

Consultation Response

Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance

February 2017

Introduction

Age Cymru is the leading charity working to improve the lives of all older people in Wales. We believe older people should be able to lead healthy and fulfilled lives, have adequate income, access to high quality services and the opportunity to shape their own future. We seek to provide a strong voice for all older people in Wales and to raise awareness of the issues of importance to them.

We are pleased to respond to the Welsh Government's consultation on Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance.

Comments

Transport is a crucial factor in determining older people's ability to access vital services and communities, as many older people rely on public transport to get out and about. Without appropriate transport services and infrastructure, older people can become isolated from their community and society and unable to access essential services or participate in social activities. There is an increased risk that social isolation and loneliness will impact upon older people's well-being.

The number of older people in Wales is growing and we are, on average, expected to live longer. The fact that older people make up an increasing section of the population makes it ever more vital that transport services and infrastructure meet their needs. We believe that proposed transport projects/interventions should be viewed in the context of demographic change. Decisions about transport services and infrastructure need to take into account how they will affect people across different stages of the life course of future generations.

With reference to the WelTAG Guidance document section on 'WelTAG Impacts Assessments Report' we believe that specific reference should be made in relation to equality impact assessments. We deem that all transport projects/interventions should be subject to an equality impact assessment to ensure that decisions made do not negatively impact, for example, on older people and their ability to access services and communities.

Furthermore, it is vitally important that transport services and infrastructure are fully accessible, and that inclusive design is incorporated throughout all the design, planning and implementation stages of transport projects/interventions, with effective public consultation including service users and access groups.

With reference to the WelTAG Principles section on 'WelTAG is a collaborative process' whereby '...consultation with the public and other stakeholders will assist in gathering evidence on the impacts of each of the proposed options...' we would highlight the importance of taking service users' needs into account through effective consultation and engagement.

We hope these comments are useful and would be happy to provide further information if required.