

FACTSHEET NO. 4: ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Dial-a-Ride

Dial-a-Ride is a membership scheme run by Transport for London (TfL) which provides a bookable door-to-door minibus service free of charge for disabled and older people who have difficulties accessing public transport.

Many people will qualify automatically, but if you do not you may still qualify if your impairment affects your mobility and you have trouble using public transport. You will need to describe your mobility problems and also send written proof provided by a healthcare professional.

For more information, and how to apply: <http://www.transportforall.org.uk/d2d/dar/> or call Dial-a-Ride on 0343 222 7777.

Taxicard

The London Taxicard Scheme is funded by 32 participating London boroughs and the Mayor of London, and it aims to provide door-to-door transport for disabled and older people who have mobility impairments and difficulty in using public transport.

Many people will qualify automatically, but if you do not you may still qualify if your impairment affects your mobility and you have trouble using public transport. You will need to describe your mobility problems and also send written proof provided by a healthcare professional.

For more information visit <http://www.transportforall.org.uk/d2d/taxicard>

National Express Disabled Coach Card

If you're registered disabled, the Disabled Coachcard offers 1/3 off standard fares to hundreds of UK towns, cities and airports - for £10 (plus £1.50 p&p) a year.

For more information visit www.nationalexpress.com or call 08717 818179.

Disabled Person's Railcard

If you have a disability that makes travelling by train difficult you might qualify for the Disabled Persons Railcard.

The Disabled Persons Railcard allows you to get one third off most rail fares throughout Great Britain. If you are travelling with an adult companion they can also get one third off their rail fare.

It costs £20 for a one year railcard or £54 for a three year Railcard.

You will need to give proof that you are eligible. You may qualify if you have a visual impairment, hearing impairment, epilepsy or are in a receipt of a disability-related benefit.

For more information please visit www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk or call 0845 605 0525.

Patient Transport Scheme

Patient Transport Services are responsible for transporting people to and from hospital appointments.

Each NHS Trust has its own procedure for arranging transport. Most require either your GP or hospital doctor to authorise the booking of transport.

It is advisable you tell your doctor if you are having difficulties getting to and from the hospital.

Disabled Person's Freedom Pass

Disabled Freedom Pass holders have 24-hour free access on the capital's tube, bus and tram services and on national rail services in the capital at any time. A disabled person of any age can apply for this pass, as long as you meet one of the following criteria:

- People who are blind or partially sighted
- People who are profoundly or severely deaf
- People without speech
- People who have a disability, or have suffered an injury, which has left them with a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to walk
- People who do not have arms or have a long-term loss of the use of both arms
- People who have a learning disability that is defined as 'a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning'
- People who, if they applied for the grant of a license to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, would have their application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

To obtain a Disabled Person's Freedom Pass you must apply directly to the council: <http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=15769> or call Social Services at the Civic Centre for further details 01895 556633.

Transport for All (TfA)

TfA is a campaigning and support organisation for disabled and older people in London. It offers information and advice about transport across London, and supports users with complaints about services. For more information: <http://www.transportforall.org.uk/>, or to call the helpline: 020 7737 2339