

## **Appendix 5 - ITT Pilot Programme**

Independent Travel Training works with children and young people with learning and/or physical disabilities, to enable them to become travel independent. Travel trainers teach skills to keep safe and to build confidence when travelling. Empowering individuals to travel independently, provides a path to independence as they transition from student to adulthood, opening opportunities such as college and employment. The Birmingham City Councils Independent Travel Training pilot programme began in May 2022.

The objective of the pilot programme was to build a sustainable model to build the programme across the directive. It was important to engage all stakeholders, to understand local challenges and to work collaboratively with schools, parents, and the community in building an ITT programme for local people. Not only does ITT benefit individuals, impacting on their ability to be part of their community, it also offers savings to the community by reducing the amount of money spent on SEN transportation.

The programme also engaged other council directives whose clients require travel support and travel training. This engagement aims to collaborate and effect a symbiotic relationship with other council programmes to avoid duplication and to utilise council resources effectively and efficiently.

### Results October 2022 to May 2023

The programme started delivering training in October of 2022 with two independent travel trainers. By January 2023, a third travel trainer was actively training, and the fourth trainer was recently employed and will start training in June 2023.

Since October 2022, the programme has had over 150 referrals. The referral channels include Birmingham City Council special schools, BCC Adult Social Care, Preparation for Adulthood, BCC SEN case officers, Birmingham Children's Trust, and CYPTS Eligibility Panel.

As of May 2023, 30 individuals have completed the travel training, 20 in training, and 68 waiting to start training.

Early in the pilot, the programme received referrals from Adult Social Care, PFA team to assist young people who required travel support to attend college or apprentice programmes. The programme continues to train individuals who are not on transport but have learning difficulties and require travel training to improve opportunities in their lives.

The programme will benefit hundreds of young people and adults annually. It is anticipated that 1000 new students will apply for travel assistance for 2023/2024. Of these 1000, we expect 40-50% to be referred to the ITT programme in the first instance.

### Specialist Schools

The pilot programme engaged with specialist schools, but over the year has provided training for young people and children from other schools and colleges.