

MINUTES OF THE

86th Imtac MEETING

Date: 18 September 2008 at Clarence Court, Belfast

Present: Frank Caddy (Chair)
William Stewart
Tom Hoey
Elizabeth Black
Etta Mann
David McDonald
Ann Collins
Anita Gracey
Andrew Murdock
Geraldine Mulherne
Norma Moore
Ronnie Patterson
Terry Butler
Bryan Myles
Joe McCusker
Max O'Brien

Apologies: Henry Mayne
Barbara Flemming
Ann Gamble
Neil Gillan
Tony O'Reilly

Observers: Alan Preston, (Mobility Inclusion Unit)
Janet Watson, (Mobility Inclusion Unit)
Gavin Hamilton (Mobility Inclusion Unit)
Olaf Hvattum (Age Sector Platform)
Claire Toner (General Consumer Council)

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Streets Ahead

Michael, Norma, Andrew and Ann Collins updated members on developments since the last meeting including the proposed shared surface for Donegall Place, the meeting with Margaret Ritchie and the beginning of work on the Access and Mobility Study. It was agreed by all members that the situation was of the utmost concern. Members asked to be kept informed of future developments.

Michael

2.2 Mobility Centre

Members expressed concerns that no action had been taken to resolve the wording of letters sent to clients of the Mobility Centre. David informed the Committee that he had yet to see the amended letter despite assurances from Disability Action. Members also discussed concerns over the distances people travelled for assessment and the availability of instructions. It was agreed to contact Disability Action to raise the concerns about the letter and obtain clarification about the services offered by the Mobility Centre.

Michael

2.3 Door2door

The Committee expressed disappointment that no clarification was available on use of Belfast services by members who live outside the city. David informed the Committee of his experiences trying to use the Belfast service. It was agreed to contact both DRD and Disability Action to clarify what the current policy is. Members also asked that DRD be made aware of the lengthy notice required to book door2door in Bangor and Newtownabbey.

Michael

2.4 Annual Report

Frank informed the Committee that the approved Annual Report has been sent to the Minister.

2.5 Rural Transport Update

Bryan updated members on the progress with the three rural transport pilots including services, membership, usage and marketing of the schemes. Members agreed these were positive developments and welcomed CTA taking on board previous comments from the Committee.

2.6 Transport Regulations update

Linda informed the Committee that the consultation on the Regulations is awaiting approval from the Executive. It is hoped to launch the consultation on the 1st October and hold 3 public meetings in November. Imtac will be assisting with the meetings and distributing the consultation.

3 **Revised Training Guidelines**

3.1 Michael explained the changes made to the guidelines since the last meeting taking on board feedback from the older peoples sector and the recently published DPTAC framework. Members made a number of suggestions for organisations to be included in the “Useful Organisations” section. Subject to these changes the paper was approved for publication.

Michael

4 **Draft report into transport issues for mental health service users and people with a learning disability**

4.1 Michael explained the background to the report and the key findings and recommendations. During discussions Max suggested that further feedback should be obtained from organisations representing people with autism. This was agreed.

Michael

4.2 Alan broadly welcomed the content and findings of the report.

4.3 Andrew asked for an update on one of the issues raised by the report – the proposed pilot of audio/visual information on buses. MIU agreed to follow this up.

MIU

5 ATS Update

5.1 Gavin update members on monitoring arrangements being put in place around the implementation of the ATS Action Plan. Gavin also indicated that the Department would be looking at consultation arrangements for developing the next action plan shortly.

5.2 Gavin gave an update on the work of the British Irish Council on Concessionary Fares and the difficulties recognising concessions across jurisdictions.

5.3 Gavin and Michael updated members on progress arranging a joint meeting of consultative forums from the regions.

6 Translink Bus and Rail Access policies

6.1 Michael explained how and why the policies are being developed. David raised concerns over use of language in the policies. Michael explained that inappropriate language had been included by the Plain English organisation. Joe asked that procedures for monitoring and evaluating the policies be strengthened. It was agreed to send out further drafts for members comments.

Michael

7 Any other business

7.1 Michael updated members on work with local airports around the new European Regulation. It has been agreed to work with the Consumer Council to help the airports improve provision including the setting of quality standards. Part of the process will involve establishing user panels for each airport. Members were asked to let Michael know if they are interested in being part of these panels.

All

7.2 Michael raised problems encountered by older people with the application process for the 60+ Smartpass. In response to these issues being raised the Department have made

changes to the process to broaden forms of acceptable identification.

- 7.3 Ronnie raised difficulties he was encountering gaining answers to questions about the timescale for introducing free travel for disabled people.
- 7.4 Michael raised concerns passed on from older people in Craigavon over the ending of funding for bus services in the area. This is one on a number of services across the North which have ceased. Terry indicated that because of a lack of funding Translink faces a substantial shortfall. Michael has checked with DRD who have indicated that this is due to bids not being met under the CSR.
- 7.5 Elizabeth raised the lack of progress made regarding hospital parking. Michael explained that Guidance has just been published by Health Estates. It was agreed that this be discussed at the next Personal Mobility Group meeting and recommendations brought back to the Committee.
- 7.6 Charging for parking in Roads Service car parks was also raised. Frank asked that the Personal Mobility group discuss this issue and bring forward a recommendation at the next meeting.
- 7.7 Terry informed the Committee that to date 170 buses had now been retro fitted with manual ramps – 50 more to go!

**PM
Group**

**PM
Group**

8 Date of next meeting

- 8.1 The date of the next meeting is the 27th November 2008 at the Mount Conference Centre at 1pm**