

ESSEX DISABLED PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION STEERING GROUP

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1. To seek Members' views as to whether this Council should nominate a representative to serve on the Steering Group on behalf of the Association of Essex Councils.

2. DETAILED CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 The Chief Executive has received a letter from the Secretary of the Association of Essex Councils enquiring as to whether this Authority would be prepared to nominate a representative to serve on the Steering Group of the Essex Disabled People's Association, which oversees the operation of a travel voucher scheme for the disabled. The Steering Group meets twice yearly, usually in March and October, and further details are appended (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 The Secretary of the Association of Essex Councils has asked for a response to report into the next meeting of the Association which is scheduled for Thursday, 13th April, 2000.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES:**

Whether to put forward a nomination to the Association of Essex Councils and if so, to determine that nomination. (CE)

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

Background Papers:

Letter from Association of Essex Councils dated 2nd March, 2000

For further information please contact Paul Warren on (01702) 546366

ESSEX DISABLED PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

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 01245 - 346 730 — FAX
 01245 - 287 177 - WITH MINICOM — HELPLINE
 edpa@edpass.org — E-MAIL
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90 BROOMFIELD ROAD, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX CM1 1SS

Att. Annie Ralph,
 Association of Essex District Councils,
 C/o Braintree District Council,
 Causeway House,
 Braintree,
 Essex. CM7 9HB.

3rd November 1999

Dear Ms. Ralph,

Re: edpa Travel Voucher Scheme

I am writing to you as Administrator of the *edpa* Travel Voucher Scheme funded by the National Lottery Charities Board. The scheme is Countywide and will run for a period of three years.

A steering group is being formed for the fundamental issues, which will arise with the scheme, and it is the wish of the *edpa* to invite a representative of the Essex District Councils to be a member.

The scheme is designed to enable a person with a severe mobility problem to access transport, which is able to accommodate wheelchairs. Scheme members will be able to travel as and when *they* want to with any one of 39 transport providers now participating in the scheme (accepting the travel vouchers as payment).

The grant of £560,000.00 will provide each member with £25.00 worth of free travel vouchers each month. The vouchers have a face value of £1.00 each and are supplied at six monthly intervals allowing the member great freedom of choice as to how they are spent.

The scheme is set to "open the door to the world" for many wheelchair bound people, enabling them to travel easily for the first time.

Travel Voucher Scheme funded by



NATIONAL
 LOTTERY
 CHARITIES
 BOARD

The criteria for membership of the scheme is very tight to give maximum benefit to those in most need. To apply for membership applicants must be:

- (1) Over 18
- (2) Not an orange badge holder (or willing to surrender the badge)
- (3) Living at home (or in residential/nursing care with no access to transport)
- (4) Rely entirely on a wheelchair for their mobility
- (5) Receiving income support

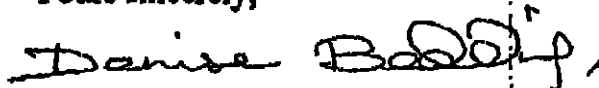
The scheme started on 1st November 1999 and currently has 74 members. It is anticipated that the scheme will have 437 members by the end of the first year and 646 by the end of the third year.

I do hope that a representative of The Association of Essex District Councilors will be able to join the Steering Group.

It is anticipated that the Steering Group will have an initial meeting on Thursday 20th January 2000 at 2:00 p.m. and subsequent meetings six-monthly in March and September. The meetings will take place at the *edpa* offices at 90 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex. CM1 1SS.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01245-253400.

Yours sincerely,



D.E. Bedding (Mrs.)
Administrator

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THE ESSEX DISABLED PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION TRAVEL VOUCHER SCHEME

A BACKGROUND

The scheme is the result of work undertaken by the Essex Disabled People's Association over several years who recognised the need to help people who relied entirely on a wheelchair for their mobility to get out and about.

Following a three year pilot scheme in S.W. Essex funded by Joint Finance a lottery application was put together by Peter Whitehead and Kim Dalton.

The successful bid was announced in June 1999. The National Lottery Charities Board grant of £ 560,021.00 was awarded under the program of Poverty and disadvantage and will run for a period of three years. The scheme allows a person with a severe mobility problem to travel as and when *they* want to, a choice at present not available to many full time wheelchair users. As public transport in many cases is inaccessible the scheme brings the freedom to travel at will.

The figures calculated allow funding for 190 members at the start of the scheme (based on all existing members from the pilot scheme joining the new scheme) and for 646 by the end of the third year. The scheme now has 130 members across Essex with 45 transport providers with either one, two or three wheelchair accessible vehicles.

A very extensive P.R. campaign has been carried out since September 1999. Some paid advertising has also taken place and is still attracting new members on a daily basis, along with a sustained push for members by Social Services and other Organisations to publicise the scheme.

It has also been featured by Anglia TV News with a 'shoot' of an 82-year-old member, and the scheme is regularly featured on BBC Radio

Essex. All libraries, Doctors surgeries, Community groups and Ethnic Organisations have been promoting the scheme on our behalf.

Members continually sing the praises of the scheme with reports of cinema visits, shopping jaunts, theatre trips or just enjoying the Essex countryside. Many people have commented that it is Lottery money well spent!

SCHEME CRITERION

The criterion for applicants to the scheme is very tight, giving maximum benefit to those in most need. To join the scheme, applicants must meet ALL of the following criteria:

1. Be aged over 18 years.
2. Not in the Orange Badge Scheme
(The idea of the scheme is to allow people who currently have no access to transport the chance to get out and about. If a person currently holds an Orange Badge, it indicates that they do have access to transport.)
3. Living at home
(Or in a residential/care home with NO access to transport for its residents.)
4. Full-time wheelchair user
(The scheme accommodates ONLY wheelchair users, those who rely entirely on a wheelchair for their mobility.)
5. Receiving Income Support
(The Poverty program of the National Lottery Charities Board has awarded the grant to enable people on a very low income to benefit from the scheme.)