

Towards Independence


# Transport



# Towards Independence

## Transport



 As disabled young people get older it is important to have opportunities to become more independent.

Learning to use public transport, either with support or on your own, is an important part of growing up.

However as well as public transport you may want to use other methods of travel.

This guide gives you more information about transport options in Kingston upon Thames for disabled young people.

It includes information on:



• Learning to travel more independently



• Using public transport - buses and trains



• Accessible transport schemes



• Accessible vehicle hire

Each section will tell you how you can use the transport and what schemes there are to help you.



## Learning to travel independently

Learning to travel more independently can be a scary task. However there are some people who can help.

### Schools/College

Some schools and colleges offer 'travel training'. Your teacher may help you and your family plan how to safely help you travel more independently. They can help you learn and plan routes and then support you to be able to follow those routes with less support.

Ask your teacher if this is something that they can help you with.

### Transport for London

Transport for London publish workbooks/guides for people with learning disabilities that are aimed at helping them travel more independently around London.

#### **Out and About in London: My Guide**

This workbook helps people plan their routes, think about staying safe and provides advice on how to get help if needed. This guide is also available as an audio CD.

#### **Out and About in London: Supporting Independent Travel**

This workbook/guide is for people that are helping you to travel on your own.

A copy of these guides can either be downloaded from the Transport for London website or ordered by telephone.

Details are provided below:



**Website:** [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 020 7222 1234



## TRANSPORT

Transport for London offer a Travel Mentoring Service. The Travel Mentoring Service offers support to disabled Londoners who want to broaden their horizons and make use of accessible public transport options.

The service offers advice on planning a journey using an accessible route and can also provide a mentor to come with you for your first few journeys to help you gain confidence and become a more independent traveller.

Mentoring is offered free of charge and can be provided Monday-Friday 8am-6pm.

To find out more contact them on:



**Tel:** 020 3054 4361

### First Route

Kingston Safer Transport team, Transport for London and London United Bus Operator Transdev are working together to help people with learning disabilities learn how to use buses more independently.

On the first Wednesday of every month the bus company provides a bus that is only for people with learning disabilities. This means that people with learning disabilities can develop their confidence in using buses whilst also learning about keeping safe and meeting drivers and community police officers.

For more information contact Kingston Day Services on **020 8547 6652.**





## Using public transport

### Accessibility Guides

Transport for London have a range of resources aimed at helping people with disabilities to travel around London, either with support or independently.

They publish a range of accessibility guides which show accessible routes around London. These guides are also available as audio guides and in Braille.

A copy of these guides can either be downloaded from their website or ordered by telephone. Details are provided below:



**Website:** [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 0207 222 1234

### Freedom Pass

Freedom Passes allow the owner to travel for free at any time on London's public buses, tubes, DLR, tram or London Overground and at certain times on National Rail. It also entitles the holder to half price river transport services in London.

You can get a Freedom Pass if your only or main home is in a London Borough and you have an eligible disability. According to the TFL website, eligible disabilities for a Freedom Pass are:

- Being blind or partially sighted
- Profoundly or severely deaf
- Without speech
- Having a disability or a permanent injury that makes walking more difficult
- Having no arms or a long term loss of use of both arms
- Having a learning disability
- Having a disability that prevents you from getting a driving licence

If you think you may be eligible for a Freedom Pass or would like further information then please contact the Disabled Children's Team on 020 8547 6523.

## Disabled Person's Rail Card

If you have a disability that makes travelling by train difficult you might qualify for the Disabled Persons Railcard. The Railcard allows you to get a 1/3 off most rail fares throughout Great Britain. If you're travelling with an adult companion they also can get the same discount - so you can save money for your friends too!

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

There is an annual fee for the rail card.

You can get further information regarding the railcard and how to apply by:

- Asking at your local train station
- Calling on 0845 605 0525 or 0845 601 0132 (minicom)
- Downloading the form from [www.disabledpersonsrailcard.co.uk](http://www.disabledpersonsrailcard.co.uk)





## Accessible transport schemes

For some people using public transport is not a practical option. This section gives details of alternative schemes that are available in Kingston.

### Dial-A-Ride

Dial-A-Ride is a free door to door service for disabled young people who have difficulty with using buses, trains and the tube.

You can use Dial-A-Ride for many kinds of journeys including going shopping, social activities or visiting friends and family.

You can't use it to get to hospital appointments or to travel to and from work as other schemes are available for this purpose.

The service is based at the Integrated Transport Centre at the North Kingston Centre. You will need to register with them by calling the number below. Once registered, you can book individual journeys.



**Tel:** 020 8879 5023

### Taxicard

Taxicard is a door-to-door transport service for Londoners with serious mobility impairments. The scheme allows people to travel in black cabs at greatly reduced fares.

For more information or an application form:



**Tel:** 020 8547 6085

**Website:** [www.taxicard.org.uk](http://www.taxicard.org.uk)



# TRANSPORT

## Capital Call

You must be a Taxicard member to register for Capital Call.

Capital Call is a complementary service to the Taxicard scheme and gives people the choice of travelling in minicabs. Capital Call has been introduced as an additional transport option for Taxicard members where there is a shortage of London taxis.

People who prefer to use a combination of Taxicard and Capital Call schemes can be allocated a combination allowance. For more information or an application form:



**Tel:** 020 8547 6085

**Website:** [www.taxicard.org.uk](http://www.taxicard.org.uk)

## Blue Badge

A Blue Badge is a badge that you display in your vehicle that allows you to park:

- Free of charge and for long as needed at street parking meters and at places where other people can only park for a limited time'
- For up to 3 hours on single yellow or double yellow lines, depending on certain rules and restrictions
- Free of charge in car parks operated by the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, including Kingston, Surbiton, Tolworth, Hook, Chessington and Worcester Park.

Disabled or blind people, including those over the age of 2, who live in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames may use this scheme by displaying a Blue Badge in the vehicle they are using.

For further information and to apply contact Community Care Services:



**Tel:** 020 8547 6008



## Accessible Vehicle Hire

### Motability Scheme

If a disabled young person receives the higher rate of mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) they might be able to choose to have their mobility allowance paid directly to Motability.

In return you can hire your choice of car, powered wheelchair or scooter and this can give you the freedom to go out and about. If you don't drive you can still apply for a car and one of your parents or carers can drive it for you.

If you want to get a car either to drive yourself or use as a passenger you can choose between a contract hire scheme or a hire purchase scheme.

Motability can also help meet the costs of special equipment and adapted vehicles for those who cannot afford to be mobile without extra help. It gives grants for specially adapted vehicles for people with the most severe disabilities.

You can also get help with learning to drive. The Excel/Motability Young Disabled Drivers Scholarships helps young disabled people aged 16-24 with the cost of driving tuition.

For further information:



**Tel:** 0845 4564566 or

**Minicom:** 01279 632273

**Website:** [www.motability.co.uk](http://www.motability.co.uk)

## Queen Elizabeth Foundation Mobility Centre

The QEF Mobility Centre offers independent advice on personal outdoor mobility including driving with medical conditions and powered scooters and wheelchairs.

A personal assessment is offered by appointment for a fee, which may be subsidised, and includes all aspects of driving or learning to drive. This includes car access, seating and equipment storage, car adaptations and wheelchair or scooter choice.

The centre has a specialist driving school in suitably adapted cars.

For further information:



**Tel:** 020 8770 1151

**Email:** [info@mobility-qe.org.uk](mailto:info@mobility-qe.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.qefd.org.uk](http://www.qefd.org.uk)