

**TYNE AND WEAR  
PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

**CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME  
APRIL 2006**

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1. **INTRODUCTION TO THE TYNE AND WEAR SCHEME**

The Tyne and Wear Concessionary Travel Scheme has been established by the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority under the provision of Section 93 of the Transport Act 1985. This has been updated for the Transport Act 2000, the Travel Concessions (Eligibility Act) 2002 and the Travel Concessions (Extension of Entitlement England) Order 2005.

2. **ELIGIBILITY**

The categories of passengers whom the Authority is providing concessions are:

2.1 **Elderly Persons**

All persons over 60 years old resident in Tyne and Wear will be entitled to concessions.

2.2 **Persons who are Disabled, Blind or with Learning Disabilities**

Persons who are Disabled are entitled to the concession if they are resident in Tyne and Wear and fulfil one of the following requirements:

- (i) be registerable with their Social Services Department as chronically sick and disabled and suffering from a permanent disability or injury which seriously impairs their ability to walk
- (ii) be permanently blind so as to be unable to perform any duties for which normal sight is required and registered with District Social Services Departments
- (iii) have a learning disability and be eligible to attend, or attending, an Adult Training Centre/Community Resource Centre
- (iv) have had a driving licence revoked or refused on medical grounds under Section 92/93 of the Road Traffic Act, 1988
- (v) be without speech or registered profoundly deaf
- (vi) be registered partially sighted and disability can be assessed by a Consultant Ophthalmologist
- (vii) be without the use of both arms, whether through the absence of limbs or otherwise.

Further clarification regarding definitions of these categories is available from Nexus or District Social Services.

Social Service Departments assess eligibility on behalf of Nexus.

The above categories are in accordance with the Department of Transport's Guidance on Concessionary Fares for Disabled People, published on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2001.

2.2.1 **Care Call Members**

Persons who are members of the Tyne and Wear Care Call Scheme are entitled to a concessionary pass. The Care Call Membership Card will enable the holder to receive the same concessions as their concessionary pass (NOTE: a Gold Card will also be required to obtain free travel on the Metro or Newcastle-Sunderland Rail Service). This scheme is subject to fundamental review – further information will be available in July 2006.

2.3 **Young Persons (Aged 5-16)**

All persons resident in Tyne and Wear whose age exceeds five years but does not exceed 16 years at the commencement of a school year.

2.4 **Teen Traveltickets**

Persons resident in Tyne and Wear and in full-time education whose age exceeds 16 years but does not exceed 18 years at the commencement of a school year will be entitled to concessions (Teen Traveltickets).

Further details on eligibility are available from Nexus and Local Education Authorities.

NOTE:

2.4.1 Teen Traveltickets are currently available for students where age exceeds 18 years but does not exceed 19 years at the commencement of a school year. This is being funded by the Local Education Authorities and is subject to review annually.

2.4.2 The Teen Travelticket Scheme is to be phased out and Teen Traveltickets will be withdrawn from sale following the end of the academic year 2005/06

2.5 **Evidence of Eligibility**

2.5.1 **Concessionary Travel other than Teen Traveltickets**

All persons will be required to show an appropriate and valid permit when wishing to obtain free travel or reduced price travel.

2.5.2 **Teen Traveltickets**

Young persons entitled to Teen Travel above will be in possession of a Student Identify Card issued by the Local Education Authority/Nexus which will comprise a photograph of the student and record of expiry date. This can be used as eligibility to purchase a reduced price Teen Travelticket at a Travelcentre.

This travelticket comprises a datacard with a photograph of the student.

NOTE:

The Identity Card alone does not entitle the holder to any other concessions.

3. **CONCESSION TO BE PROVIDED**

3.1 **Elderly and Disabled**

3.1.1 **Local Bus Services**

With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, free local bus travel will be provided off-peak within Tyne and Wear.

NOTE: Free travel is only available for travel wholly within Tyne and Wear.

### **Off-Peak is defined as:-**

Mondays-Fridays:- anytime after 0930  
Saturdays, Sundays, Bank Holidays and weekdays between 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>  
December, travel is allowed all day (excluding night services)

Where a bus is running late, passengers may use the concession after 0930  
(Monday-Friday) irrespective of scheduled departure time.

NOTE: Concessions are available until the termination of normal daytime  
services.

#### **3.1.2 Metro**

Off-peak free travel will also be provided on Metro if a passholder is also  
in possession of a Gold Card (currently priced at £8.00 per annum).

#### **3.1.3 Newcastle-Sunderland Rail Services**

The same arrangements will apply as Metro with free travel provided to  
holders of a Gold Card.

#### **3.1.4 Newcastle – MetroCentre/Blaydon Rail Services**

Passholders will be able to travel off-peak for a flat fare of 50p.

