

Community Transport in Wales

Siân Summers-Rees
Director for Wales



**Cymdeithas
Cludiant
Cymunedol
Community
Transport
Association**

Outline

- Introduction to CTA
- What is Community Transport (CT)?
- Why is CT needed?
- Benefits of CT
- Types of services
- Community transport in Wales
- Challenges faced by the sector
- The role of CT in the National Transport Plan
- Opportunities for the CT sector

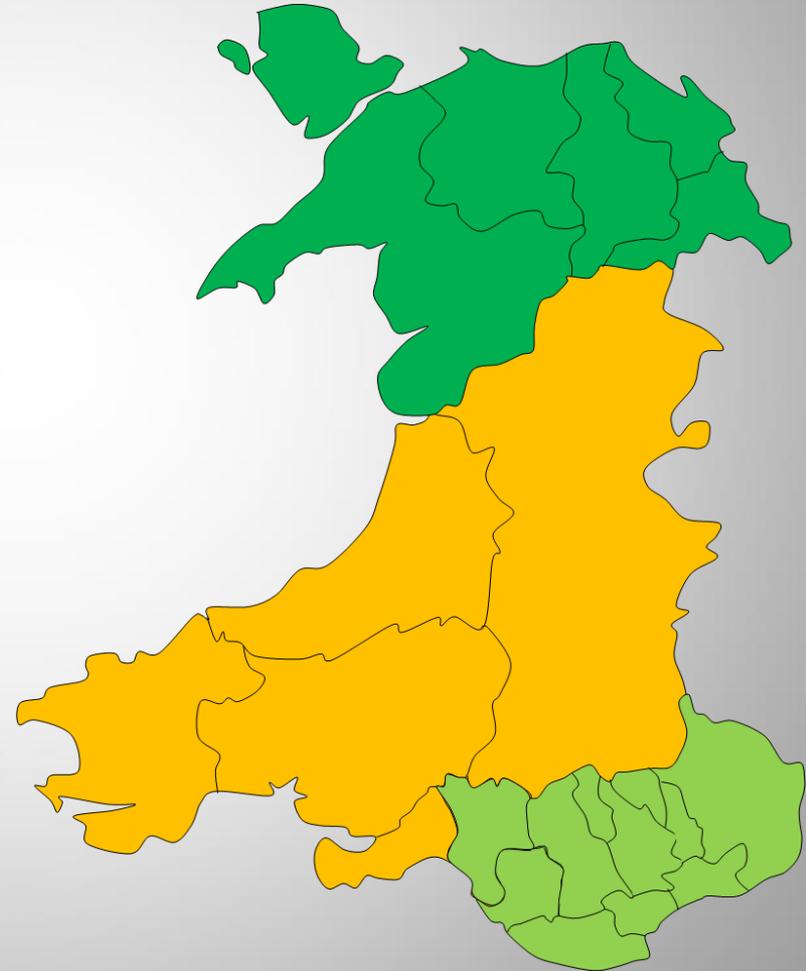
Introduction to CTA

- UK-wide charity providing leadership, learning and support to member organisations who deliver innovative transport solutions to meet the needs of their communities
- In Wales we are recognised and funded by WG as the “voice of Community Transport” and we work to :-
 - Promote CT and advocate for the sector
 - Provide development support
 - Promote excellence through range of services

Introduction to CTA

The Wales context:

- 2 Offices
 - Director for Wales
 - Research and Information
 - Development Officers
- 3 regions:
 - North Wales
 - SW and Mid Wales
 - SE Wales



What is Community Transport?

- Safe, accessible, cost-effective, flexible transport run by the community for the community
- Meets the needs of those who do not have access to other forms of transport
- Provides a lifeline in urban and rural areas
- Ensures equality of opportunity
- Illustrates what can be done when people take responsibility for solving their own problems



What is Community Transport?

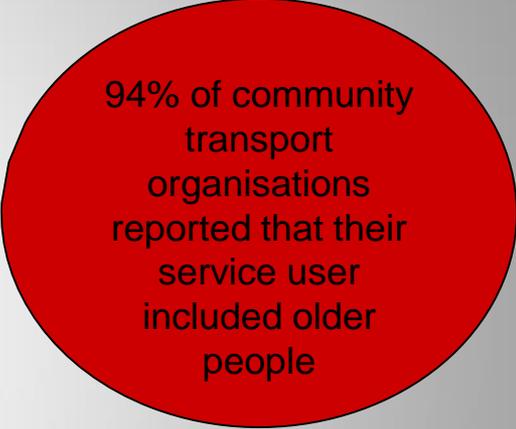
- Focusses on individuals and their needs
- Non-commercial and not-for-profit
- Generally small scale and local
- Inclusive with strong social ethos



