



Travel care options

For children, young people and adults
with additional needs

Introduction

This booklet sets out briefly the travel options available for children, young people and adults with additional needs.

To find out more about each option, contact the number or email of the service provider set out below.

For any general advice or information about travel care in Gateshead, please contact Gateshead Council's Travel Care team.

0191 433 7484
travelcare@gateshead.gov.uk

More information is also available about services to children, young people and adults with additional needs on our website: **www.gateshead.gov.uk/localoffer**

Different formats

If you would like this information in large print, on CD/MP3 or in a different language please contact Travel Care Team.

Independent Travel Training

What is it?

This is a practical training programme that teaches children and young people with additional needs attending a school or college how to travel independently on public transport. There is a referral process and an assessment is undertaken to find out if travel training is appropriate for the child/young person.

How to access it

Contact Gateshead Council's SEND Team
0191 433 3626 (9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)
senteam@gateshead.gov.uk
www.gateshead.gov.uk/localoffer

Alternatively, contact your school or college to find out whether travel training is provided directly.

Travel Buddy Service

What is it?

This is an independent travel training programme for adults aged 18 and over with a learning disability provided by a Gateshead voluntary organisation called 'Your Voice Counts'.

How to access it

Contact Your Voice Counts
0191 478 6472
travelbuddy@yvc.org.uk
www.yvc.org.uk

Safe Places Scheme

What is it?

People with disabilities have said that sometimes when they are out things happen that make them worried and scared. The Safe Places scheme helps people with disabilities deal with such incidents. They said it would be good if there were places that they could go to when something happens that causes them distress and talk to someone who can help them.

Examples of safe places include all Gateshead libraries, Your Voice Counts, Nexus Travel Shops, Teams Medical Practice, the Metrocentre, Young Women's Outreach Project and any of the Gateshead Housing Offices.

This scheme was developed by Gateshead People and is supported by Gateshead Council and Northumbria Police.

For a full list of Safe Places in Gateshead go to the website below.

How to access it

Contact John, Joss or Alex at Gateshead People Self-Advocacy Group

0191 478 6472

gatesheadpeople@gmail.com

www.ourgateshead.org/news/safe-places-scheme

Personal Travel Care Budget

What is it?

A personal travel care budget enables families of children with special educational needs or disabilities, to arrange their child's home to school travel arrangements in a way that suits their circumstances.

The budget is based on the distance between home and school for the days a child attends school and can be used in creative ways such as:

- Paying for an escort to walk the child to school
- Assisting with the cost of driving or cycling with a child to school
- Sharing travel arrangements with other parents
- Assisting with the cost of childcare arrangements for siblings to allow parents to take their child to school

How to access it

Contact Gateshead Council's SEND Team for an application pack
0191 433 3626 (9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)
senteam@gateshead.gov.uk
www.gateshead.gov.uk/localoffer

Free bus pass (school pupils aged 5-16 years)

What is it?

If you live in Gateshead, your child may be eligible to receive a free bus pass if:

- they live further than the legal walking distance from their appropriate neighbourhood school (two miles for primary school pupils and three miles for secondary school pupils);
- they are a secondary school pupil either in receipt of free school meals or their household qualifies for the maximum level of working tax credits; and
 - they attend one of their three qualifying schools and live between 2 and 6 miles away; or
 - They attend the nearest suitable school (preferred on grounds of religion or belief) and live between two and 15 miles away.

How to access it

Contact Gateshead Council's Benefits Section for an application form.
0191 433 4848
csbenefitsfm@gateshead.gov.uk
www.gateshead.gov.uk/Education

Free concessionary bus and metro pass

What is it?

Children and adults with one of the disabilities listed below living in Tyne and Wear may be entitled to a Concessionary Travel Pass:

- Blind or partially sighted
- Profoundly or severely deaf
- Without speech
- Have a disability which means that you cannot walk except with excessive labour, at an extremely slow pace or with excessive pain
- Do not have arms or have a long term loss of the use of both arms
- Have a learning disability
- Someone who has been, or would be, refused a driving licence on certain medical grounds

With a Concessionary Travel Pass, you can travel on buses in Tyne and Wear for free after 9.30am Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and public holidays.

Metro travel is not free but you can avoid paying full fares after 9.30am by buying a Metro Gold Card (£12 per year for Gateshead residents), which can be used with a Concessionary Travel Pass.

If you are in education, training or employment for more than 16 hours a week, you can qualify for an all-day pass.

Once you receive the confirmation of eligibility letter from social care, you should take that and a supporting letter from your school, college, training provider or employer to Nexus who will issue with your pass.

How to access it

Everyone applying for the Concessionary Travel Scheme on grounds of disability has to be initially assessed by Gateshead Council. You should, therefore, contact them for advice on what you need to take with you.

Contact Gateshead Council

0191 433 3832 (0-16 years)

0191 433 3169 or 433 3156 (aged 16+)

Alternatively, contact Nexus

0191 20 20 747 (7am-9pm 7 days a week)

In person by visiting a Nexus TravelShop, open 6 days a week
customerservice@nexus.org.uk

Companion Card

What is it?

