

ANNEX A: INDEPENDENT TRAVEL INITIATIVES

Existing and Future Initiatives to Encourage Independent Travel:

1. Over the last 12 months £89k of adult transport savings have been realised through initiatives introduced by the Adults Commissioning Team to promote independent travel (alongside the remodelling of the CYC Fleet Service - leading to the closure of Fleet Run 7).
2. These initiatives will continue to play a crucial role in delivering an additional £183k budgetary savings by March 2020 (as well as promoting personalisation, choice and control for adult customers). A summary of achievements so far, and proposed next steps, is set out below.

York Independent Living and Travel Skills Service (YILTS) Travel Training

3. ASC has contracted with the in-house YILTS Service to deliver travel training to adult LD customers through a 2-year SLA, making a sum of £85,141 available from the LDDF budget (now the ASC base budget) to employ 1.5 FTE travel trainers for 2 years from 1st November 2015 to 31st October 2017.

At the end of Year 1 (31st October 2016) YILTS achievements were as follows:

- Successfully trained 12 adult customers (10 existing fleet/taxi users and 2 transitions customers).
 - 3 x customers were in receipt of ongoing training.
 - 2 x customers undertook YILTS training but proved not to be capable of travelling independently.
4. Within the space of 12 months YILTS has significantly increased the independence and life skills of adult LD customers and has changed perceptions towards independent travel - promoting its benefits amongst service providers, social workers, customers and their families. Feedback from all parties has been extremely positive in terms of YILTS's professionalism and quality of training.

5. ASC has agreed to extend Adult YILTS scheme for a further 2 years (to October 2019) whereupon the initiative will continue to act as a contributory factor towards the achievement of the outcomes set out in the Adults Transport Vision. Over the project lifetime it is envisaged that YILTS will have successfully travel trained almost 40 adult customers (circa 26 adult customers and 11 transitions customers).
6. It is difficult to determine an averaged unit cost saving per successful YILTS trainee. If the recommended option (Option 1) is adopted budgetary savings will only be realised at the point when adult customers have moved away from commissioned transport in sufficient volume to reduce the overall complement of vehicles that are required by the provider.
7. YILTS training, the take up of community transport and the increased use of mobility vehicles will all play a collective role in steadily reducing the overall number of adult customers reliant on CYC commissioned transportation on an ongoing basis (and therefore the number of vehicles required) as outlined in Option1, Annex B.

First York - Peak Time Travel Passes

8. Prior to 2015 adult customers were unable to use their bus passes at 'peak' travel times between 6.00 and 9.00 in the morning. (Public transport is free of charge for LD customers at all other times through a national Government initiative).
9. During the course of 2015 negotiations were held with First York who agreed to extend peak time bus travel to LD customers who had successfully completed YILTS training through the issue of a new Peak Time Travel Pass at a subsidised rate of £100 per customer per annum. (Costs to be met by ASC on an ongoing basis).
10. 12 YILTS trained adult customers have now been issued with Peak Time travel passes, alongside a cohort of 9 Brunswick Organic Nursery (BON) customers who were already travelling by bus, but whose extensive use of peak time travel was proving financially prohibitive.

11. The introduction of the Peak Time Pass has proved to be a significant incentive for adult customers to undertake YILTS training. The Peak Time Pass is an essential accompaniment to YILTS training and will continue to act as a key contributory factor in ongoing efforts to reduce customer reliance on CYC commissioned transport.

Development of the Community Transport Market

12. York Wheels is the primary provider of community transport in York. York Wheels relies on volunteer drivers (utilising their own vehicle) to transport customers to and from various destinations in and around the City. Spot purchasing of provision from York Wheels has increased from 2 to 7 adult customers over the last 12 months and has the potential for further expansion. York Wheels offers a cost effective form of alternative transport, and the steady growth of this grassroots organisation will be nurtured and encouraged as part of future adults transport plans.

Use of Mobility Vehicles

13. At present there are at least 10 adult LD customers who continue to reach their social care destinations by CYC commissioned provision despite their family having been issued with a mobility vehicle for this purpose. If these vehicles were utilised appropriately (in some instances there may be legitimate reasons for not so doing) this would lead to a further reduction in the cohort of customers reliant on CYC commissioned provision.

Summary of Independent Travel Initiatives

14. The initiatives outlined above have a crucial role to play in plans to promote independent transport and could realise significant budgetary savings in themselves. Up to 23 adult customers may be travelling independently by 2020 as a result of these activities (in addition to transitions customers). This represents almost one third of adult transport customers, but leaves a cohort of approximately 142 adult customers who will require assistance to reach their social care destinations on an ongoing basis. (Options to support these customers are considered in Section 4 of the main report).