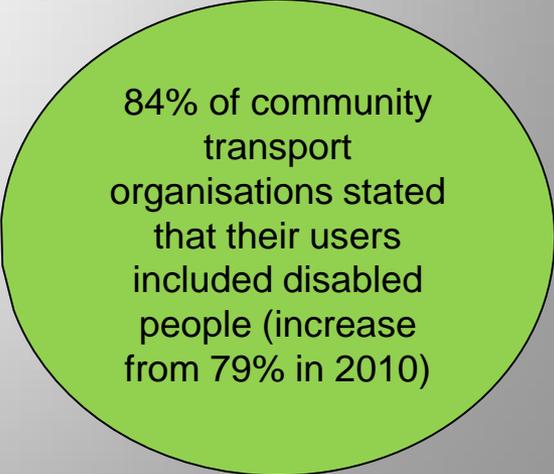
Why is CT needed?

➤ Public Transport is not accessible or suited for everyone. For example:

- Age related health issues
- Disability/mobility issues
- Location
- Unsuitable or unavailable public transport
- Shift work patterns
- Cost



94% of community transport organisations reported that their service user included older people



84% of community transport organisations stated that their users included disabled people (increase from 79% in 2010)

Benefits of CT

- Provides a lifeline in urban and rural areas
- Addresses social isolation
- Responsive to local needs – Time & Place
- Highly adaptive
- Supports community cohesion
- Supports local economy and employment
- Ensures equality of opportunity
- Illustrates what can be done when people take responsibility for solving their own problems

Types of services



Community transport in Wales

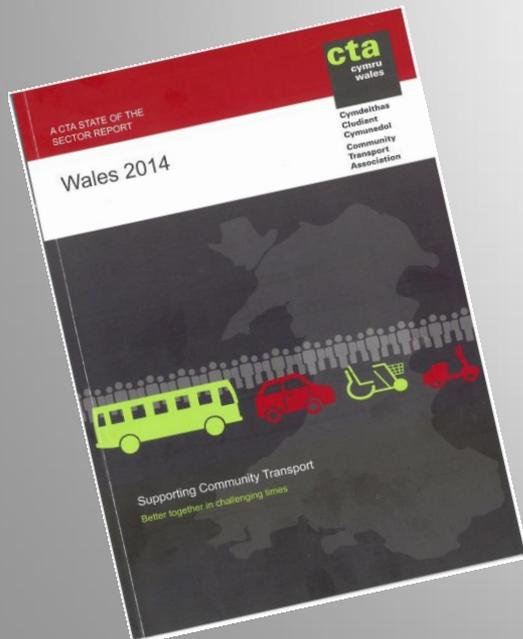
The most significant area of growth has been in non-emergency patient transport (NEPT) since 2010

Wales has experienced an increase in all services provided by community transport organisations since 2010

2 Million passenger journeys made in 2013 covering over 6 million miles

The community transport sector has experienced losses in the number of paid employees from 726 (2010) to 605 (2013)

1,861 people currently volunteer within the community transport sector



Challenges

- Uncertainty about future funding streams (85%)
- Sourcing grant funding (73%)
- Volunteer recruitment (52%)
- Vehicle replacement (44%)

86% of community transport organisations stated that they will definitely have difficulty in identifying funding to replace their vehicles.

Challenges

- Rising demands with reducing income
- Need for better collaboration within and between the sectors
- Driving licences entitlements
- Anti CT / Section 19/22 agenda
- CT expected to replace conventional services
- Unrealistic expectations e.g. volunteer services still cost money

Role of CT in the National Transport Plan

- Economic growth
- Access to employment
- Tackling poverty
- Sustainable travel and safety
- Access to services



Opportunities for CT

- Improve integration and partnership working
- Improve connectivity by providing feeder routes to public transport
- CT can meet the needs of people who are unable to access public transport

Opportunities for CT

- CT can provide alternative solutions when conventional and subsidised bus services are withdrawn or are not viable, especially in rural communities
- Support relationships between local authorities and communities to develop viable solutions to meet needs
- New opportunities – health, young people, employability, greener transport

Conclusion

Local community-led transport services, run on a not for profit basis, could be the most reliable and resilient model for addressing future transport needs for vulnerable people and isolated communities

Contact Details

Siân Summers-Rees Director for Wales

CTA Cymru
Forge Fach Resource Centre
Clydach
SA6 5EJ

E-mail: sian@ctauk.org

Website: www.ctauk.org

Tel: (01792) 844290