

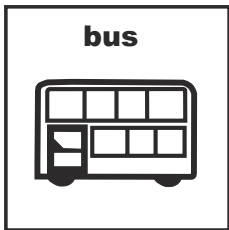
“Access to transport is essential to enable people with learning disabilities to lead full and purposeful lives.”

Government White Paper – ‘Valuing People’

chapter

12 Transport and Equipment

Transport
Equipment



Transport

If someone with learning disabilities also has problems getting about or uses a wheelchair, transport can be a major problem. This section lists a number of schemes and ideas that may be of help.

● Accessible Bus Routes

First Bus now runs a number of accessible bus routes in the Leeds area. They have low floor access for customers who use wheelchairs.

➤ For up-to-date details of these bus routes contact First Bus on ☎ 245 7676

● AccessBus

AccessBus is an accessible, door-to-door bus service that operates shopping trips to your nearest shopping centre or town centre. AccessBus is for anyone unable to use conventional public transport due to a disability of any kind, permanent or temporary. There is no charge, but you must phone first to register as a user, and then to make a booking. All the buses have wheelchair lifts. AccessBus cannot provide a service for those attending hospital for treatment or to council operated day centres.

It operates from Monday to Saturday, between 9am–5.30pm and on Sundays between 9am–5pm.

➤ Phone to make a booking on Monday to Friday from 7.30am–3.30pm
☎ 01274 304 297

● Leeds Alternative Travel

Leeds Alternative Travel has 4 accessible minibuses that can be hired out to community groups. They also offer training for minibus drivers as well as training in fire and evacuation drills and wheelchair handling. They have information on other alternative methods of transport and will be happy to tell you what is available in your area.

Leeds Alternative Travel also run a Buddy Scheme in Leeds. This scheme provides transport training and help for anyone who cannot, or does not know how, to use buses.

- Ken Garret (Co-ordinator), Leeds Alternative Travel,
Clifford Brooke Resource Centre, 79 Roundhay Road, Leeds LS7 4AA
☎ 234 1769 (bookings 234 1806)

● Nightlink

Nightlink is a door-to-door, dial-a-ride service for women travelling in Leeds during the evening. The service uses fully accessible minibuses and operates from *Monday to Saturday 6pm–11pm*.

Bookings are made between 5pm–8pm Monday to Friday.

- ☎ 235 1289

● Motability Helpline

Motability is a registered UK charity that helps disabled people become more mobile. It enables disabled people to use the Higher Rate Mobility Component of their Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to lease or buy a car or buy a powered wheelchair or scooter.

- ☎ 01279 635 666

● Shopmobility

Shopmobility is a free service providing wheelchairs and scooters for people with mobility difficulties. They can only be used in the city centre and on a daily basis. Equipment needs to be booked in advance.

- Brenda Robinson (Manager), Shopmobility, Unit 92, The Merrion Centre,
Leeds LS2 8LY ☎ 246 0125 Minicom: 246 0125

● Child In-Car Safety Scheme

This scheme offers information, education and training around safety for children in cars.



Road Safety Officer, Child In-Car Safety Scheme, Leeds City Council, Road Safety Promotion Unit, Department of Highways and Transport, The Leonardo Building, 2 Rossington Street, Leeds Ls2 8HB

☎ 247 5804 📠 247 6361 Minicom 395 0006

🌐 www.leeds.gov.uk/lcc/highways/safety

● Parking Discs – Blue Badges

Note: These badges used to be orange.

This scheme provides national parking concessions to people with severe mobility problems who travel either as drivers or passengers, registered blind people and people with severe upper limb disabilities who drive but cannot turn a steering wheel by hand. It allows badge holders to park nearer to where they are doing. Parking times are more generous and there is often no charge.

You can get a map showing Leeds parking bays for Blue Badge holders from the **Highways Department, Parking Services** on ☎ 247 4140.

Applications for Blue Badges are free. All you will need are 2 passport-sized photos.



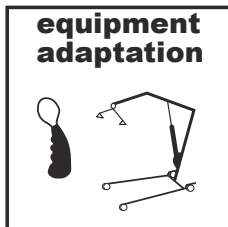
Social Services Call Centre on ☎ 398 4700

● Public Toilets – Radar National Key Scheme

This scheme applies to nearly all locked toilets for disabled people, including local authority toilets, those at railway and coach stations, motorway services, country parks and other public places. A list of where these toilets are costs £5 and keys cost £3.50. Both are available from your local **Social Services Office** – see page 12 or **D.I.A.L** – see page 15.

● Exemption from Road Tax

Parents or carers of children receiving the higher rate mobility component of DLA can apply for exemption from road tax. This exemption applies to one vehicle used for transporting the disabled child, though the child does not necessarily have to always be in the car when it is used. Apply using form V188 from the Post Office.



Equipment

If someone with learning disabilities has problems getting about or difficulties with certain tasks, there is a wide range of equipment designed to assist them and their carers to cope with the activities of daily living. This includes equipment to help with bathing, toileting, eating, washing and dressing. It may be possible to arrange adaptations to the house like ramps, alterations to doorways, installing new bathing equipment and many others. These services are in great demand so delays may occur.

Where To Start

Community occupational therapists are trained to assess the best way of helping with particular problems with everyday activities. They work from social services offices and can arrange to make an assessment of the situation.

Contact your local Social Services Office – see page 12. Information, advice and help is also available from independent sources such as Through the Maze Information Service – see page 11, D.I.A.L – see page 15, and the William Merritt Disabled Living Centre – see below.

Please note the Housing Chapter on pages 86 to 93 has further details of adaptations and sources of funding.

● William Merritt Disabled Living Centre and Mobility Service

The William Merritt Centre offers independent advice regarding equipment and aids for daily living. This includes bath aids, hoists, wheelchairs, scooters, stairlifts, and household equipment. They also have a mobility service that runs assessments of driving ability, adaptations and passenger transfer.

➔ William Merritt Disabled Living Centre, St Mary's Hospital, Greenhill Road, Armley, Leeds LS12 3QE ☎ 3055 332 📠 231 9291

● Leeds Equipment Service

Leeds Equipment Service stores, delivers, collects and refurbishes equipment for daily living and for nursing needs. It is operated jointly by Leeds Social Services and Leeds Community Mental Health Trust. Equipment is issued free on loan following assessment by a health professional. Many items are kept in stock, although more specialist equipment can be ordered to meet individual needs.

→ **Jean Burke (Manager), Leeds Equipment Service, Barrack Road, Leeds LS7 4AB** ☎ 247 7387 📠 247 7392 ✉ jean.burke@leeds.gov.uk

● Leeds Wheelchair Centre

Leeds Wheelchair Centre loans out wheelchairs and pushchairs for anyone over 30 months of age. This service is available for people who have a Leeds GP, a long-term mobility problem or are classified as unable to, or virtually unable to, walk indoors or outdoors. It must also be required for longer than 12 weeks.

Referral is through a GP, Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist.

→ **Karen Wray (Admin Co-ordinator), Leeds Wheelchair Centre, Chapel Allerton Hospital, Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4SA**
☎ 392 4974 or ☎ 392 4976 📠 392 4565
🌐 www.leadsteachinghospitals.com

● Moreability

Moreability install home adaptations in bathrooms, toilets and kitchens to assist independent living. They also install access systems such as ramps, hoists and stairlifts.

→ **Moreability, 114 Barkley Road, Leeds LS11 7ES** ☎ 2715200 📠 271 5202
✉ info@moreability.co.uk 🌐 www.moreability.co.uk

● Care and Repair

Care and Repair helps people to obtain grants to improve, repair and adapt their homes – [see entry on page 93](#).