

More Choices for Supporting Your Child or Young Person to Travel to School/College

Transport assistance for children with special education, health and care plans or mobility issues



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Introduction

We know that getting children and young people to school/college on time and safely can be a challenge, but that we also want our children to grow up to be as independent as possible, and to have the best start in life.

Rotherham Council is now helping parents and carers to support their children or young people by giving them more choice about how their child or young person gets to school/college.

Although parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child/young person attends school or college, in some cases, the Council can provide support for your child or young person's travel between home and school/college.

The options will depend on qualifying criteria, as well as whether the transport options are suitable for the needs of your child or young person.

If your child or young person has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or mobility problem, the Council will work with parents/carers to agree the child/young person's individual transport needs.

This booklet sets out everything you need to know about the new options available.

More Choice – Personal Transport Budgets

In the future, we will be providing families whose child/young person are eligible for home to school/college transport with more choice.

Personal Transport Budgets are an alternative to offering transport for a child/young person, giving you control of your own transport.

If they meet the criteria for transport and wish to make your own travel arrangements, this is a great option for many families.

Families can choose how they spend the money, and may wish to join with a family member, friends, or groups of families to provide transport to children or young people in their group.

Why choose a personal budget?

- Freedom to make your own arrangements – to suit your family
- Control over how the money is spent
- The child/young person may be more secure and relaxed at school/college
- You can share the cost and save money by joining up with other parents/carers
- You could use the money to help your child/young person become more independent





How much is on offer?

Your personal payment will depend on the number of days your child/young person is travelling, and the distance from home to school/college using the Council's measuring software.



Example 1:

You currently live **five miles from school/college**. You would receive £0.45 per mile for two trips per day. Based on 192 days in the academic year your payment could be **£864.00 each year**.

Where more than one child/young person is in the vehicle the payment will relate to each eligible child/young person.

Example 2:

You currently live **10 miles from school/college**. You would receive £0.45 per mile for two trips per day. Based on 192 days in the academic year your payment could be **£1728.00 each year**.

How much will it cost?

There is no cost to the young people or parents/carers who are eligible for this type of option.

Independent Travel Training

Independent Travel Training is a programme designed to run in a school/college. We will mainly be working with students from the ages of 14 plus, and it is available to young people who it is considered appropriate following consultation with children and their families. The training aims to equip young people with the skills needed to travel by themselves on public transport to and from school/college.

The ability to travel independently is of fundamental importance to all aspects of life, whether a person has a disability or otherwise. A lack of independent travel could ultimately create one of the most significant barriers to personal success and satisfaction. Independent Travel Training will be offered in the form of practical support and aims to provide a life skill to young people who then can take this skill to further education or employment.

Personal gains for young people can include personalised support, increased self-esteem, self-confidence and social skills, as well as increased potential to access education, employment and leisure opportunities.

Young people will be matched with their own travel trainer, who will work through a training plan with the young person. The plan is specifically tailored to the young person and aims to develop their independence.

Annual Review – Your opportunity to understand the options

As your child/young person has an Education, Health and Care plan, at least once a year you and your child/young person will meet with all the professionals involved in your child's education, health and care. The meeting about travel training will be held at the same time as the Education, Health and Care plan is reviewed.

How the child/young person travels to school/college is an important part of this process so, in the future, this will be discussed as part of this meeting. This will allow you and your child/young person to be fully involved in the decision-making process for transport options.

The review will provide an opportunity to review the child/young person transport needs, consider the options available

to you, and discuss whether independent travel training would be a suitable option for the child/young person.

However, you can make an expression of interest for Independent Travel Training and personal budgets at any time by completing the form on the back page.



Further information on the Home to School Policy is available at www.rotherham.gov.uk/schools



To make an application for a personal transport budget or to express an interest in Independent Travel Training visit:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/schools to fill in the online form.

Alternatively you can photograph your completed form and send as an attachment to education.transport@rotherham.gov.uk

- 1) Name:
- 2) Full address including postcode:
- 3) Email address:
- 4) Telephone number:
- 5) Mobile telephone number:
- 6) How do you prefer to be contacted? (*multiple tick boxes*)
Email Telephone Mobile
- 7) What is your relationship to the Child and Young Person:
- 8) Name of Child and Young Person:
- 9) Name of the school the Child and Young Person is attending:
- 10) If you have any further comments please enter below:

Please tick below if you are interested in the following:

Personal budgets

Independent travel training