

Wakefield District Road Safety Plan 2008 to 2011





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Safer together

Wakefield District Road Safety Plan

We are all responsible for road safety

Welcome to the Wakefield Metropolitan District Road Safety Plan.

I am pleased to provide the introduction to the Road Safety Plan 2008 – 2011. The plan shows how we will work with our partners and with local people to keep ourselves safe and to help prevent road crashes and casualties. We want the people of Wakefield and our visitors to look after themselves and each other so that they are safe and healthy. Our aim is for the district of Wakefield to be attractive to live, learn, work and invest in and where our diverse towns and villages work together to promote the well being of the whole of the district.

The Council is very active in preventing road crashes but it is the involvement of the local people and our partners that can make the vital difference to make our District's roads safer.

I hope you will find the booklet interesting and informative and that you will contribute to our road safety aims.

Peter Box

Leader Wakefield Metropolitan District Council



Road Safety is very important for everyone. In Wakefield we have many challenges to meet to reduce road injuries and to make people safer. We can only do this and be more effective by working together with other agencies and with local people.

Councillor Denise Jeffery

City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council – Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Culture and Sport



West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service will actively work towards reducing the number of people injured and dying in road accidents in the Wakefield District. We will work alongside our partner agencies to support their work and introduce road safety education into our community safety programmes. Together we can make Wakefield District safer.

Steve Dobson

District Manager West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service



Wakefield District Police Officers are keen to create an environment along with our partners where all road users can travel safely without the fear of injury. To this end we will actively target all aspects of criminal use of motor vehicles, anti social use of vehicles and target people who drive without the appropriate documentation. In particular officers will work in partnership to target those people whose driving is such that it endangers themselves and others.

Marc Callaghan

Chief Superintendent, Divisional Commander Wakefield District West Yorkshire Police



Unintentional injury is a leading cause of illness and death among children and young people aged 1 - 14. Children and young people are more vulnerable than adults to unintentional injury as they only develop some skills and cognitive abilities at particular stages of their development and they lack experience of dealing with particular hazards. Many of these injuries are preventable and this Road Safety Plan identifies ways in which we can all play our part in helping to make the roads safer for our children and young people.

Mike Robinson

Director of Public Health – Wakefield PCT



In March 2000 the Government published its road safety strategy and casualty reduction targets to be achieved by the end of 2010.

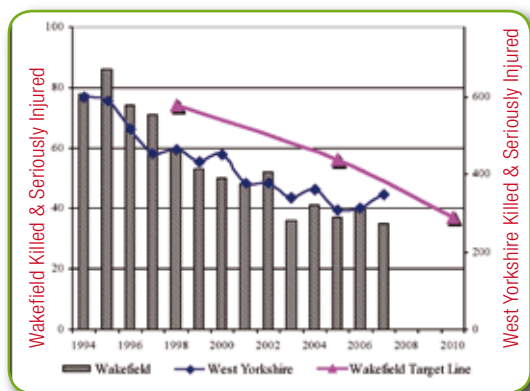
These targets, compared with the 1994 - 98 averages are:-

- A 40% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI).
- A 50% reduction in the number of children KSI.
- A 10% reduction in the slight casualty rate.
- A 50% reduction in the number of pedestrian KSI.

The trends up to 2007 show that:-

- Child and pedestrian KSI's are likely to beat the targets set.
- The slight casualty rate is likely to be better than the government's 10% reduction.
- The rate of progress in reducing the number of KSI's needs to improve, however, to meet the 2010 target.

The success of reducing the number of pedestrians killed or seriously injured in the District is shown in the graph below:



We are working towards meeting the National Indicator Targets recently published in the local area agreement.

There are many people in the Wakefield District working together to make our communities safer and stronger. These organisations include the Council, the Police, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Health Service and other community and representative groups such as local road safety committees.

Road Safety is not just about providing facilities, but is also about people's behaviour, having the skills to be safe, together with individual responsibility and an awareness of road safety.



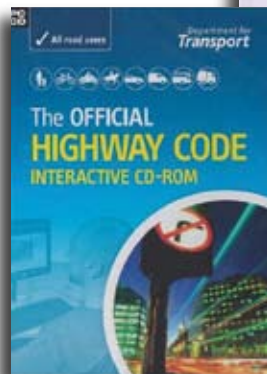
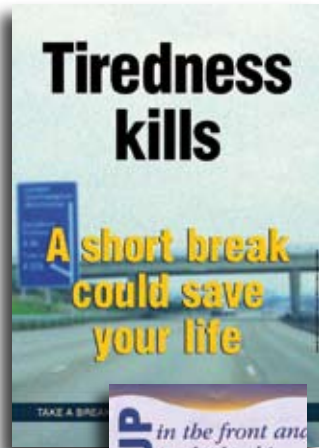
We are all responsible for road safety

We are all responsible for road safety – for ourselves and for other people who use the roads. We should not put ourselves or anyone else at risk or in danger.

How will we get this message across?

Whilst the agencies who co-ordinate road safety in Wakefield have professional and corporate responsibilities to improve safety we all have responsibilities as parents, family members, members of local communities and members of social and leisure groups.

