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# West Yorkshire LTP Accessibility Planning



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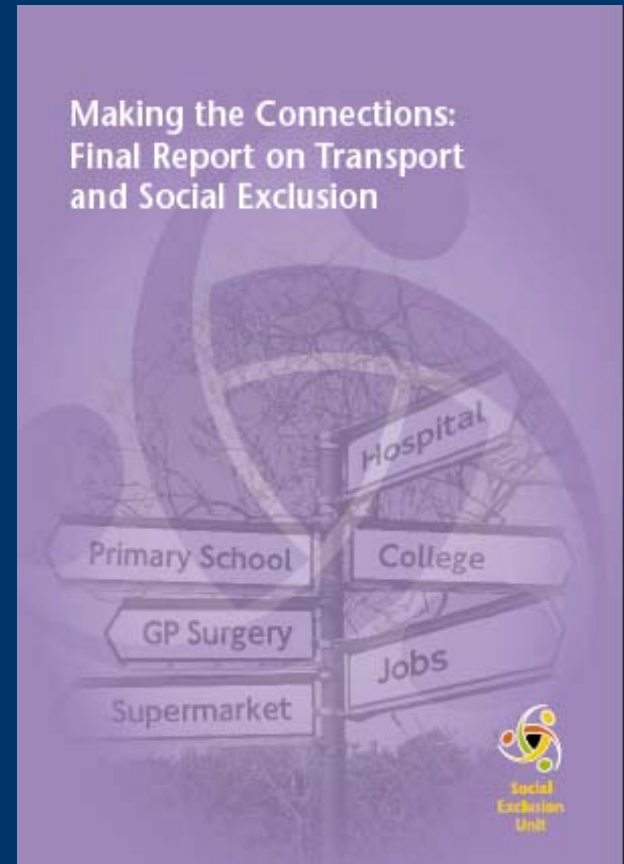
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# Social Inclusion and Accessibility

- Social Exclusion Unit 'Making the Connections' report:

“Accessibility means whether someone is able to reach the key Services they need, either by travelling to these services or by the services being available where they are”

- Key Services:
  - Jobs
  - Health care
  - Learning
  - Food shops



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# Barriers to Accessibility

- Safety & security
- Cost of transport
- Information on travel options
- Location of services in inaccessible places
- Availability of transport to meet demand and the suitability of vehicles to meet the needs of users



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# The Problem

- Around 20 per cent of people find it difficult to travel to hospital. A much higher proportion (31 per cent) of people without access to a car have this difficulty
- Over a 12-month period, 1.4 million people miss, turn down or choose not to seek medical help because of transport problems
- Nearly one in three households do not have access to a car, for reasons that include cost, age and disability, as well as choice
- 63 per cent of the lowest income households do not have a car

(Making the Connections, 2003)



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# What is Accessibility Planning?

- A framework for transport authorities and other relevant agencies to:
  - work together to assess more systematically whether people can get to places of work, healthcare facilities, education, food shops and other destinations that are important to local residents, and
  - develop and deliver solutions to accessibility problems depending on the particular needs and priorities of local areas



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# Who does Accessibility Planning?

- Department for Transport (DfT) leads on Accessibility
- Local authorities deliver through Local Transport Plans (LTPs)
  - A statutory requirement, every 5 years
  - Strategy document + capital funding (WY = £150m, period 2006-2011)
- Partnership working with other sectors essential to delivery
  - Government guidance for other sectors including DoH (see: [www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/accessibility/guidance/](http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/accessibility/guidance/) )
- Expectation LTP authorities:
  - better inform transport capital programmes with targeted expenditure to improve accessibility
  - engage other Local Authority services & external partners to secure input, commitment & funding
- DfT commissioned mapping software: ACCESSION
  - measures travel by public transport, private car, walk, cycle
  - maps time, distance or cost as contours



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# Developing an approach...

- West Yorkshire Accessibility Strategy, informed by consultation with stakeholders
- **Key Issue:**
  - Access to health services (Acute & Primary)
- **Accessibility Target:**
  - To ensure **89.5%** of households without access to a car are within 30 minutes of a hospital by public transport by 2011
  - Baseline: **89.5%** (from 2001 Census, 2004 DfT PT data)
  - Current: **76.4%** (at September 2007)
- Detailed Action Plan for delivery, reviewed annually
- Accessibility Partnership & Health Sub Group established



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# Developing an approach...

- LTP Accessibility Partnership
  - Senior managers from organisations with remit to improve accessibility
  - Chaired by AWYA, and reps from 5 WY local authorities, Metro, LSPs, Health, Education, Employment sectors, GOYH, HA etc
  - Meets 3 times per year
- Health Sub Group
  - Senior reps from health sector, plus WY local authorities, Metro
  - Meets separately to address wide range of health and accessibility issues identified in Accessibility Strategy



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# Delivery Issues

A learning curve – and patchy delivery:

- Knowledge, skills, contacts, resources, priority within organisation
- Influencing partners at strategic level (LSPs)
- Accessibility target not a key driver for commercial bus operators

Some progress:

- Growing understanding of issues – Local Authorities & partners
- Partnership building (Accessibility Partnership & Health Sub-group)
- Districts now have technical (Accession & GIS) mapping capability
- Good progress influencing district Land Use Planning Strategy (LDF)
- Strong interest in Metro PT information provision / improvements
- Some project delivery



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# Opportunities

- Mapping roll-out
  - Informing investment / location decisions
- Funding
  - LTP capital programme
  - Metro possibilities for pilot projects - £500k for tendered service pilots
  - LA revenue, Local Area Committees, other partners?
- Partner input
  - identification of issues & priorities + commitment to work together



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# Key Documents

- **Making the Connections Report**  
[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social\\_exclusion\\_task\\_force/documents/publications\\_1997\\_to\\_2006/making\\_transport\\_summary\\_2003.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/documents/publications_1997_to_2006/making_transport_summary_2003.pdf)
- **Accessibility Planning Guidance**  
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/accessibility/guidance/>



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