

Social care transport reviews

The future of transport for users of Adult Social Care services

It's a great success story that our residents are living longer and healthier lives, but like many areas across the country, this places greater demand on our care services. We also face the challenge of a reducing budget that will continue to decrease over the coming years.

In this context, we need to make sure that we are making the best use of the resources that are available to maintain quality services which address the needs of our communities.

Nottinghamshire County Council spends more on transport than other councils and needs to reduce the heavy subsidy it currently gives to transport service users.

We think it is in the interest of service users and taxpayers to move away from a position where the Council has often funded and provided transport for many service users receiving community care. We believe a new and more personal approach is required where people will work with the Council to identify their transport needs and agree suitable alternatives to current provision.

This will mean the Council will fund transport for users of adult social care only in exceptional circumstances where there is no suitable or appropriate alternative.

The people who use these transport services are mainly people who are older or who have learning disabilities or a physical disability. We think the following principles will help guide our decisions:

- To assist service users to become more independent in getting to where they want to go.
- To ensure suitable alternatives are in place for the majority of service users

that will no longer have their transport needs funded by the Council.

- To work with service users to ensure suitable alternatives are affordable, accessible and safe.
- To ensure provision and funding is available for the small number of service users that have no alternative to council funded transport.
- To minimise costs of transport to service users and taxpayers.

What other transport services are available?

Service	Detail
Concessionary bus travel	This is a scheme which allows free travel on local bus services for senior citizens and people eligible through disability, after 09:30 Monday to Friday and at all times weekends and Public holidays. There is also a discounted Railcard which can be used to purchase discounted rail travel for senior citizens and people eligible through disability. For more information visit: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/public-transport/plan-a-journey
Concessionary train travel	If you have a disability that makes travelling by train difficult you might qualify for the Disabled Person's Railcard. The Railcard gives you – and one adult travelling with you – 1/3 off most First Class and standard rail fares throughout Great Britain. For more information visit: www.nationalrail.co.uk/timesfares/46540.aspx

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)/ Personal Independent Payment (PIP), Mobility Component	This is a financial allowance paid by the Department of Work and Pensions. People can qualify for this benefit depending on the degree of their mobility impairment. People qualifying for Mobility Component can qualify for a leased vehicle under the Motability scheme in exchange for their allowance.
"Car Plus" schemes	These provide transport to essential services for people who use a wheelchair. These operate in Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Newark and Sherwood, and Tuxford (including surrounding villages). For more information visit: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/travel/communitytransport/carschemeplus/
Blue Badge	Used by residents and gives free and dedicated parking close to services for drivers and passengers with mobility-related disabilities, or who are blind. For more information visit: http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/parking/blue-badge-scheme/
Community transport	Community transport may be available for people who are without private transport or who are unable to access public transport to make their journey. There is a usually a small charge for each journey which varies depending on the scheme. For more information visit: http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/community-accessible-transport/find-community-transport-in-your-area/

Accessible taxi companies	Many taxi companies now operate vehicles capable of transporting wheelchair-using, or mobility impaired, passengers: http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/travel/communitytransport/accessibletaxicompanies/
Independent Travel Training	Practical help in travelling by public transport, on foot or by bicycle. Travel training aims to help people travel independently to access work, education, to other key services, or simply for leisure.