

'Making a Mark'

Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

Dorset Community Transport

Dorset Community Transport (DCT) was launched in 2011, to provide community transport services across Dorset. It is part of ECT Charity, which creates social value through charitable activities; we deliver high quality, safe, accessible and affordable community transport services that benefit local communities.



DCT provides door-to-door journeys for people unable to use mainstream public transport due to mobility or other difficulties, or because ordinary public transport or other services have been withdrawn from their area. We also provide an affordable, accessible minibus service to voluntary and community groups, which enables these organisations to fulfil their own objectives.

The Social Enterprise Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to answer a set of social impact questions, which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives. Below are examples of how **DCT** is Making a Mark, striving to create a positive impact on people and planet.

Supporting and enabling independent living

We are dedicated to supporting and enabling independent living, reducing isolation and encouraging social interaction, especially for vulnerable people such as older or disabled people or those with mobility difficulties who struggle to leave their homes.

Email: dorset@ectcharity.co.uk
Website: <http://ectcharity.co.uk/services/areas/dorset>
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We do this through the provision of community transport services for people that have serious obstacles in accessing other forms of public transport due to mobility, financial difficulties or because their local bus services have been withdrawn.

We also provide group transport to local voluntary, community and social groups, enabling them to broaden the reach and range of their services, facilitating social cohesion and community engagement. We further build partnerships with local befriending organisations in Dorset that helps us identify and encourage lonely and socially isolated elderly people to use our services and to get out of their homes.

Creating benefits for local communities



Our community transport services have been developed to cover unmet local needs, benefiting local residents as well as community organisations. We enable disabled, isolated and lonely people to remain independent and mobile and we support community participation and engagement.

We use the resources from our transport contracts with public bodies to support our charitable community transport activities, which include transport for individuals and transport for voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups.

In 2016/17, we provided door-to-door transport to 1,225 individuals and 200 VCS groups in Dorset, delivering 214,000 trips, which created £300,000 of additional social value to the community.

Reducing social isolation and exclusion

By providing transport to otherwise isolated or excluded people, we contribute to reducing isolation and developing sustainable communities. Our door-to-door services are often the only way in which some individuals can go out of their homes.

We enable users to live independently: for example, 80% of our PlusBus door-to-door passengers said they would find it significantly harder or impossible to go out without our services.

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