

Section 7

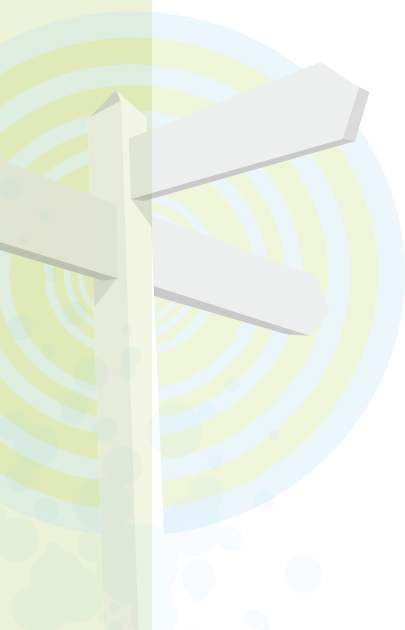
Transport

This section focuses on the transport available to help people with learning disabilities access services and opportunities around the district.

This section includes information about:

Getting around

Support with getting around



Support with getting around

There are a number of different organisations around Wakefield that offer transport or support with getting around as part of their service. You may need to contact the service you use directly about this. Otherwise, the following information may be of use when trying to arrange transport for the person you support.

Parking (Blue) Badge Scheme for disabled people

Wakefield Council's Car Badge Unit can issue car parking concessions (known as Blue Badges) to help people whose disability makes it impossible to visit shops, public buildings and other places unless they are allowed to park close to their destination.

The Blue Badge scheme is a national plan for drivers and passengers who have severe, permanent walking difficulties. It also applies to passengers who are registered blind and drivers who have very severe disabilities affecting their arms and cannot turn a steering wheel by hand.

Blue Badges can be used only when the person who it is allocated to is travelling in the vehicle.

For more information or for an application form, contact the **Blue Badge Scheme**:

Address: PO Box 208, Pontefract WF8 1WS

Tel: 0800 169 6520

Fax: 01977 724308

Email: bluebadge@wakefield.gov.uk

Bus passes for disabled people

To make the application as easy as possible, all enquiries are now being handled by one central point. If you have any difficulties or are unable to complete the form, please call the **Customer Contact Centre** on **0845 8 506506** for help.

Application forms can also be downloaded from **www.wakefield.gov.uk** and returned to:

Access to Services, Car Badge Unit, PO Box 208, Pontefract, WF8 1WS

Providing the criteria are met, a concessionary travel pass will be issued. Mandatory applications can take up to four weeks to process. Failure to include all of the necessary information will delay your application.

Note: This bus pass application is not for a senior travel pass - if you are over 60 you may apply for a senior pass at the Metro Office in bus stations or from any post office.

For more information about concessionary travel please visit the **Metro** website at **www.wymetro.com**. If you lose or damage your pass, contact Metro on 0113 245 7676. A replacement pass will be sent to you within 7 days. There may be a charge for lost or damaged cards.

AccessBus

**Address: Wellington House, 40 - 50 Wellington Street,
Leeds LS1 2DE**

Tel: 0113 348 1903

Email: accessbus@wypte.gov.uk

AccessBus is a dial-a-ride bus service providing door-to-door local transport to people who are unable to use conventional bus services.

The buses have either low floor, ramped access or are fitted with a passenger lift. Both types of vehicle are fitted with the most up-to-date safety equipment. AccessBus is free of charge to residents of West Yorkshire, and operates between:

- 9am – 5.30pm, Monday to Saturday
- 9am – 5pm, Sunday

A limited evening service is available to groups of five or more.

- **Who can use AccessBus?**

People of any age who are unable to use normal bus services, or who have extreme difficulty in doing so because of a disability. You may take a companion with you if you need assistance while travelling, or at your destination.

- **Where can I go on AccessBus?**

Due to the very high demand for the service, travel is restricted to **LOCAL JOURNEYS ONLY**. Most trips are for shopping purposes, such as to the local supermarket or shopping centre, but they also provide a limited number of journeys for social purposes, e.g. to local community centres.

AccessBus is not able to cater for day and time-specific requests for appointments.

To make best use of the vehicles, they serve certain areas on set days, allocating places to customers to travel on the day when the bus is in their area.

