



Bus Travel for People with Disabilities

Local bus travel is free for people with disabilities with a concessionary travelcard. Buses allow those with disabilities or mobility issues freedom to get around and make journeys.

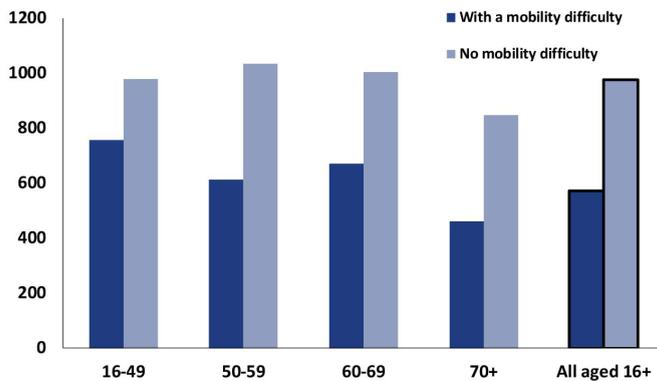


83% Mar 2014

28% Mar 2005

Accessible buses (UK)

Trips per person per year by mobility status, and age: England, 2013



People with mobility issues make **one third fewer trips** than able bodied people. While able bodied bus users make on average 66 trips each year, those with a disability make 44 trips.

In 2013/14, Central Bedfordshire had 3,394 concessionary passes issued on the grounds of disability and Luton had 3,725. **This is a fraction of those eligible.**

Travel with a concessionary pass is **free** at any time for residents in Central Bedfordshire starting their journey in the district and free between 9:30am and 11pm for residents of Luton.

To apply for a bus pass, you need to bring a colour photo, proof of disability (or a doctor's stamp) and a completed application form to your local council office.

Most Class 2 **mobility scooters** can be used on buses, but you need to contact the appropriate bus operator for a permit.



Most local buses have ramps, which the drivers have been trained to operate. There is usually only one Wheelchair space on the bus and drivers are not required to ask people with buggies to move. Coaches, such as Greenline and National Express, have passenger lifts.

Be Smart - there are a number of apps, sometimes providing live bus updates. Using location services, you can find your nearest bus stop and view a live departure board. Traveline, Nextbuses and Arriva are all available via your App Store.





South Beds Dial a Ride

In Central Bedfordshire, Dial a Ride provides door-to-door transport services

for people with limited mobility who are unable to use ordinary buses. You may travel for any purpose. To use the service you need to be a member and you must book a journey both ways. Fares apply.



Assistance cards have been produced by the Confederation of Public Transport and are available via operators' websites. You can use these to advise drivers where you want to get off.

A **companion pass**, indicated by a C on the concessionary smartcard, allows you to take a companion with you who can also travel for free in Central Bedfordshire and other neighbouring authorities. If you feel confident to travel without a companion, you are allowed to do so, but your companion may never travel for free without you.



Local Busway stops have React 3 **talking information points**. You can get hold of a key fob from Sight Concern, Bedford (01234 311555, www.sightconcern.org.uk).

Some handy tips for bus travellers with disabilities

Be aware of the time of your journey and sit as close to the driver as possible so that you can let him or her know in good time that you need to get off the bus.

Modern bus shelters are increasingly fitted with real-time bus information which tells you when the next bus is arriving and where it is going. This is helpful for those with hearing impairment.

If you need help planning your journey, pop into the Travel Choices Hub, 1 Ashton Square, Dunstable (accessible to wheelchairs) or email travelchoices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Alternatively, there are some helpful travel planning widgets on the Travel Choices website: www.cbtravelchoices.co.uk

Think contingency. Take enough money for an emergency taxi (or have someone available who you could call to pick you up). You probably won't need it, but you will feel more confident knowing you have a back-up plan.

Key Contacts

The Disability Resource Centre 01582 470 900 www.drcbeds.org.uk

Travel Choices www.cbctravelchoices.co.uk

Arriva 0344 800 4411 www.arrivabus.co.uk

Centrebus 0844 357 6520 www.centrebus.info

Grant Palmer 01525 719 719 www.grantpalmer.com

South Beds Dial-a-Ride 01234 4832648

The Confederation of Passenger Transport 020 7240 3131 www.cpt-uk.org



Central Bedfordshire