



Putting the expertise of people with dementia at the heart of developing better local bus services

The Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 provides new powers to Local Authorities to ensure that bus services respond to local community needs. This has become even more important as we plan for recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Better Buses project is considering how people with dementia can help Government, Local Authorities and service providers to understand the challenges of taking journeys and the real needs of local communities, creating a vision for the best local bus service.

By supporting Local Authorities to implement the new powers of the Transport Act, people with dementia can help to ensure that national policy translates into action and implementation that benefits passengers on their local service.

In October 2020 we held a roundtable discussion bringing people with dementia together with Transport Scotland, Transform, East Lothian Council and more. We identified that Local Authority and service operator staff would benefit from a range of resources to help them to engage with local people, understand local needs and develop ideas for service improvements. People with dementia have expertise in:

- Gathering and sharing personal stories of using and providing services
- Developing guidance on engaging with communities
- Creating resources such as local bus charters
- Providing online training workshops for Local Authority and operator staff

We are seeking funding to develop this further, working with people with dementia to develop these activities and resources. By supporting the development of better post-pandemic bus services we can build everyone's confidence to travel on public transport again.

For more information [www.upstream.scot/better-buses](http://www.upstream.scot/better-buses) hello@upstream.scot