



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Durham Police Authority praises local Bridge Card scheme

Members of Durham Police Authority have praised a local public transport pilot scheme, which can be used by anyone who has difficulty using public transport because of age, disability, illness or simply lacks confidence.

In a recent report by Durham Constabulary to the Authority's Human Resources Sub-Committee, Members considered the advantages of the Bridge Card for local individuals in need of further support, such as people with learning disabilities and strongly encourage more members of the public to take up the scheme.

The Bridge Card is a scheme run by Durham County Council and enables people with a learning disability to alert staff on public transport that they may need more time to count money out, remember to get off at the correct stop or be properly seated before the vehicle pulls away, by producing a card with the Bridge Card logo on. On the reverse side it allows them to write their name and a contact to call in case of emergencies.

A pilot in Durham City has been launched whereby the bridge card is displayed in the premises window of the Town Hall, Clayport Library, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Bus Station so that people with a learning disability know they can go in for help and advice if they feel intimidated or in need of help.

Mrs Anne Mumford, Acting Chair of the Disability Independent Advisory Group for Durham said:

"This scheme is invaluable for those people who experience difficulties doing every-day activities such as catching a bus to the shops. I'm delighted that the Bridge Card gives individuals the extra support they may need, however I hope that more people use this vital scheme and are made aware of how they can obtain a Bridge Card if they need one".

Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said:

"Durham Police Authority fully supports proactive services such as the Bridge Card which can provide that extra support to residents in our communities.

"Promoting equality and diversity across the policing area goes beyond our statutory duty; Members of the Authority are local people from County Durham and Darlington who ensure the public's safety is of the highest importance. The Bridge Card scheme provides that additional support to

individuals whilst travelling in Durham and hope in the future that even more residents benefit from the scheme”.

Members of the public can find out more about the Bridge Card by contacting Durham County Council on 0191 3725386 or by email at: passengertransport@durham.gov.uk.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Durham Police Authority is an independent body responsible for ensuring Durham Constabulary delivers an efficient and effective police service. It is made up of 17 local people who include 9 councillors, 8 members of the public who are the independent members.

The Authority ensures that the Constabulary is accountable to the people of County Durham and Darlington and ensures that citizens have a say in how they are policed.

The Authority is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget for the Constabulary and, following consultation with local communities, mapping out the strategic direction of policing. This includes agreeing policing priorities and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher.

The Authority's Vision

“To ensure that policing in County Durham and Darlington is fair, effective and visible”

The Authority's Mission

“To be the effective voice of our communities in securing the delivery of high quality policing by:

- Exercising strong & effective leadership
- Engaging positively with communities to build confidence in local policing
- Strengthening partnership working
- Promoting equality, tolerance & respect for human rights
- Scrutinising and challenging police performance to secure continuous improvement
- Scrutinising and challenging business systems and processes to ensure effective use of resources

For further information or comment, please contact Durham Police Authority:

Tel: 0191 3836471
Email: durham.pa@durham.gov.uk
Website: www.durham-pa.gov.uk
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/DPAAuthority>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/durhampoliceauthority>