

Independent Travel Training

Information for referrers

Background

Establishing people suited for travel training is a vital part of the process.

If a parent or setting (eg school, college) recommends a person for travel training, it is important to establish:

- whether the person **understands** what the training will involve and the expectation if they successfully complete training (eg council-funded transport will likely be cancelled)
- **why** the person wants to become an independent traveller, eg what would it mean to them, where would they like to go if they have the skills for safe independent travel)
- whether parents and carers **appreciate the principal purpose** of training which is for their son/daughter to become a regular, independent traveller (which they would be expected to support at the end of the programme)

For this purpose, we recommend a discussion takes place with the person, parent and setting – refer to the additional information for parents as a guide for those discussions.

Flags

There may be circumstances which could make travel training inappropriate for the person. While these circumstances may not automatically preclude someone from being referred for travel training, it is likely that if one or more flags are present training may not be appropriate:

- The person has no interest in becoming an independent traveller (eg would not want to undertake training; would not change current travel arrangement of taxi/bus)
- Travel training was previously provided but was unsuccessful (establishing why is important)
- The person does not/is not able to accept instruction/tuition
- The person has behaviours which currently require close management
- The person has health conditions and behaviours which would likely make community independence unsuitable
- The parents have no intention of agreeing to independent travel even if their son/daughter successfully completed the programme
- No flexibility is being provided for travel training to take place (eg by parent, the school)

- The proposed journey being trained is potentially dangerous or no contingency journey is possible
- The person is about to leave the destination for training (eg school)
- The person is already managing a significant transition (eg recently joined a new college or moved home) and travel training could be too challenging

Referral checklist

Does the person and their parent understand the travel training programme and are they both motivated to receive it now?

Have any flags (above) been established and, if so, has consideration been given to whether they prevent travel training (if in doubt, speak to travel trainer first)?

Is there good information about the person for the referral form?