#### **3.1.5 Shields Ferry**

Passholders will be able to travel off-peak for a flat fare of 50p.

### **3.2 Provision of All-Day Facility**

Eligible disabled persons who are:

- (i) in full time employment; or
- (ii) attending sheltered employment, an industrial training unit, Adult Training  
Centre/Community Resource Centre or in employment for more than 15 hours  
a week and required to travel in the morning peak Monday to Friday
- (iii) permanently blind so as to be unable to perform any duties for which normal  
sight is required and registered with District Social Services Departments.

may travel at the appropriate concession at anytime provided they are in receipt of an  
All-Day travel permit. NOTE: concessions are only available on Metro and Rail  
between Newcastle and Sunderland if the passholder is also in possession of a Gold  
Card.

### **3.3 Hospital Appointments**

Elderly and disabled persons in possession of an off-peak permit may travel for free or  
at the appropriate concessionary fare depending on the service travelled on, before  
0930 on Mondays to Fridays on presentation of a valid hospital appointment  
card/letter. NOTE: A Gold Card is also required to obtain this concession on Metro  
and rail services between Newcastle and Sunderland.

3.4 **Young Persons whose age exceeds 5 years but does not exceed 16 years at the commencement of an academic year and who are resident in Tyne and Wear**

Travel is provided at concessionary rate(s) with a fare contribution payable at the time of boarding. On services forming part of the transfare network as published from time to time, such facilities will also be available for children at the prescribed fare. The fares element payable in respect of travel is advised from time to time by the Authority. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 there will be a single fare of 40p and transfare of 50p during those times when concessionary travel is available.

These fares constitute full payment for journeys wholly within Tyne and Wear.

Concessionary Travel will be available on all Monday to Fridays up to 7 pm.

3.5 **Persons whose age exceeds 16 years, but does not exceed 18 years, resident in Tyne and Wear, who are undergoing full-time education**

**Teen Travel**

Concessionary travel is provided for those whose age exceeds 16 years but does not exceed 18 years at the commencement of an academic year, resident in Tyne and Wear and undergoing full-time education. (See 2.4 Eligibility for Academic Year 2005/06).

All Day and Off-Peak Traveltickets, 'Teen Travel' facilities are available for purchase by eligible young persons in possession of an identify permit issued by Nexus.

Local Education Authorities are entrusted with a statutory duty of providing travel to and from school or further education establishments as appropriate and may also exercise discretionary powers in providing assistance with travel costs. In these circumstances LEAs may provide vouchers to students for part or total purchase price of such Teen Traveltickets through a scheme administered by Nexus.

This scheme will be withdrawn with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2006.

3.6 **Local Education Authority Permits for free travel to and from school for young persons aged over 5 and less than 16 years**

Local Education Authorities in Tyne and Wear may purchase from Nexus Scholars Permits which allow travel to and from school/place of education at school times for children/scholars. Operators should allow holders of such valid permits to travel without payment between the designated points listed on the permit. Such Scholars' Permits may also be purchased privately by parents for eligible children attending schools and colleges in Tyne and Wear.

If Scholars are required to attend school out of hours they will be issued with an Authorisation Form by the school for such travel to be used in conjunction with this permit.

4. **AREA COVERED BY SCHEME**

- 4.1 The Scheme provides for free local bus wholly within Tyne and Wear/Tyne and Wear PTA area
- 4.2 On cross-boundary bus services, with a stop at the county boundary, free travel is available between any two stops on the section(s) of route within Tyne and Wear.

4.3 On limited stop bus services which do not stop at the county boundary, the concession is available between any two stops within Tyne and Wear.

4.4 **Cross Boundary Journeys**

Elderly/Disabled persons resident in Tyne and Wear as evidenced by the production of a Tyne and Wear Permit at the time of boarding can make cross boundary journeys by tendering the appropriate fare for the non Tyne and Wear portion of the journey being undertaken.

4.5 On bus services which cross the Tyne and Wear boundary more than once, the concession is available between any pair of stops in Tyne and Wear even if part of the journey is outside Tyne and Wear (but not for boarding/alighting in Northumberland/County Durham).

4.6 If a bus operator imposes a general restriction on the carriage of local passengers over certain sections of route, this will be taken as applying equally to concessionary passengers.

5. **OPERATOR PARTICIPATION**

Details of the conditions applying to operator participation in the Concessionary Travel Scheme and reimbursement arrangements are contained in a separate document.

"Detailed Arrangements for the payment of Concessionary Travel to operators in 2006/07 are shown on the following pages".

It should also be noted that it is a condition of participation that operators will be required to accept all the conditions contained in the 'Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority Scheme' and the 'Detailed arrangements' document above before receiving any payments for reimbursement.