That responsibility extends to compliance with road traffic law – speed limits, seatbelts, mobile phone use, for example – and the maintenance of vehicles. It also extends to road safety knowledge and application of the Highway Code and of driving and riding standards appropriate to road conditions.



Behaviour is a key part of improving road safety and reducing road injuries. Whilst good behaviour can overcome highway deficiencies, inconsiderate behaviour is inherently dangerous and brings a real risk of road death and injury.

How can we influence behaviour?

The agencies can influence behaviour through enforcement practices, modifying the road environment and through their involvement with local communities and teaching children, young people and adults' good behaviour.

As a last resort we aim to improve bad driving behaviours, by referring offenders to driver improvement courses.



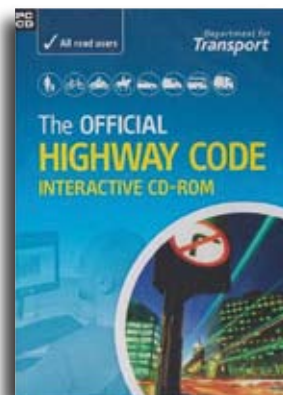
Driver Referral Course

Speed Indicator Device (SID) - A resource we use with school children to help them understand speed and distance, and also to make drivers aware of their speed outside schools.

'Drink driving' is now considered anti social and bad behaviour. The importance of seat belt wearing, use of the mobile phone whilst driving and speeding will be the focus of our behavioural change activities over the next 3 years.



People need to learn and develop their road skills to be safe. Everyone has to pass a driving test before they can have a licence to drive a car or a motorbike unaccompanied.

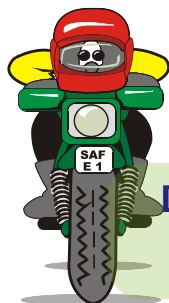


What are our plans?

Wakefield offers Pedestrian and Cycling Courses to schools in the Wakefield District to equip the young people with the necessary basic road safety skills that will benefit them for life. As they progress through their education more skills are added to prepare them for adult life and hopefully become safer riders and drivers.



Pedestrian Training



Driver/Rider Training



Cyclist Training

An appropriate and well maintained road environment gives people the facilities they need to be safe however they are travelling – whether they are a pedestrian, cyclist, motorcyclist, public transport user, a car driver or passenger – and whether they are alone or in a family group.



Advanced cycle stop line



Bus shelter and raised kerb



Speed table

What are our plans?

The West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (www.wyltp.com) shows the road safety initiatives and spending plans for the next 3 years to 2011.

New cycle route

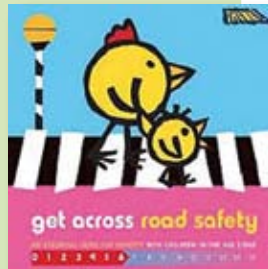


1. Promoting Safer Road Use

Communications are vital to get the road safety messages across.

We will:

- Develop our road safety publicity to engage with local people e.g. by attending festivals and events and engaging with the local community.
- Improve our road safety website www.wakefield.gov.uk
- Supervise road safety campaigns primarily linked to speed, seat-belt wearing and preventing injuries to children.
- Support the government's "Think!" road safety campaigns, linking them to local promotions, and the West Yorkshire initiatives.
- Distribute publicity to schools, health centres, community centres and libraries.
- Support our Local Road Safety Committees, within the District.



2. Providing Skills and Training to younger people

Road Safety Education and Training can be fun and rewarding.

We will:

- Provide child road safety education from the Foundation stage of their learning. Our target is to teach 2,500 children, per year.
- Provide pedestrian training to children by delivering the 'Wakefield Walk Safe' Pedestrian Safety programme for children from age 7 to 9. Training approximately 2,000 children per year.
- Provide cyclist training for children from age 9 for approximately 1,500 young people each year.
 - Level 1 - Cycling – Age 9
 - Level 2 - Cycling - Age 10 - 11
 - Level 3 – Advanced Cycling – 11+
- Offer advice and information for motorcyclists.
- Offer High Schools Guidance on Road Safety Lesson Plans and Topics, also provide Pre-Driver Training Courses to all High Schools and Colleges within the district, to encourage safer driving practices amongst young people.
- Provide up to date advice to health and community representatives about road safety issues.

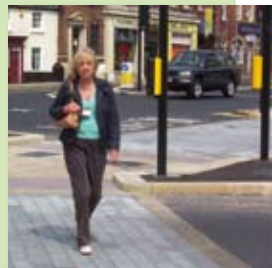
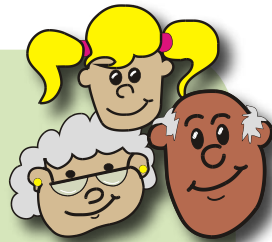


3. Designing and Maintaining Safer Roads

Safer roads require the appropriate facilities for people to walk, cycle, drive and ride – and a road environment that gives protection to local communities and to schools.

