

For young people

Cheshire West &
Chester Council

Independent Travel Training

Giving
independence,
**creating
confidence**

Travel training is designed to give children and young people the skills and confidence they need to travel independently.

How does it work?

Trainees learn using an agreed route (usually from home to school or further education). Training will usually happen in real time, which means that if a young person needs to be in school for 9am, the travel trainer will work within that timeframe, but this can be tailored to build confidence.

Who delivers the training?

We have an in-house team of travel trainers who are all qualified to deliver independent travel training. The programme is overseen by a coordinator who makes sure that the trainer is operating within our strict guidelines. All trainers have an Enhanced DBS check and have experience working with individuals with additional needs.



Who is eligible for travel training?

Individuals will be considered for travel training if initial assessment indicates they are ready to receive it

- ✓ They currently receive travel assistance from the council due to their special educational needs or disability, *and*
- ✓ they have access to public or college transport to travel to school or further education



Training Process

1. An initial meeting with the travel trainers, young person, and parents/carers to make sure that travel training is suitable and safe for the child/young person to undertake. Parents/carers are involved from the outset and will be updated throughout
2. By identifying the child/young person's skills and specific needs, a training plan will be co-created. A trainer will be allocated who will get to know the child/young person and support them for the duration of their training. Throughout the training, there will be regular assessments of the child/young person's progress which will be shared with the parents/carers.
3. Depending on the child/young person's confidence, training might start with theory sessions or during off-peak hours to travel when it's quieter, until they're ready to build up to real-time journey training. The programme will be designed to equip them with all of the skills and knowledge they need to confidently make the journey on their own.



The training will teach the child/young person what they need to know to travel independently. Depending on their prior knowledge, this may include:

- ✓ Personal safety
- ✓ Route planning
- ✓ What to do if things go wrong
- ✓ Telling the time
- ✓ Handling money to buy tickets
- ✓ Use of technology like mobile phones for route planning and timetables

How do we build independence?

At the beginning, the travel trainer will accompany each child/young person from door to door.

The overall aim is for them to travel without 1-to-1 support, so when the time is right, the trainer will meet them at a designated point along the route. The number of sessions required by the child/young person varies depending on ability, but training usually takes around 6-8 weeks.

On the days where there is no travel training, the learner will continue to use their normal mode of travel assistance to get to school/college.

When is the training complete?

When the travel trainer and coordinator are confident that the child/young person is ready to travel independently, it's time to celebrate the child/young person's achievements.

The child/young person will then be allocated a travel pass so they can use public or college transport to travel to school/college independently.

Benefits of travel training

Children and young people who are able to travel independently can then access a wider range of social or employment opportunities.

It helps to build confidence and helps support the development of independent life skills.

More information

Referrals for travel training should be discussed with the child/young person's key worker or allocated social worker.

For further information, please contact: Independent Travel Training Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Email: traveltraining@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 123 7039

Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services

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