

FIRST ROUTE ENFIELD

An independent travel project for people who have a learning disability and/ or Autism in Enfield.

A partnership project with the following organisations:



The first Thursday of each month, a bus is donated by Arriva will make a circular route in an area of Edmonton.

There are 2 sessions available between 10.30am – 12noon and 1pm- 2:30pm.

The bus will be staffed by people from all the partner organisations.

Service users will get on and off the bus at operational bus stops and work through scenarios regarding independent travel and safety with the support of First Route staff.

Background

In 2003 Community Link was formed following the closure of a large day centre. The focus was to move away from centre-based services and increase community integration for our client group.

This was following the core values of the 2001 white paper “Valuing people”

The four key principles of “Valuing People” were Rights, Independence, Choice and Inclusion.

It was felt that supporting individuals to travel freely would support all these principles as well as increasing the confidence of the service users.

The key issue was to give the individual greater control of their life.

It was agreed that supporting independent travel would be central to our service, we worked in partnership with Occupational Therapists from the then local health authority.

Since then, we have supported over 20 service users to move from council transport to independent travel and many more to make independent journeys across the borough and beyond.

What we did next

The independent travel project is still ongoing, but we wanted to extend the type of services we provide.

As well as offering intensive support to individuals learning specific routes, we wanted to extend the service to include work with users who were not confident in using public transport.

We contacted Transport for London and decided to set up a project similar to an operational first route running in Wandsworth.

The project involved the Metropolitan police, Transport for London and Arriva buses

We approached the local police to request a partnership set up, where the police support the project with us and advise how service users and staff should cope and deal with safety issues effectively whilst using public transport.

They agreed to commit officers and P.C.S.O's to staff the project.

With the help of the police, we then approached Arriva buses to request the loan of a bus and a driver one day per month.

Transport for London provide us with a facilitator for the scheme and often a revenue protection inspector to work alongside us.

Local schools and colleges are also approached regularly to use first route for children and will occasionally provide students from their drama classes to act out scenarios on the bus.

Purpose and Outcomes

There will be many short- and long-term benefits from this service. Here are the main purposes:

1. To provide a safe and supportive environment to increase confidence for individuals who may be anxious to use public transport or have simply never used buses or trains.
2. To provide independent travel training for adults with a learning disability and who wish to travel on their own.
3. To provide training for staff members regarding independent travel.
4. To provide training for service users to become travel trainers themselves.
5. To develop employment opportunities within independent travel for service users.
6. To encourage personalisation and the use of direct payments for service users to pay travel trainers to support them with their travel options in the community.
7. To develop services for young adults in transition from childrens services to support them to independently travel before accessing adult services.

What happens on the bus?

The TFL facilitator will introduce themselves, what the project entails and will talk to the participants about their knowledge of safe travel on public transport. Various scenarios will be acted out on the bus which could reflect the types of difficult situations service users may encounter when travelling using public transport. These include but are not limited to – arguments and shouting, harassment, bullying, others not following rules, theft, unwanted attention and many others. It may be possible to personalise the scenarios if there is a specific need – please include any requests when booking.

The Care Act 2014

The Care Act states that the duties listed below are general responsibilities of the local authority to those who have care and support needs. First Route supports the local authority to fulfil their statutory duty being relevant to each of the listed responsibilities.

1. Promoting individual well-being
2. Preventing needs for care and support
3. Promoting integration of care and support with health services etc.
4. Providing information and advice
5. Promoting diversity and quality in provision of services
6. Co-operating generally
7. Co-operating in specific cases

When

The project commenced on 7th July 2011 and continues to be the first Thursday of each month.

To book please contact:

Claire Fenwick

Team Leader,

Community Link.

020 8379 2445.

Claire.Fenwick@enfield.gov.uk