



# Northumberland

## County Council

### Guidance notes for a Disabled Person's Bus Pass

#### In Northumberland

Northumberland Disabled Person's pass can travel at any time on any bus service within Northumberland. Please see below for validity outside Northumberland.

#### Outside Northumberland

The National Concessionary bus pass allows you FREE off-peak travel on local buses in England between 9.30am and 11pm on weekdays and all day weekends and bank holidays

NCC have agreed additional benefits for free travel in Scotland on the following local bus services **where your journey either starts or finishes in England:**

- 18/19, 260 - Berwick to Duns
- 60 - Berwick to Galashiels via Duns
- 67 - Berwick to Galashiels via Kelso
- 34, 235, 236, 253 – Berwick to Eyemouth
- 131 - Newcastle to Jedburgh

On the following local bus services, free travel is only available for journeys **wholly in England:**

- 710 - Newcastle to Coldstream/Kelso
- 32 - Berwick to Swinton
- 87 - Berwick to Kelso

#### How do I qualify because of my disability?

If you live in Northumberland, you can apply for a concessionary bus pass if you have one or more of the disabilities listed overleaf and are of fare paying age (5 years or older).

You will need to supply proof of your residency in Northumberland (current council tax bill, utility bill or a bank statement less than 3 months old) **and** proof of disability as listed overleaf.

Shown with each accepted disability is the acceptable proof that needs to be supplied to prove your eligibility. Please tick the box that relates to you on the application form.

You must provide acceptable proof of your disability, or your application will not be considered. We **will not** contact your Medical Professional to obtain information for you and we **will not** be responsible for any costs incurred as part of the application process. Please **do not** send original documents with your application. Photocopied documents **will not** be returned.

If you need any further information or have any questions please call in to one of our Information Centres, call Customer Services on 0345 6006400 or visit [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk).

## Accepted Disability

## Acceptable Proof

A	Registered blind or partially sighted	Submit a copy of one of the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Certificate of visual impairment (CVI previously known as BD8)</li><li>• Confirmation that you are registered with the local authority as blind or partially sighted</li><li>• A letter from an eye specialist confirming that you are blind or partially sighted</li></ul>
B	Severely or profoundly deaf	Submit a copy of one of the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Audiogram or letter from a medical professional indicating hearing loss has reached 70 - 95+ dBHL in both ears</li></ul>
C	Without speech	Submit a copy of one of the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personal Independence Payment (PIP) award letter, including breakdown of points, stating that you receive at least 8 points for the “communicating verbally” activity</li><li>• Evidence from a medical professional confirming that you are completely without speech</li></ul>
D	Without the use of both arms	Submit a copy of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medical evidence to support that you are unable to use both arms for day-to-day tasks</li></ul>
E	Walking disability	Submit a copy of one of the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disability Living Allowance award letter. This must show you receive the high rate mobility component</li><li>• Personal Independence Payment PIP award letter, including breakdown of points, stating that you receive a score of at least 8 points for the “Moving Around” activity</li><li>• War Pensioners Mobility supplement letter</li><li>• Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (mobility)</li><li>• Letter from the Service Personnel &amp; Veterans Agency certifying “permanent or substantial disability which causes inability to walk, or very considerable difficulty in walking”</li><li>• Photocopy of both sides of your Blue Badge that was issued under walking disability criteria</li></ul>
F	Significant learning disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The applicant has a learning disability which includes significant impairment of intelligence <b>and</b></li></ul>	Submit a copy of as many of the following documents as possible (you do not need to have all these documents to apply): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The most recent evidence from your school to demonstrate your academic ability</li><li>• The full Statement of Special Educational Needs / Individual Education Plan and any subsequent</li></ul>

