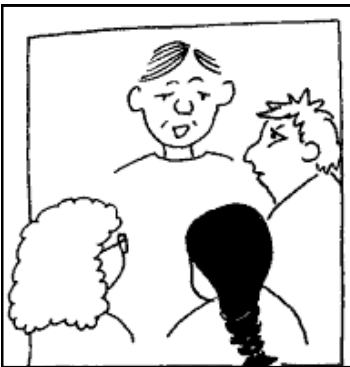


TRAVEL BUCKS STRATEGY

Talkback currently has over 60 self advocacy groups for people with learning disabilities running throughout Buckinghamshire. The evidence collected for this survey reflects the thoughts and opinions of people in those groups and includes people with a wide range of support needs.



More people with learning disabilities are being encouraged to use public transport in and around Buckinghamshire. Whether it be going to college, attending meetings, going to work placements or actually going to work, people with learning

disabilities are becoming more empowered to use public transport.

For those people that use the buses there are a few barriers that seem to get in the way of the experience being successful. For some people with learning disabilities learning bus routes and times, and bus numbers can take just that little bit of extra time. The problem is that all too often the routes are changed, or the bus numbers swapped and the whole process having to be learnt again.



For other people getting to work before 9am or 9.30am means additional money has to be found as the bus pass they have is only to be used after 9am or 9.30am. There have also been one of two incidents where people have got upset with the attitude of the driver of the bus.



Other people have said that sometimes the experience of using public buses has left them feeling that perhaps using dial-a-ride would be better. This can mean that people are restricting themselves to dial-a-ride rather than using or being a part of the local community.

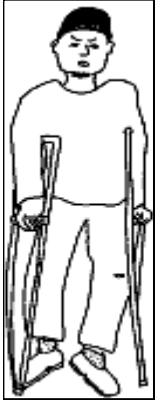
A lot of people with learning disabilities would only go on a bus supported by another person. The reasons for this are because they need that support to know when to get off the bus, and to ensure that they feel safe on the bus.



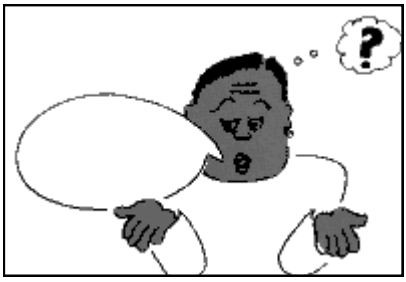
When buses get crowded people with learning disabilities can get a bit anxious. Not everyone is as patient as they could be or understand this anxiety and therefore misunderstandings occur with the result that the person with the learning disabilities ends up feeling bad.

Some people do use the buses regularly. Some people do find the drivers of the buses to be polite and courteous. However there are some incidents where people have had difficulties in getting understood and the drivers can be abrupt and rude.

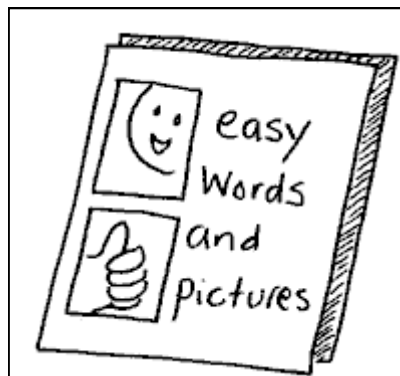
Some people with learning disabilities also have mobility aids and need to sit down before the bus drives away. This isn't always understood by the driver, and words are then said that causes everyone to get upset.



The Travel Bucks Strategy is not an easy document for people with learning disabilities to understand. For the best part people with disabilities do use buses and for a good number of people they only encounter minor problems.



However for those people that do have difficulties it is how these difficulties are dealt with that make all the difference.



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