

SOUTH YORKSHIRE WHEELS 2 WORK



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY IMPACT EVALUATION (July 2008 to August 2011)

South Yorkshire Wheels 2 Work is delivered by Sheffield Community Transport and funded by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, the European Regional Development Fund, the Local Transport Plan and South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive.

EVALUATION COMPLETED BY ADD SPECIALISTS

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CASE STUDY

Simon had been unemployed for nearly 12 months and had been claiming Job Seekers Allowance. He was delighted to be offered a temporary opportunity to work in a warehouse through the Government's Future Jobs Fund scheme. Simon checked the public transport options available to him and he could have possibly got to work on two buses. However, Simon feels sure that he couldn't have sustained this journey, particularly as his wife is disabled and Simon has to help her and get his children ready for school.

He was told about South Yorkshire Wheels 2 Work by an employment agency that was delivering the Future Jobs Fund scheme. He applied for a scooter and was quickly informed that he would be provided with a scooter to get to work. Whilst he was on the scheme Simon took driving lessons and passed his test. He also passed a test to drive forklift trucks during this time – a qualification that has helped him stay in work to this day. When Simon returned his scooter he was able to travel to work in his new car. After the temporary opportunity finished Simon successfully got a job directly with the employer and is now a permanent member of staff.

Looking back on the support he received Simon stated ***"it was exactly what I needed at that point in time. I'd been unemployed for a while and knowing that there was support out there to get me to work really increased my confidence."*** Simon also valued the flexibility that the scooter provided – he was able to get to work on time without having to rely on set bus times. As he could get to work on time without having to rely on set bus times he had more time to support his family. Simon valued the support he received from the SYW2W Team – ***"anytime I needed anything, or if I needed to speak to anyone, they were always available or got straight back to me."*** He wouldn't hesitate in telling other people in his position to approach SYW2W: ***"I'd say 'go for it,' I highly recommend the scheme and have told a number of friends and family members about it."***

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A lack of suitable, affordable transport is a barrier which can deny people the opportunity to access training or employment. South Yorkshire Wheels 2 Work (SYW2W) provides scooters to individuals across South Yorkshire to overcome such barriers and enable them to access employment and training opportunities. SYW2W is managed by Sheffield Community Transport (SCT).

This report evaluates the impact SYW2W has achieved in a three-year period from August 2008 to July 2011. During this period the following outputs have been achieved:

- 573 people assisted into employment or training; and,
- 466 people assisted in skills development.

National benchmarking analysis confirms that SYW2W is operationally effective and delivers significant value-for-money. **SYW2W achieves a unit cost per scooter of £1,705 which places it in the top 3 schemes in the United Kingdom for value.** The scheme has expanded during a period when 56% of W2W schemes nationally have closed due to lack of funding – a major achievement.

A bespoke telephone interview was completed with 90 previous and current customers. This is the largest and most in-depth survey ever undertaken on a W2W scheme. Detailed analysis of the data collected through the interviews reveals that:

- **Customers are highly satisfied with the support received.** The scheme has an overall satisfaction rating of 95%; 73% of customers are highly satisfied.

- **Customers highly value the excellent service they received and the helpful staff employed to deliver the scheme.** Both these factors were mentioned 27 times by customers completing the telephone interview without any prompting.
- **Customers experienced eight wider social benefits from the scheme. The most strongly felt benefits being increased independence; increased road awareness and the opening up of new opportunities.**
- **Customers believe SYW2W offers excellent value for money and on average would be able and willing to pay an additional £16 each month for a scooter.**
- **69% of customers that completed the telephone interview have remained in employment since joining the scheme.** This achievement is particularly significant given the continued difficult economic backdrop.
- **79% of customers that completed the telephone interview found a transport solution that they can sustain after leaving the scheme.**

Finally, detailed analysis reveals that **over the past three years SYW2W has enabled 334 people to access employment that they would have otherwise not been able to access or sustain. The total net economic impact generated by enabling these individuals to access employment is £6,199,307.**

On average each of these 334 individuals provided with a scooter to access and sustain employment has therefore contributed £18,560.80 to the economy, and this figure allows for the £1,705 cost of providing them with a scooter. For every £1 invested in supplying the scooter, a return of around £11 is therefore generated. SYW2W attracted public funding totalling £1,169,474 between July 2008 and August 2011. £6 of net economic impact has therefore been delivered for every £1 invested.