



Driving Force – the new voluntary car driver service for Harrogate, Knaresborough and the surrounding villages



Harrogate and Ripon CVS conducted a feasibility study into community transport earlier this year, the results of which showed a real demand for help getting out and about in the community. We are delighted to announce the Harrogate Easier Living Project (H.E.L.P.) has now received funding from North Yorkshire County Council to set up a Harrogate based voluntary car driver service which we aim to launch fully by the end of the summer.

The service will be called 'Driving Force' and will provide non-urgent, planned door-to-door transport to people living in Harrogate, Knaresborough and the surrounding villages, who are unable to access public transport due to mobility, disability or location. Passengers will be able to bring carers/relatives where space allows and we will accommodate wheelchair users where possible; however, they must be able to transfer into a car.

The types of journey we will offer to our clients will be:

- Medical appointments - hospital, GP, dental, optical and podiatry
- Welfare – to access lunch clubs, day centres etc.
- Essential – shopping, banking etc.
- Social – hair appointments, visiting relatives etc.

Not only will the service offer essential transport, our volunteer drivers will help to provide regular social contact, link communities in and around Harrogate and Knaresborough and, ultimately, support local people to remain living independently.

As with our existing schemes in Ripon and Boroughbridge, the service will work with a pool of voluntary car drivers who use their own vehicles to transport the passenger/s to and from their required destination. The client will pay £0.45 per mile directly to the driver towards the volunteer driver's vehicle running costs. The passenger will additionally pay a £1.00 booking fee as a contribution to our office-based scheduling operation.

Passengers will be able to book their journey between 9 am and 3 pm weekdays by calling the HELP office on 01423 813090 or help@harcvs.org.uk. An answerphone service will be available at other times.

We are currently recruiting our volunteers and anticipate being able to take journey bookings from 1st September.

In the meantime, the following community transport options are available:

Ripon and Rural Voluntary Car Driving Service – 01765 645907,
transport@harcvs.org.uk

Nidderdale Community Transport, 01423 714953

Boroughbridge Community care – 01423 324504
boroughbridgecommunitycare@gmail.com

North Yorkshire Dial a Ride wheelchair accessible demand responsive transport for weekday daytime travel - 01609 533877

Volunteer appeal

We are now looking for volunteer drivers to join our 'Driving Force'. This very rewarding role gives drivers the chance to help their local community, as well as see more of our beautiful District. Drivers must be over 18, have access to a vehicle and be subject to DBS clearance. Mileage is reimbursed and the role is designed to fit around volunteers' busy lives.

Please do spread the word so that we can have our 'Driving Force' up and running as soon as possible.

Further information about the service is available by contacting Anna Woollven, Project Development Worker, anna@harcvs.org.uk, 01423 504074 or www.harcvs.org.uk/Driving+Force