

SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Social exclusion occurs when people or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems, such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime, bad health and family breakdown. In recent years there has been a growing recognition that transport can represent a significant barrier to social inclusion.



TTR has extensive experience in the following areas:

- Engaging with the local community to identify the source of the problem;



- Working with the local community to identify solutions;
- Listening to people and responding to their needs;
- Devising transport solutions that increase people's life chances; and
- Working with non-transport agencies to achieve 'all round' solutions.

People who are disadvantaged often experience serious difficulties in moving around. They are much less likely to have access to a car than the general population. Regular and reliable public transport services are not available in every community, are sometimes unaffordable for people on low incomes or simply do not take people where they need to go. Walking and cycling may not be suitable options for accessing services which are distant or in environments where traffic levels and accident rates are high.

TTR offers a range of services:

- Monitoring local authorities' inclusion targets;
- Measuring and evaluating social exclusion;
- Developing 'outreach' strategies;
- Specifying and implementing solutions;
- Applying the best European practice;
- Applying sensitive qualitative research;
- Conducting statistically rigorous surveys.

The following are examples of projects we have undertaken:

- Developed business plans for schemes in deprived communities in the West Midlands to provide a range of services to JobCentre users (e.g. cycle loans, travel concessions, and personalised travel plans) to enable them to travel to job interviews and new jobs.

- Undertook research amongst employed people and jobseekers for Cornwall County Council to examine the actual and perceived travel barriers to employment opportunities.

- Updated and enhanced the Rural Accessibility System model originally developed by TTR to assist Dorset County Council in evaluating the accessibility from rural areas of various services by public transport.

- Working for DfT as part of a team developing approaches for assessing accessibility to education, work, food and health, in response to the Social Exclusion Unit report on transport. TTR is also responsible for the development of case studies in Nottinghamshire, Plymouth and Devon.

- Co-ordinated a European consortium to produce a working methodology for local and regional authorities to assess the relationship between transport and policies to combat social exclusion in their areas.

- Assisting Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils to manage the implementation of their Rural Bus Challenge Cross County project. The project aims to relieve social exclusion within the rural areas of the two Counties and generate locally developed transport solutions.

- Assessed perceptions of the security of using public transport amongst a range of socially excluded and high risk population sectors in Liverpool.

- Undertook a review of transport needs for the deprived Alt Valley Partnership area of



Merseyside. The results of the work were used to prepare recommendations for improving public transport provision in the area.

- Completed the Public Consultation for the Centro/West Midlands Passenger 'Transport Authority 20-Year Public Transport Strategy. Eleven focus groups were held involving a variety of people drawn from all over the West Midlands, including socially excluded groups such as disabled people, hospital out-patients, women, and groups representing ethnic minorities.

- Carried out research into the role played by transport in the decision-making processes of young people who may be considering further education in Torbay.



Projects relating to transport for disabled people are featured on the transport & disability competence sheet

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