We will:

- Use our 'design hierarchy' to ensure that road schemes do not disadvantage or put at risk pedestrians, cyclists, and people with disabilities, horse riders and public transport users.
- Investigate locations of concern to the public and prepare appropriate road safety engineering schemes to deal with those problems.
- Include a "Safety Audit" in the design process.
- Ensure that local people are consulted in the design and preparation of traffic calming schemes and provide opportunities for feed back following the introduction of the scheme.
- Deliver a programme of works to provide and promote "Safer Routes To School" initiatives.
- Carry out regular inspections of the highway network to identify what would cause road safety problems for pedestrians, cyclists and all other road users.
- Monitor impact of traffic calming schemes, to understand what people want and to improve the future delivery of schemes.
- Deliver a winter road safety service to include salting of highways.



4. Providing safer crossing facilities

Crossing busy roads is particularly hazardous for the most vulnerable citizens.

We will:

- Provide all pedestrian crossing points with textured contrast tactile paving to guide the blind and partially sighted.
- Make sure kerbs are suitable to aid wheelchair access.
- Fit audible beepers and rotating tactile cones to push button units to indicate the safe period to cross.
- Deliver a school crossing patrol service. The patrols cross thousands of children and adults safely to and from school each day.
- Renew pedestrian crossings with a 'nearside' pedestrian signal. These are called 'Puffin' crossings and are considered to significantly enhance safety, bringing the pedestrian's viewpoint in line with oncoming traffic.
- Use state of the art CCTV within the five towns of Wakefield, Pontefract, Castleford, Hemsworth and Normanton to provide and contribute to a safer, cleaner environment within our town and city centres.
- Use low voltage equipment on all new and refurbished traffic signal installations.

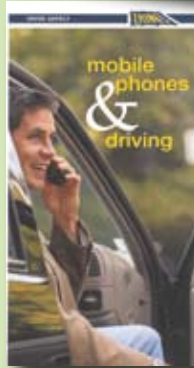


5. Influencing Drivers

Raising road safety awareness and providing training.

We will:

- Provide 'pre-driver' training courses, both theory and practical sessions, supported by West Yorkshire Police, the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, the DSA, Pinderfields Spinal Injury Unit and local approved driving instructors.
- Work with approved driving instructors to promote safer driving.
- Advise on driver improvement and speed awareness training schemes.
- Participate in regional campaigns on speed and inappropriate driving behaviours.
- Provide advice on how to reduce risk related to driving whilst tired and participate in regional campaigns on seat belt wearing.
- Provide advice and information for road users through 'Classic Driving Sessions', for the more mature driver.



6. Reducing Road Speeds

Excessive speeds are responsible for many road traffic accidents.

We will:

- Review and revise speed limits on principal routes by 2011.
- Implement our speed management strategy that includes road safety engineering, enforcement and publicity.
- Introduce safety cameras and red light violation cameras at locations identified by the West Yorkshire Casualty Reduction Partnership.
- Enforce the speed limit on local roads in response to the concerns of residents.
- Introduce '20 MPH zones' at appropriate locations e.g. outside schools.
- Refer selected offenders to the West Yorkshire Speed Awareness Training Scheme.
- Introduce safer traffic schemes, such as traffic calming to solve local problems.



7. Providing for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

More sustainable modes of travel must be encouraged.

We will:

- Implement traffic calming schemes in residential areas in response to local concerns about safety and difficulties of walking and cycling.
- Increase the cycle route provision in the Wakefield District, working with Wakefield Cycle Forum.
- Promote walking routes in villages, towns and city centres. (Public Rights of Way)
- Provide cycling facilities at junctions and roundabouts.
- Undertake cycle training and cycling activities in schools
- Develop a Horse Riding Strategy.
- Promote fluorescent and reflective goods in schools.



How you can help

A Road Safety Plan is dependent upon everyone making a conscious effort to be safe and considerate to other people.

If you have concerns about the road environment or need information about road skills, campaigns or enforcement please contact us.

Be aware of dangers on the roads and keep your responsibilities in mind.

- Make a commitment to 'safer roads' every time you make a journey.
- Allow yourself time on journeys.
- Be patient.
- Show courtesy to others.
- Think about how you travel.
- Set an example.
- Don't be a School Gate Parker; be considerate.



You too can make a difference; we are all responsible for road safety.

Together we can prevent many of the road crashes, deaths and injuries that happen in the Wakefield District.



Road Safety Contacts.....

Our aim is to respond to all written enquiries within 10 working days or sooner.

The main council contacts for road safety matters are:

Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity

The Road Safety Team,
Newton Bar,
Upper Building,
Wakefield, WF1 2TX Tel: 01924 306000
Email: roadsafety@wakefield.gov.uk



Traffic Engineering

The Traffic Team
Newton Bar
Upper Building
Wakefield WF1 2TX
Email: traffman@wakefield.gov.uk



Urban Traffic Control (Traffic Signals)

The Traffic Signals Team
Newton Bar
Lower Building
Wakefield WF1 2YN
Email: trafficsignals@wakefield.gov.uk



Contact Tel: 08458 506 506

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