

Supporting the C-19 commute

North Ayrshire



The challenge

Sustrans works with employers across the UK to support them in reducing single occupancy car journeys both for the commute and business travel. By creating bespoke packages of resources, activities and events, our staff enable employees to change their travel behaviour to improve their own health and wellbeing with the added benefit of reducing localised air pollution.

The Covid-19 (C-19) pandemic of 2020 has vastly affected all workplaces across the country and indeed the world. As a country-wide lockdown was announced in March, industries with the capacity and suitable work type have shut their offices, and employees have moved to home base working with video meetings.

Across other industries, work has continued almost as normal, with the addition of protective equipment and social distancing, and there are certain businesses that have seen an upturn in demand and have experienced different challenges to meet the customers needs.

The Sustrans solution

David Reid is a Sustrans workplaces officer, working in partnership with North Ayrshire Council to promote active travel to employees. Shirley is a personal assistant, who wanted to avoid public transport during C-19 due to contact with someone who was classed as vulnerable. She had been walking ten miles a day for her work commute which was becoming unsustainable for her.

David's project works in partnership with the Travel Smart team at North Ayrshire Council and they have a library of e-bikes funded by Sustrans and the Energy Saving Trust. He was able to provide Shirley with an e-bike, and some remote training to ensure she was comfortable riding the bike and carrying out basic maintenance if required.

This has revolutionised her commute to work by giving her access to loan the e-bike and the training and confidence to ride. Shirley would like to continue being able to commute by bike once the lockdown ends, to help her health and save time.

Project stats



Oct 2018 to Mar 2020 saw 84 events delivered in North Ayrshire engaging with over 600 employees



37% employees surveyed said they were now aware of local Walking & Cycling routes which they weren't before

“First day on the bike and it was so much quicker and more enjoyable. Thank you ever so much.”

Shirley, Personal Assistant

Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle.

We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

Join us on our journey.

www.sustrans.org.uk

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