

# Guidelines for Transport Issues

A key objective for all students is to develop independence: mobility and independent travel are an important part of this whereby students can develop self confidence and feel included in the wider community. As such, students with learning, sensory and/or physical difficulties may not always have the opportunities or abilities to develop independent travel skills that their peer group takes for granted. It has to be recognized however, that not all students will become independent travellers but they will have a need to develop a degree of control over their own mobility.

The purpose of independent travel training should therefore be to work towards:

- Raising awareness of travel and safety issues with students, staff and parents.
- Improving mobility skills
- Encouraging safe independent travel.

**Question 8 on the Annual Review Summary of Recommendations looks at the issue of independent travel:**

**Is the pupil working on an independent travel programme**  
**(i) at home?**  
**(ii) at school?**

If the answer is 'Yes' to (i) the following discussion may take place, in a sensitive and non-patronising way:

- What are the parents doing to encourage independent travel?

- How are they managing situations?
- How often is the training taking place?
- Where is it taking place?
- What are their successes?
- Which areas still require development?
- Is it an ad hoc, spur of the moment or a well planned progressive programme?
- Are the parents aware of Wakefield's travel awareness team who can offer advice, support and training to parents and child?

If the answer is 'No' to (i) the following discussion may take place in a sensitive and non-patronising way:

- How do the parents/carers feel about their child becoming an independent traveller?
- Are they willing to become involved with a programme of independent travel training and thereby be able to contribute to the process?
- Would it help if the travel awareness team spoke to them?
- Would they like some travel training from the travel awareness team?
- What would they like from an independent travel training programme?

## School

- Is independent travel development an integral part of the curriculum?
- Is the school prepared to make the time commitment to a programme?
- Is the school prepared to make the staff commitment to a programme?
- Will the school support the programme financially?
- Will the school engage appropriate agencies and or support services?
- What criteria has the school set for saying that the student is ready for independent travel training?
- Is the school prepared to be flexible in the delivery of the programme?

## Points to consider

- All parties must not underestimate a student's real or perceived vulnerability.
- Are all parties in agreement?
- There should be a consistency in the approach to travel training for the individual.
- Risk assessments should be completed.
- Are all parties clear about the implications of financial support around the idea of mobility allowance?
- All parties should appreciate individuals will take variable lengths of time to achieve success.
- Booklets and resources are available from the Travel Awareness Team.