

# Independent Travel Training: *Safer Routes to Learning*

Merton Mencap supports young people with a learning disability to travel independently between home and their place of education or training.

Travel training takes place in the community and is provided by our travel trainer, who supports young people to complete each part of the journey. This may include travelling by bus, tram, train or on foot. Our travel trainer monitors the young person's progress and assesses their ability to travel safely. At a time when we think the young person is able to travel the route on their own, we seek the parent's agreement for this to happen.

Travel training is only provided with the permission of the parent. Each young person is supervised during the travel training until permission is obtained from the parent for them to travel part or all of the route independently.

Participation in travel training does not affect eligibility for free home to school/college transport and, even if the young person begins to travel independently, the Local Authority will resume transport if there is a problem.

Our travel training service includes the following:-

- ☛ **An assessment of the young person's skills and abilities before the training begins**
- ☛ **A thorough risk assessment**
- ☛ **Structured training and monitoring**
- ☛ **Regular contacts with the parent(s) throughout the training**

This service is provided to students with Special Education Needs, aged 12 years and over. Priority places are given to students who have completed relevant life-skills training and who receive travel support provided by the local authority in Merton. Referral is made by the school, college or training provider.

For more information, contact Merton Mencap's travel trainer, Sara Gibbens, on:

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