

Transport and Dementia

Sheffield Dementia Action Alliance began thinking about transport services for people living with dementia in December 2019 when we requested a SHINDIG session to discuss the issues. 20 people living with dementia, 13 family/carers and 11 facilitators/visitors took part.

The following recommendations provided an excellent springboard to take the project forward.

- Key findings from the report should be shared with transport commissioners and providers in Sheffield.
- There is a need for transport providers to ensure that all of their staff receive some basic awareness training about dementia and how it impacts on people.
- There should ideally be standardisation of the equipment used to register bus passes and pay on board different transport systems. The lack of consistency is confusing for people living with dementia and also those without dementia.
- Signage and information needs improving from timetables, to the location of transport stops along with on board notifications of stops.
- There needs to be much more understandable information about the range of transport passes and benefits available to people living with dementia, current information is not clear and consistent. The benefits of using the 'hidden disability' lanyards need sharing more widely.
- There needs to be some equity in that passes and benefits available to older people with dementia are also available to younger people with dementia.

A meeting with First Bus and South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive took place 29th September 2020. The following next steps were agreed:

- Dementia training offer to bus drivers, community transport providers and taxi drivers
- Bus companies to be offered the opportunity to join SDAA
- Raise Hidden Disabilities awareness through the Partnership Communication Team

