



Dorset People First's
Travel Challenge Day
August 26th 2010



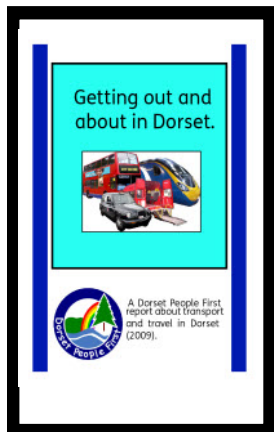


What did we do?

We invited people with learning difficulties to take part in our travel challenge.

The challenge was to get to Dorchester Cricket Club using Public and Community Transport only.

We gave people plenty of time to work out their route. And to apply for their bus or rail cards.



Why did we set the challenge?

When we did our research called Getting Out and About in Dorset we found out that:

Some people with learning difficulties have not got much experience of using public transport.

Some staff don't know much about public transport in their area.

We think that people with learning difficulties should get the support they need to travel independently, or with friends whenever possible.

Why do we think this is important?



Changes to the way care and support are provided (this is called Personalisation) mean that people with learning difficulties will be spending more time doing things in their communities.



Travelling to activities, college, work, to meet up with friends will be very important.



We need to think about travel differently, so that there is enough money for everyone to get where they need to go.



We also know that travel makes people feel more confident.



Schemes to support people with learning difficulties to travel independently are being run all over England.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/gloucestershire/8380173.rtm>

On the day.

Despite the british summer weather, more than 50 people with learning difficulties and 20 supporters took part in the challenge.



Everyone who made it to the cricket club got a certificate.



We asked people to tell us about their journeys.



Laura Russ from Dorset County Council came to talk with people about travel in there areas.



The food and cricket provided by the Cricket Club were very popular!



Almost everyone said they want to use public transport again soon.

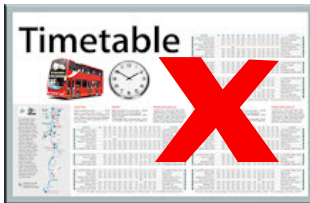


The day was a great success.

Only 2 people who started the challenge didn't make it.



1 person took the wrong bus, but was absolutely fine. Their group had a good story to tell everyone.



1 person was given wrong information about wheel chair accessible buses. We made a video of this journey, and will be able to raise it with the bus company.



1 person travelled on the train for the first time. He is going to do it again!



We were given some suggestions that we will pass on to the right people.

Things people said about their journeys.

On our way here, we saw loads of boats in Poole River.

It was quite easy on the bus and train and good value for money.

I bumped into a friend in the train station. We had a lovely conversation.

Nice trip to Dorchester.

The bus driver was very friendly.

The bus was a Scania not a Volvo and had a tacograph.

I met a little baby boy on my journey.

We got here using our free bus passes!!
Even our staff used her over 60's bus pass!!

I really enjoyed the bus, and meeting at St Peter's Church.

I took lots of photos. I'd like to go on the train again.

If you want any more information about our travel day,
please contact us:



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