

# 'Making a Mark'

## Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

### Dorset Community Transport

Dorset Community Transport (DCT) is part of ECT Charity, a leading community transport organisation providing transport in Ealing, Cornwall, Cheshire and Dorset.

DCT provides an affordable, accessible minibus service to voluntary, community and statutory groups, which enables these organisations to fulfil their own objectives. We reinvest some of our surplus each year to provide subsidised transport to these groups, which enables them to carry out their activities.



The Social Enterprise Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to provide 'social impact statements', which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives. Below are examples of how **DCT** is Making a Mark, striving to make a difference to local communities:

### **Social inputs – supporting vulnerable individuals**

In addition to group transport, we operate nearly 50 home-to-school services, transporting hundreds of pupils to mainstream and special educational needs schools across the county. These services are contracted by and operated on behalf of the local authorities.

We also operate minibuses on a number of local bus routes. These public services are subsidised by and operated on behalf of Dorset County Council. We recently commenced demand responsive door-to-door trips for individuals to market towns, shopping centres, lunches and places of interest.

Email: [dorset@ectcharity.co.uk](mailto:dorset@ectcharity.co.uk)

Website: <http://ectcharity.co.uk/services/areas/dorset>

Phone: 01258 287980



This service is available to vulnerable individuals who otherwise would not be able to leave their homes, notably the elderly and people with disabilities. It seeks to enable independent living and encourage social interaction for these vulnerable people.

We also build partnerships with local befriending organisations in Dorset County that helps us identify and encourage lonely and socially isolated elderly people to get out of their homes.

## Social outputs – enabling group transport

In 2015, we enabled **6,740** passenger trips for **124** different community groups, ensuring they were able to continue activities via subsidised rates for affordable and accessible transport.

We also facilitated **186,894** trips, which included **593** pupils travelling to school, including children with disabilities or special needs). In addition, we facilitated **21,462** trips on local bus routes, which enabled people in rural communities to get out and about.

All of our assets are retained for community use, and any surplus is automatically reinvested into community benefit.

## Social outcomes of activities

These include independent living, facilitating social interaction, enabling affordable trips for voluntary/ community groups and supporting volunteering and the volunteer sector.

Our [Why Community Transport Matters](#) report demonstrates how Community Transport tackles the issues of isolation and loneliness, and the significant side effects these have from both an economic and social perspective. It shows that the national economy could save up to **£1.1billion** by supporting Community Transport operators, such as DCT.



Email: [dorset@ectcharity.co.uk](mailto:dorset@ectcharity.co.uk)

Website: <http://ectcharity.co.uk/services/areas/dorset>

Phone: 01258 287980

