparatory to the anticipated presentation of a business case at a future meeting of the Group.
- Progress the proposal for a new footpath linking the local school and healthcare facilities at Inch to a new housing scheme.
- Continue to develop the proposed pilot in the Banff and Buchan area.

Section 6 – Project Outlook

For the HTAP to progress, it is important for the partnership members to provide support in the gathering of baseline evidence, which will be required by the end of September 2009.

In addition, NHSG staff locally based in the Banff and Buchan area will be required to provide relevant information on how their appointment system currently operates, along with proposals on how appointments can be better linked to the current the public transport system in that area.

Support in both of these matters are a priority in order for the HTAP Programme to be progressed effectively.