



Source: Yorkshire Post (South/Sheffield) {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Thursday 16, July 2009
Page: 8
Area: 117 sq. cm
Circulation: ABC 47760 Daily
BRAD info: page rate £9,856.00, scc rate £16.00
Phone: 0113 243 2701
Keyword: The University of Sheffield

Dramatic message on travel problems

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MORE than 30 people with learning disabilities are set to tell public transport bosses about their problems with catching buses in Sheffield at a "People's Parliament" meeting today.

The event, at [Sheffield](#) Town Hall, follows a project by researchers from Sheffield University which involved carrying out an extensive programme of workshops and site visits across the city.

The aim was to give people with learning difficulties the chance to articulate through paintings, films, interviews and drama how they feel about bus services and how they can be improved to meet their needs.

Key findings of the "What's The Fuss - We Want The Bus" project included concerns over anti-social behaviour and the difficulty of getting to bus stops safely due to traffic and the absence of crossings.

Participants also said that consistent colour coding should be used for routes and bus stops, and the amount of jargon used in pamphlets and online should be limited.

Dr Alice Mathers, from Sheffield University, said: "The project is a relatively unique example of an open and successful partnership between the learning disability community, the university, the local authority and the transport providers which aims to result in positive changes occurring in the daily lives of local people."

As well as people with learning disabilities and public transport bosses, attendees at

today's People's Parliament event are set to include academics and officers from Sheffield Council.

Damian Dutton, from the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, said: "It has been a pleasure to be involved with the researchers and participants as part of the project.

"The approach of recording the actual travel experiences of passengers with learning disabilities will provide meaningful information that can contribute to improving the travel experiences of all."

