

WESTBURY AREA BOARD

Date: Thursday December 10 2009

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**CAYPIG report concerning the issue of transport for young people  
(Community Area Young People's Issues Group)**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To highlight concerns with transport for young people living in the Westbury Community Area preventing them from accessing out of school hours services.
2. To offer suggested solutions to transport issues, from young people's perspective and to take action on these to try to provide an accessible transport service.

**Background**

1. Young people living in the outlying community areas of Westbury are not engaging with 'after school hours' services. After discussions/questionnaires conducted (attached) with young people, one reason is because of transport issues. Certain young people are missing out on positive, valuable developmental opportunities, from organisations, one being Wiltshire Council's Youth Development Centre and their outreach services, as well as the sports centre and skate park.
2. There is a lack of buses from outlying areas, including villages, to transport young people into Westbury to access the services they may wish to use. Buses don't stop near where they live and do not run at times suitable to their needs. Young people's safety is a major issue because they want to be able to access a bus at a safe, well-lit location, times when the clubs/services they access close, to avoid loitering and at locations near the clubs/services they wish to use, to avoid long walks, especially if it is late or they are on their own/small groups. Without safe, accessible transport, young people will lose out. Many parents/carers do not allow their children to walk to places when it is late or dark and those young people who are allowed, don't want to as feel vulnerable.

**Main Considerations**

Young people's needs  
Parent/guardian opinions  
Explore existing transport routes/times  
Meet with transport providers to highlight young people's concerns  
Isolation of young people  
Options for improvements to transport/new initiatives  
Funding for transport initiatives

Positive impact on young people through being able to access 'out of school hours' services

Recognising the importance of the voice & opinion/influence of young people

Costs to young people when they access transport

Safety of young people

**Recommendation** (from CAYPIG Young People & Youth Development Workers)

It is recommended that:

- The existing transport provider's public bus routes/timetables are explored in relation to the outlying areas that young people live in because results from questionnaires highlight that young people have no bus transport accessible. Transport providers from current services should be invited to the Westbury CAYPIG, possibly future Area Board and especially the Young People's Transport Conference that the Development Service for Young people is organising in the New Year.
- Further consultation/in-depth questionnaire with young people reference the times they want buses to operate and from what specific locations, so that gaps can be identified with timetables/routes and ideas put forward to service providers. Sally Willox/CAYPIG young people to co-ordinate this.
- To explore avenues of funding for purchasing a community minibus for exclusive use of young people for 'out of school hours' times, including securing funds to pay a bank of drivers. An alternative would be to recruit a bank of volunteer drivers but they would all need to be assessed for suitability to drive the minibus.
- Approach existing community transport companies to explore possibility of them providing a young person's service.

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**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Initial transport questionnaire young people living in outlying areas of the Westbury Community Area, completed

Appendix 2 – Analysis/statistics from the above questionnaire

