

11 January 2018**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****INDEPENDENT TRAVEL TRAINING****Purpose of the Report**

1. To endorse the continued work of the team, to seek approval to develop a Nottinghamshire brand for use on Independent Travel Training and future awards presentations for schools and colleges to celebrate the success of the scheme.

Information and Advice

2. The Independent Travel Training (ITT) programme was approved by Members in 2013 to help promote independence and travel awareness for students accessing Special Education Needs transport. Since then over 130 pupils have successfully been trained and now have the skills to use public transport to educational placements, work or training opportunities. There are currently over 150 students accessing the training programme, including students from both special educational needs and mainstream educational establishments and also students in the care of the local authority who are often vulnerable and travel training helps improve their life chances and opportunities providing independent access to training and employment opportunities.
3. The ITT programme was expanded in 2016 for the Adult Social Care Department and is currently being embedded in to the new Notts Enabling Service (NES) who support and encourage independent living skills within Adult Services.
4. ITT is the delivery of specific training to users who are currently unable, or restricted in their ability to travel unassisted on public transport because of learning difficulties or physical disabilities. Children and young people in the authorities care have also accessed the program to help improve life skills and future life choices. Successful delivery of the scheme allows service users to enjoy independence and be able to access services and facilities they wish to use and removes the need for the provision of high cost bespoke transport services.

Nationally recognised benefits include:

- Increased independence, confidence and personal mobility;
- Increased access to education opportunities at colleges and universities, local services and leisure activities;
- Reduced burden on Local Authority specialist service provision;
- Reduced need for home visits and reliance on carers;
- Increased public transport patronage;
- Improvement in life skills, such as handling money, personal skills and road safety.

5. In 2015 and 2017 a celebration of successful students was held at County Hall where students are presented with certificates by Councillors and Senior Officers. This year the event was attended by over 50 students from 5 schools. Students, teachers, governors, parents and carers also came along to support the event which was a huge success and featured in local press.
6. Nottinghamshire have for a number of years bought training materials developed by Norfolk County Council using their TITAN (Travel independence training across the Nation) brand, materials include educational training videos, monitoring sheets and literature for parents, carers and schools.
7. In the past 18 months it has become increasingly difficult to access the materials from Norfolk following a number of changes to their staffing and departmental structures. To ensure that ITT can continue successfully in Nottinghamshire it is proposed that new training materials including short videos are produced and owned by Nottinghamshire.
8. Nottinghamshire is recognised as one of the leading Authorities delivering ITT and training. We have been successful in promoting and supporting other Authorities with the rollout of travel training. This has generated a small income stream in the past and it is hoped that this will increase with the control of the training materials and brand. The Travel Training lead officer has presented the scheme to ATCO members, the DFE and DFT in London and plays a key role in supporting other authorities with travel training.

Other Options Considered

9. To continue without this proposal would reduce the scope and impact of ITT in Nottinghamshire.
10. ITT continues to be an important area of work with more schools and colleges rolling out the scheme and the current scheme is the best method of delivering the benefits to our service users.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. Independent Travel Training has had increasing success in developing and promoting independent living, the recommendation will allow this to continue and show Nottinghamshire as a leading Authority in travel training and promoting independence.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

13. The cost of producing new training materials is expected to be £7,000 and can be met from existing budgets and off-set by some revenue income.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) To endorse the continued work of the team, to seek approval to develop a Nottinghamshire brand for use on Independent Travel Training and future awards presentations for schools and colleges to celebrate the success of the scheme.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments [LM 28/11/2017]

14. The Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

Financial Comments [RWK 04/12/2017]

15. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 6 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 'None' or start list here

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- 'All' or start list here