



Personal Travel Budgets

for children and young people
with Special Educational
Needs and/or Disabilities
(SEND)



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If your child is eligible for travel assistance, a Personal Travel Budget (PTB) can help you to arrange travel to school or college in a way that suits your personal circumstances, and offers you choice and control over how funding is used.

A PTB is paid directly into your bank account, and is based on the distance between your home and your child's school or college. It allows you to make flexible arrangements – it can be spent how you like, as long as your child arrives on time and ready for the day, and gets home safely afterwards.

Some of the ways a Personal Travel Budget could be used



The PTB offers flexibility over hired transport (taxis or minibuses) in that:

- it could give you the opportunity to meet your child's teachers more often;
- a PTB is not affected by other commitments outside the core school or college day, eg breakfast clubs, after school clubs and medical appointments;
- you may be able to explore different types of travel with your child, if appropriate;
- your child will not have to share transport with other children they don't know (which can result in a longer journey time).

FAQ for parents and carers

Q: How much will my Personal Travel Budget be?

The amount of PTB you will receive is based on the distance between home and school/college, for the days that your child attends. This means each PTB will be tailored to the needs of each family.

Q: How do I get a Personal Travel Budget?

If you decide to take up a PTB we will ask you to complete a Bank Automated Clearing System (BACS) Payment form, giving your bank account details. The County Council will then make the arrangements to transfer the PTB to your bank account in monthly payments.

You will then be free to arrange and manage your child's travel arrangements in a way that best suits you, your child and your family. If your circumstances change, for example your family moves house, the PTB may need to be re-calculated.

Q: Can I change my mind?

PTBs are voluntary. You can stop your child's PTB if circumstances change, but we will need a month's notice to arrange alternative forms of travel assistance. We can help with advice on how to use the PTB – we want to make PTBs work for families.

Q: Will it have an impact on other benefits?

No. PTBs have no impact on any other benefits or income.

Q: Will the Personal Travel Budget continue in future years?

We are committed to providing the most appropriate travel assistance for families. As a child reaches secondary school age and above, many will develop the potential for independent travel, and could benefit from independent travel training, which we are developing as a service across the county.

Independent travel is an important life skill and can help children to access social and employment opportunities as they become young adults. Your child's PTB will be stopped if an assessment indicates that they can now travel independently, although they may still qualify for help with transport costs, eg a bus Freedom Pass.

Q: Will I need to show how my budget is being spent?

No. We want you to have flexibility and control, and will only pick up any potential issues if your child's school tells us about a problem with their attendance or fitness to learn at school or college. We may withhold funding at times when your child has been absent for an amount of time, in consultation with you and the school or college.

Q: Who can I contact for further information or advice on PTBs?

The Specialist Transport Team
0345 6080190

Website: eastsussex.gov.uk/SENDtravel

Getting more copies of this leaflet

You can get this leaflet in large print, easy read format, in Braille, on audio tape or CD, or in other languages.

Please phone 01273 481749.

It is also available in PDF form, which you can download from our website at eastsussex.gov.uk/specialneeds

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April 2014 ● 14-15 029