- **Registering for AccessBus**

If you wish to travel with AccessBus, you must register with Metro's booking service, who will advise on the availability of the service in your area. If a space is free, you may reserve a place on that trip on an ongoing basis. You can download an AccessBus Registration form at www.wakefield.gov.uk, or register by contacting AccessBus directly.

Disabled Persons Railcard

**Address: Rail Travel Made Easy, PO Box 11631,
Laurencekirk AB30 9AA**

Tel: 0845 605 0525

Minicom: 0845 601 0132

Email: disability@atoc.org

Web: www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk

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 can also get the same discount.

Please note there is a charge - at the time of publication, it costs £18 for a One Year Railcard or £48 for a Three Year Railcard.

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, have epilepsy, or are in receipt of a disability-related benefit.

For more information on various aspects of the Disabled Persons Railcard including how to apply, visit your local train station ticket office or visit www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk

Wakefield Shopmobility

Address: Ridings Shopping Centre, Wakefield WF1 1DS

Tel: 01924 787788

Email: shopmobility@wakefield.gov.uk

The aim of Wakefield Shopmobility is to promote equality of access and to encourage independence of people with disabilities (permanent or temporary), through the provision of mobility equipment such as scooters, wheelchairs and powerchairs. Shopmobility unlocks many access barriers faced by people with a disability, and the network of schemes throughout the UK gives people the confidence to travel, safe in the knowledge that friendly help and assistance will be available at the end of their journey.

The Wakefield Shopmobility scheme loans manual wheelchairs, powered wheelchairs and powered scooters to members of the public with limited mobility, to shop and to visit leisure and commercial facilities within the city centre and the Ridings shopping centre.

Shopmobility is for anyone, young or old, whether their disability is temporary or permanent. It is available for those with injuries, long or short-term disabilities – anyone who needs help with mobility.

Shopmobility is about the freedom to get around. You do not need to be registered disabled.

Wakefield Shopmobility operates a membership scheme. To become a member and take advantage of the service, contact them. This will ensure a vehicle is available when you visit. You will need to bring a loose passport size photo of yourself and some form of identification.

They will register you as a member the first time you are going to use a vehicle. Please allow time for staff to take you through the safe use of the vehicle. They can then issue you with your membership card. You are then free to use the facilities available.

Similar schemes operate at other shopping centres. Please contact individual centres for more information:

- **White Rose Shopping Centre (Leeds) - Shopmobility**
Tel: 0113 277 3636
- **Meadowhall (Sheffield) – Shopmobility Tel: 0845 600 6800**
- **Junction 32 Shopping Centre (Castleford)**
Wheelchairs can be hired by phoning security on 01977 520972

RADAR: The Disability Network – National Key Scheme (NKS)

Web: www.radar.org.uk

The National Key Scheme, sometimes known as the RADAR Scheme, was developed because some public toilets designed for disabled people had to be locked to prevent damage and misuse. This has meant they have been locked separately from other toilets. The NKS aims to provide disabled key holders with independent access to the toilets provided

for them, and increase the likelihood of the facilities being in a useable state.

If accessible toilets for disabled people do have to be locked, providers are asked to join the NKS, which involves fitting standard locks to their toilets and making keys available to disabled people. Over 400 local councils in all parts of the country are now part of the scheme.

In addition to public conveniences, toilets for disabled people provided by a wide range of other public, voluntary and commercial organisations have been fitted with the NKS lock. So they can now be found in shopping centres, country parks, railway and bus stations, bars, motorway service areas and sports venues. Around 7000 toilets are now fitted with the lock.

Within the scheme, RADAR:

- supplies NKS keys to disabled people who cannot, or have difficulty, getting one locally,
- maintains a list of toilets fitted with the NKS lock, and
- provides general information about the scheme to individuals and providers.

RADAR does not advocate the general fitting of locks to all toilets for disabled people, but does urge that the NKS is used where a lock is required.

Please note – comments or complaints about the condition of any individual toilet fitted with the NKS lock should be made to the local authority or other organisation responsible for it.

To find out more, or to order a RADAR Key and The National Key Scheme Guide, go to **www.radar.org.uk** or call **020 7520 3222**. Please note there is a charge to join the scheme.

Getting around on holiday

There are several different organisations that offer information, advice and practical services to assist people with learning disabilities and their carers with travel arrangements. Mencap has details of these organisations in their Holiday Information Factsheet. Contact **Mencap Learning Disability Helpline** to get a copy of this information.

