

1. What is Independent Travel Training?

Independent travel training is crucial life skill that gives people the freedom to fulfil their potential and live a full life. Travel training provides people with the knowledge and skills they need to travel safely around Coventry, promoting their independence. It also provides parents and carers peace of mind that individuals are travelling safely. Travel training is a free service provided by Coventry City Council. It is part of the curriculum in Special schools and colleges. There is a team of experienced Independent Travel Trainers working in the City Council and within schools and colleges.

2. How do we do it?

We offer training in the practical skills required to travel independently

- Route knowledge
- The agreed route will be specific and tailored to meet the individuals needs
- Using a bus: how to use a bus pass, where to sit, how to stop the bus etc.
- We manage risk by teaching safe practice, road safety and personal safety.
- We look at contingency planning, “what if...?” situations.
- We consider who may be “safe people” to speak to.
- We enable people to build on their skills and develop their confidence
- We work at the pace of the individual

3. Who do we train?

- Adults aged between 18-65 years old accessing:
 - All Age Disability Team
 - Mental Health Services
 - Adult Social Care
 - Agencies funded by Coventry City Council
- Young people aged between 12-25 with special educational needs, in receipt of travel assistance and accessing:
 - Special Educational Need (SEN) and mainstream schools in Coventry
 - Careers Advisory Service
 - Post 16 Education (College)

4. How long does travel training take?

Travel training is not time limited. It will take as long as is needed to train people so that they are safe, confident and ready to begin travelling independently. It can start very slowly, building up skills and knowledge and going at a pace that suits the person. People will not be "signed off" as safe to begin travelling independently unless the Travel Trainers agree that they are ready to do so. We regularly review the progress of all of our trainees. Sometimes we may begin working with people who are not ready for travel training, for many reasons. If this happens, we may put training "on hold" for an agreed time and start again in the future.

5. Why is travel training important?

Travel Training has been shown to have positive effects on the lives of people who are trained, as well as those around them. Travelling independently allows people to do more social and educational activities and helps them to maintain better relationships.

Independent travel skills also help to open up employment opportunities after leaving school or college. This all contributes to a more fulfilled life. Successful travel training enables families to do more things together and provides more time for separate activities.

6. Where will travel training take place?

Travel training is delivered in the community. Travel training starts with a meeting with the Travel Trainer to assess the person's level of knowledge and understanding. This meeting will usually take place in school, college or at home. Journeys are planned and route specific. Where people attend school, college, day services or are in employment we generally start from there, using public transport to home and back. Where people have very little experience of travel, we may start with a walking route around the local area. We would start working on road safety before we moved on to further training.

8. How do people access the service?

Before any travel training takes place, a social worker, support worker, school or college will first assess whether a person is ready to be considered for ITT. To complete travel training the person must have the potential, once successfully trained to travel independently (i.e. without an escort).

There are three ways you may refer young people to our service:

- For 12-19 year olds attending SEN schools please contact your school directly.
 - For people over 16 with special educational needs but not attending SEN schools via your careers advisor.
 - For people over 16 with special educational needs attending college via your Advisor or the SEN Team on 024 7683 1614.
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- For adults aged 18-65 you may refer to the Independent Travel Team via your Adult Social Care Team.

7. Once travel training is completed how do I get a bus pass?

Anyone with a learning or physical disability and/or if you have an Education, Health and Care Plan (formally SEN Statement of Educational of Need), may be eligible for a free concessionary bus pass via Centro http://www.networkwestmidlands.com/seniors/concessionary_home.aspx

If you are in Education and have an EHCP, your Education provider will advise you on how you can apply for this. If you have applied for a concessionary bus pass but receive a letter to say you are not eligible or refused a concessionary bus pass, it is important to keep this letter. If you have previously had travel assistance and transport paid for by Coventry City Council, on seeing a copy of this letter, the Council may pay for the bus pass which school will help you arrange. If you are aged 16-18, you will need a “16-18 Photo card” to go with your bus pass. Schools have application forms for this card.

If you are in Post-16, attending college, you will need to apply to your college to fund your bus pass. As soon as you start college, speak to Student Services, who will advise you how to apply for a bursary for transport. If this application is unsuccessful, you will need to purchase your own bus pass. Please see Post-16 Transport Policy for further information.

If you are an adult in receipt of Adult Social Care and/or transport provided by the City Council, your Social Worker, Travel Trainer or the Social Care Team can write a letter to support your application for a Concessionary bus pass. Please speak to your Travel Trainer about this.

For more information contact the Independent Travel Team on Telephone: 02476 294434 (answerphone available) or via Email: ITT@coventry.gov.uk