

Appendix 3 Testimonials

1. BCC Independent Travel Training Film:

In April of 2023, the ITT team completed a film which interviewed school administrators, students, and parents. The individuals interviewed were asked to discuss the impact of the programme from their perspectives. Within the film oral testimonials to the impact the training has had on the life of the students, personally, in school and in their family.

The film can be viewed here: [BCC ITT NON SUBTITLES.mp4](#)

Please note: The film will be embedded into BCC's YouTube channel for easier viewing.

2. Birmingham Parent Carer Forum:

The Birmingham Parent/Carer Forum (BPCF) previewed the BCC film in mid-May. The following testimonials were received:

Angela Burkett, Active Member BPCF: I had the pleasure of watching the video from the travel training (ITT) not ashamed to admit it brought a tear to my eye it was amazing to see the transformation in the young people who've accessed the training to see the difference in confidence, to hear their parents saying what a difference it's made, I was really apprehensive when I first heard about it, in fact I would go as far to say I felt really negative but seeing the video and actually speaking to a mum who's young person has done the training my views have completely changed, hope it continues to grow allowing more young people the opportunity to undertake travel training helping towards their independence well done to all involved.

Pam Armstrong, Acting Chair BPCF: Birmingham PCF and Birmingham Travel Assist group was introduced to Linda, Jayne Hadlow and Jayne Coulter through working with travel assist about a year ago. Right from the start it was very evident that the experience, knowledge and passion that they have for the Independent Travel Training programme was refreshing to see. At every opportunity they have involved us to ensure that the information for the young person, parent, carers and families is in an easy read version. Making changes when requested and even taking on board colours for the leaflet!

The feedback we have received from families who have participated in the ITT programme has been so positive and life changing for some! Enabling young people who had low confidence to become independent and confident when travelling on public transport.

The video that asks young people and their parents for feedback on the ITT programme is not only emotional it's heartwarming to see how investing in young people has given them a new lease of life.

We really hope that the ITT programme continues so many more young people can gain the confidence and independence that their peers have experienced.

3. Hive College, Ruth Martin, Placements Coordinator.

Hive College has been partnering with the Travel Training team for nearly a year and it has had a hugely positive impact on the progress our students have made. Our programme is focused on

helping students with additional needs move into paid work and one of the biggest barriers for them is their lack of independent travel skills.

Since first meeting with Bobby, we have referred a number of young people into the service who have already been trained and are now travelling independently to and from their work placements. Not only that but they are beginning to transfer these skills into their free time, getting the bus to meet up with friends and accessing more community facilities. The work that the Travel Training team have done has empowered these young people to begin to live much fuller and more fulfilling lives.

The team take time to work with families as well as students to reassure and explain the process to them. This is a crucial part of their success, as without the engagement from families, development of independence skills is impossible. It is so wonderful to hear the feedback from parents and carers about the difference they have seen in the young people and how proud they are of their progress.

The Hive are very keen to continue and grow our relationship with the team as we have a steady stream of young people who need individualised support to become travel trained. We know that our students are in safe hands with the Travel Training team and that the trainers will work at the right pace for the student to ensure success. We hope the service is made permanent and look forward to an ever-closer working relationship in the future to help prepare our learners for adulthood.