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	<p>social functioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant has difficulty learning new skills and may not be able to cope independently</li> <li>• The learning disability must have commenced in childhood</li> </ul> <p>All <b>three</b> of the above criteria must be met for a person to be considered to have a learning disability. This enables us to better distinguish a learning disability from a developmental condition such as autism or ADHD, or a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, which are not eligible under category F but may be eligible under category G</p>	<p>reviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care plan / support plan</li> <li>• A bespoke letter from Social Services (learning disability team) or Manager of your residential care home confirming that you meet the eligibility criteria for this category as stated above</li> <li>• A bespoke letter from the head teacher/SENCO of the school you attend detailing your learning disability including your current national curriculum levels and social functioning</li> <li>• A copy of your patient summary, confirming you have been diagnosed with a severe, moderate, or mild learning disability. This can be obtained from your doctors' surgery</li> <li>• A letter from a medical professional confirming that you have a mild/moderate/severe learning disability</li> </ul> <p>A medical professional does not have to be your GP. For example, it can also include a CPN, learning disability specialist, occupational health therapist or a psychiatrist.</p>
<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">G</p>	<p>Would be refused a licence to drive a motor vehicle, or have had a licence withdrawn on the grounds of physical fitness, for example:</p> <p>Uncontrolled epilepsy</p> <p>Severe mental disorder</p> <p>Have another medical condition which means the applicant would be refused a driving licence or have their licence revoked</p>	<p>Submit a copy of one or more of the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter from the DVLA to confirm that your licence has been refused or revoked for a minimum of 12 months</li> <li>• Letter from a medical professional confirming that you are unfit to drive, detailing the reasons and length of time for which you will be unable to drive</li> </ul> <p><b>People who would be refused a driving licence (or have had it withdrawn) due to alcohol or drugs misuse are not eligible for a disabled persons pass.</b></p>

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## Companion Pass

If you are unable to travel alone, you may be entitled to a companion pass. Your companion may be a carer, relative or friend of any age.

To qualify for a companion pass you must supply the following evidence:

<b>A</b>	The applicant is in receipt or has been awarded the <b>higher/enhanced rate care component</b> of Disability Living Allowance/PIP.	A copy of the award letter from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) or confirmation of award stating that the applicant is in receipt or has been awarded the higher/enhanced rate care component of DLA/PIP. The award date should not have expired, and the evidence should be dated within the last 12 months.
<b>B</b>	The applicant is in receipt or has been awarded Attendance Allowance issued by the DWP	Attendance Allowance award notice or letter from the DWP stating that the applicant has qualified for Attendance Allowance. The award date should not have expired, and the evidence should be dated within the last 12 months.
<b>C</b>	The applicant has been certified as blind and in consequence is registered as blind in a register	A letter from Local Authority, RNIB, or other Blind Society confirming the applicant is registered as blind on a register maintained by or on behalf of their local authority.
<b>D</b>	The applicant lives in a care/residential home or hospital and are eligible for the <b>higher/enhanced rate care component</b> of the DLA or Attendance Allowance	A copy of the award letter from the DWP or confirmation of award stating that the applicant is in receipt of higher/enhanced rate care component of DLA/PIP. Or a copy of the award notice from DWP or confirmation of award stating that the applicant is in receipt of Attendance Allowance. The award date should not have expired, and the evidence should be dated within the last 12 months.
<b>E</b>	The applicant can provide confirmation from a specialist doctor/ independent health professional/ registered medical practitioner confirming that you are unable to travel alone	A copy of a letter from a specialist doctor/ independent health professional/ registered medical practitioner to confirm that you are unable to travel alone

Your companion is not issued a separate pass. A companion pass has an orange stripe down the right-hand side of the pass with a C+ symbol at the top right hand corner which tells the driver that you require a companion. Your companion **CANNOT** use your pass without you.

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## **Replacement Passes**

If you think you may have lost your pass on a bus, first contact the relevant bus company where you may have left the pass. If it cannot be found, you will need to complete an application form and pay a charge of £15. If your pass is damaged or faded, please call 0345 600 6400 or call into an Information Centre to organize a replacement at the cost of £15.

If your pass has been stolen and the crime was reported to the police, the replacement pass will be issued free of charge. You will need to quote the crime number that you were given by the police.

Expired cards will not be automatically renewed, you must re-apply.

## **Other information**

Residents of Northumberland who hold a valid concessionary bus pass can also purchase a Nexus Gold Card which gives free off-peak travel on the Metro. The Gold Card costs £25 for a year's travel and can be bought from Nexus Travelshops. You will need to show your concessionary travel pass when you apply. Nexus have Travelshops at the Central Station, Haymarket and Monument and at other locations.

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