

## **Post-16 Travel Care Support – 2021/22**

### **Eligibility Assessment Criteria**

Financial support towards home to school and college travel is provided by the council in exceptional circumstances only. Independent travel training and public transport will be investigated as the first option for all post 16 students requesting support with travel. The provision of transport may be withdrawn if a student or parent/carer refuses an assessment to determine their ability to travel independently or to undertake independent travel training, where this is felt to be appropriate by the Local Authority and/or placement provider. A Personal Travel Budget will always be offered to students where the LA believes this is appropriate based on their needs and is a more efficient use of funds, as opposed to arranging taxis.

The eligibility assessment criteria used to make decisions about support includes:

- The student must normally reside in the Gateshead Council administrative area.
- The student must have a statement of SEN or an Education, Health and Care Plan where travel support has previously been provided, or a medical certificate from a recognised General Practitioner/Consultant that transport is required due to medical needs.
- Students must be undertaking a Full-Time Course of Study (12 guided learning hours or more per week) for a minimum period of one academic year. Support is not available for students on part-time, work-based learning (e.g. supported internships), distance learning or day release courses.
- Students must be attending the nearest eligible educational establishment that can provide a suitable course. Where a student or their parent/carer has chosen a placement further away, they may not be eligible for travel support.
- What other alternatives are available e.g. the ability of parents/carers/family members to provide or organise transport, which will take into account factors such as income, family circumstances and whether non-travel solutions could facilitate access to learning e.g. peripatetic/mobile teaching, E-learning etc.
- The course must be a High Needs funded study programme.
- The ability of the student to travel independently including whether a travel training assessment has been previously refused or whether the student has already undertaken travel training and what the outcomes were.
- The distance and journey time from home to school or college.
- Whether the student could access education if transport is not provided.
- For adults aged 18 and over, any Care Act Assessment (2014) and resulting outcome.

- Whether the student is in receipt of 16-19 bursary funding or receives the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Enhanced rate mobility of Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

Students attending study programmes beyond 6<sup>th</sup> form age may be eligible for travel care support if they are attending a full-time High Needs funded study programme that is stated in their Education, Health and Care Plan and in addition meet one of the following needs:

- a. Severe learning difficulty (defined as working at Entry Level One or below. This information will be confirmed from either the Education Health Care Plan Statement/Learning Difficulty Assessment or current placement)
- b. severe medical condition which would include severe unstable epilepsy, oxygen dependence, autism with associated severe learning difficulties (medical evidence must be submitted with the application), severe mental health issues (in cases where the applicant is receiving mental health support from professional staff and medical evidence must be submitted with the application).
- c. severe psychological conditions would include extreme phobia (for which medical evidence must be submitted with the application).

Where no other alternatives are available and in exceptional circumstances, discretionary criteria will be taken into consideration, including family circumstances, income and distance.