A companion card allows a person with a disability to take someone with them on public transport free of charge. You will automatically qualify for a companion card if you receive either of the following:

- Higher rate care component of the Disability Living Allowance
- High rate Attendance Allowance

You may still be eligible if you don't receive either of these benefits.

How to access it

Contact Nexus for an application form

Tel: 0191 202 0747 (8am-6pm seven days a week)

In person by visiting a Nexus TravelShop, open six days a week

access@nexus.org.uk

Taxicard – cheaper taxi travel

What is it?

If you have a mobility difficulty and can provide documentary evidence that you are in receipt of one of the following benefits, the Nexus TaxiCard scheme can help you to travel independently cheaply:

- High rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance
- Registered Severely Visually Impaired or Blind
- Higher Rate Attendance Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) – this letter must show that you have scored a minimum of 8 points in the Mobility component under 'Moving around')

Taxicard allows you to travel with one of their approved taxi companies at a discounted price. Members get issued with a card which is credited with a set amount of money every year - you use the money on your card to help pay towards each journey you make. TaxiCard is an annual scheme, but there are two application deadlines where you can apply to join each year (February and September).

How to access it

Contact Nexus for an application form

Tel: 0191 202 0747 (7am-9pm seven days a week)

In person by visiting a Nexus TravelShop, open six days a week

access@nexus.org.uk

Bursary Fund of up to £1,200 per academic year towards transport costs

What is it?

This fund is for students aged 16-19 years who:

- Meet the residency criteria in Education Funding Agency (EFA) academic year funding regulations for post-16 provision.
- Are participating in provision that is subject to inspection by a public body which assures quality (such as Ofsted) and is:
 - funded directly by either EFA or EFA via a local authority; or
 - funded publicly otherwise and leads to a qualification (up to and including Level 3)
 - a 16-19 traineeship programme.

16-19 bursary funding does not affect entitlement to any income-related benefits. Bursaries are paid directly to students in addition to other means-tested benefits paid such as Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Child Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Housing Benefit and does not affect them.

How to access it

Contact your chosen sixth form, college or other institution **as soon as possible well before your course starts** to find out how to make an application. Most colleges have student services, welfare advice services, student advice services and learning support services. Any of these should be able to signpost you about how to access it. You can find contact details on school and college websites.

Vulnerable Bursary up to £1,200 per academic year towards transport costs

What is it?

Students aged 16-19 years participating on a study programme that lasts for 30 weeks or more (although students on study programmes lasting less than 30 weeks may qualify for a pro-rata amount) and in one or more of the groups below can apply for a vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200:

- In care
- A care leaver
- Getting Income Support (IS), or Universal Credit (UC) in place of Income Support, in their own right
- Getting Employment and Support Allowance (EWS) or Universal Credit (UC) and Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment in their own right.

16-19 bursary funding does not affect entitlement to any DWP income-related benefits. Bursaries are paid directly to students in addition to other means-tested benefits paid such as Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Child Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Housing Benefit and does not affect them.

How to access it

Contact your chosen sixth form, college or other institution as soon **as possible well before your course starts** to find out how to make an application. Most colleges have student services, welfare advice services, student advice services and learning support services – any of these should be able to signpost you about how to access it. You can find contact details on school and college websites.

Network One Travel Ticket

What is it?

If you are under 19 or a full time student, the Network One Travel Ticket allows you to travel for a discounted price on buses, the Metro, the Sunderland to Blaydon rail line and Shields ferry all day every day. Tickets are available to use in one, two or all zones on a one week, four week and termly basis.

How to access it

In person by visiting a Nexus Travel Shop, open six days a week (take with you your original birth certificate, driving licence or current or expired POP card and a passport style photograph).

www.networkonetickets.co.uk

Go North East Buses - discounted travel for young people, students and apprentices

What is it?

If you are under 18, a student aged 19 or over or an apprentice, Go North East offers discounted travel on their buses including single fare, one day, seven day and monthly payment options.

How to access it

In person on the bus, using the Go North East app or using a key smartcard. Apprentice or student ID may be required when buying tickets.

www.gonortheast.co.uk/youngpeople



Access to Work Scheme

What is it?

An Access to Work grants is available if your employer is based in England, Scotland or Wales, you are aged 16 or over, and either:

- about to start a job or work trial
- in a paid job or self-employed (note: not available for voluntary work)

You may qualify if you receive New Enterprise Allowance or are starting work experience under the Youth Contract. You may NOT qualify if you receive any of these benefits:

- Incapacity Benefit
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Income Support
- National Insurance Credits

You may still qualify for Access to Work if you earn less than £105 a week and either work as part of a treatment programme to get you off benefits or are supervised by someone from a Local Council or voluntary organisation who arranges work for disabled people. This is called 'supported permitted work'.

How to access it

0345 268 8489 (8am-6pm Mon-Fri)
Textphone: 0345 608 8753

atwosu.london@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview

Blue Badge Scheme

What is it?

If you have a disability (eligibility criteria applies), having a blue badge allows you to park near to places you want to go. A blue badge costs around £10 and you can apply online via Gateshead Council's website.

How to access it

Contact Gateshead Council's Parking Services
0191 433 2429
parkingandregulation@gateshead.gov.uk
www.gateshead.gov.uk/bluebadge

