

## Transport

### CTA Community Transport Association

The Programme for Independent Travel Training (PITT) is an exciting travel training scheme that assists students of all ages to travel independently. This can be walking, cycling, by bus, light railway (tube/metro), train, tram, ferry or even aeroplane. Independent Travel Training programmes are offered for all students with a learning difficulty and/or disability who are studying in full-time education. These programmes help to prepare students to travel independently either on evenings, weekends or after they have completed their education. All of the training programmes are taught by fully trained and accredited staff who have undergone DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks. The programmes are flexible, considering each person's individual needs as well as the service provision in the area. A dedicated travel training area has been developed and learning resource aids including booklets, CD's and DVD's have been made available. **For more information contact CTA 0845 1306195, [www.ctauk.org](http://www.ctauk.org)**

### Bridge Card

Nexus in partnership with bus operators and the 5 local authorities in Tyne and Wear have introduced the Bridge Card to help anyone who may need additional support whilst travelling. If you have difficulty using public transport because of age, disability, illness, or you simply lack confidence, you can carry a Bridge Card. When you show the card to transport staff they will recognise that you may need extra help during your journey. You don't have to register for the scheme you just have to carry a card. The Bridge Cards can be obtained from Nexus Travel Shops, day centres, libraries or local authorities. For more information Tel: (0191) 2020747, email: [customerservice@nexus.org.uk](mailto:customerservice@nexus.org.uk)

### Blue Badge Scheme

The Blue Badge Scheme provides a national arrangement of parking concessions for people with severe walking difficulties who travel either as drivers or passengers. The scheme also applies to registered blind people. It allows badge holders to park near their destination. Badges need renewing every three years. You can get a badge on behalf of your child or young person if they are over two years old and:

- they receive higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- they are registered blind
- they have a permanent and substantial disability which means they are unable to walk or have considerable difficulty in walking. In this case you may need to answer some questions to help the local authority determine your eligibility.

If you are a parent of a child who is less than two years old, you may apply for a badge for your child if they have a specific medical condition which means that they either:

- must always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment which cannot be carried around without great difficulty
- need to be kept near a vehicle at all times, so that they can, if necessary, be treated in the vehicle, or quickly driven to a place where they can be treated, such as a hospital.

Apply online for a new or to renew a Blue Badge, please telephone 0844 4630213. You will be asked to complete an application over the telephone, therefore it is important to have any information which may be relevant to your application to hand. If you do not live in the Sunderland area you must apply to the local authority responsible for your area.

### Nexus TaxiCard

TaxiCard offers convenient and affordable transport from some people with restricted mobility. TaxiCard is a smartcard which is the same size as a credit card which you will use to pay for part of your journeys by taxi. There are two opportunities to join the TaxiCard scheme – March and September. You will pay up to £3 (or half your taxi fare if the fare is less than £6) using your

TaxiCard. You will then need to pay the rest of the fare yourself. You will need to use one of the approved taxi and private hire operators that will be listed in the TaxiCard User Handbook that you will receive when you get your TaxiCard. You will automatically qualify for the scheme if you receive any of the following:

- High Rate Mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance
- Higher Rate Attendance Allowance
- Are registered severely visually impaired or blind.

You will need to complete a TaxiCard application form which is available by calling: Nexus TaxiCard team on: 0191 20 20 747, or by emailing: [customerservice@nexus.org.uk](mailto:customerservice@nexus.org.uk) or writing to: TaxiCard Administration, Nexus, Nexus House, St James' Boulevard, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4AX. **Further information can be obtained from the Nexus website at: [www.nexus.org.uk/wcm/connect/Nexus/Bus/TaxiCard/](http://www.nexus.org.uk/wcm/connect/Nexus/Bus/TaxiCard/)**

### **Concessionary Travel Passes**

If you are disabled, live in Tyne and Wear and have a Concessionary Travel Pass, you can travel on buses in Tyne and Wear for free. To qualify for a Concessionary Travel Pass, your child has to be initially assessed by Children's Services. If your child is eligible for a Concessionary Pass you will be given a Confirmation of Eligibility form to allow you to obtain, via post, a pass from the Concessionary Travel Bureau at Nexus' Head Office. To find out about eligibility criteria and what documentation you will need to bring with you, contact the Children's Disability Service on (0191) 566 2190.

**For more information contact your Concessionary Travel Bureau at Nexus on: 0191 2020747, pick up a leaflet at any Nexus Travelshop or visit the website at: [www.nexus.org.uk/disabledchild](http://www.nexus.org.uk/disabledchild)**

Please note: Metro journeys are not covered by the Concessionary Travel Pass. For metro journeys you would need to purchase an annual metro Gold Card which costs £25 per year if you live in Tyne and Wear.