1. Travel Assistance Budget and Independent Travel Training

Where a child or young person is entitled to transport to school as a result of their SEN the Council will discuss with parents different ways to support them to get to school rather than simply using Council-provided transport. The aim is to support families to take their own children to school, reduce journey times, and/or to support the independence of the young person and enable them to become independent travellers. The Council will consider paying a travel assistance budget calculated using an enhanced mileage allowance based on distance to school, with an additional rate if an escort is required. In order to support independent travel development the Council has commissioned an Independent Travel Training (ITT) contractor.

2. What is a Travel Assistance Budget and what is it used for?

A Travel Assistance Budget (TAB) is available for support which is individual to the child or young person who is entitled to travel assistance provided by the Council. It offers parents and young people more choice and control over the support they receive. Instead of having to work around one mode of transport all the time the parents/carers can now choose the mode of transport that suits their prevailing circumstances. For example they may want to:

- Drive the young person to school
- Cycle the young person to school
- Buy a travel pass for a parent or trusted escort
- Pay for an escort or travel buddy service
- Share a transport with other parents
- Purchase childcare for siblings

Rather than monitoring the budget expenditure, the Council monitors the child’s attendance and punctuality at school.

3. Key facts

- Parents/carers and or young people who are currently on the Green Bus, Taxi or Escorts, or are using travel buddy or if you have been assessed as eligible for travel assistance do qualify for ITT.
- Parents/carers, children and young people do not have to take this option up.
- Travel Assistance Budget may provide an alternative way of securing support that might not otherwise be provided by the council.
- Travel Assistance Budget does not affect the parent’s, carer’s or young person’s benefit entitlement.
- Turning down the TAB does not affect the young person’s travel assistance.
- 80% of TAB will be paid in advance as from September 2016.
4. What is Independent Travel Training and who is it for?

The ITT was commissioned by Wandsworth Council to train young people with SEN so they can travel to school, home, college, work or to social events independently. Young people on the Green Bus or Taxi should be encouraged to learn to travel independently as this prepares them for the adult life. The contracted providers of ITT, HAIL, use a variety of training methods including a personalized approach, shadowing, peer support, technological support, reference and repetitive coaching. This training is meant to improve the skills of the young people with SEN so they can travel independently. However, it is recognised that not everyone will benefit from this kind of training. Due to the complexity of their needs or severity of their disability some young people will always need assistance in order to travel safely throughout their life.

5. Key facts

- Before any training is undertaken, parents/careers and the young person will get together to agree on the training needs and the most appropriate training methods to be used.
- The training takes between 4 weeks and 4 months.
- You don’t lose your travel assistance entitlement by going on ITT programme
- Your benefit entitlement is not affected by having a young person on ITT
- ITT programme is optional.
- ITT programme is free at the point of delivery
- ITT aims to prepare a young person for independent travel at adulthood.

6. The benefits

Some of the benefits to be realised include the following:

- Safe independent travelling
- Help to the rest of the family
- Reduction in travel cost
- Improved personal safety
- Improved job prospects at adulthood

7. I am interested in Independent Travel Training – what do I do next?

You complete an assessment form that you can get from:

- The child’s school
- Your child’s case manager
- Family Information Service, email: fis@wandsworth.gov.uk; telephone: 020 8871 7899
- HAIL Independent Travel Trainers: telephone 020 8874 7279, email; thehailhub@hailtd.org. Postal Address: The HAIL HUB, 178 Garratt Lane, London SW18 4ED

Once you have completed the form, send to the address shown above. This address are also appears at the bottom of the application form.