

TRANSPORT

Help with hospital fares

If you receive Income Support, income-based Job Seeker's Allowance, Universal Credit or Pension Credit, you can claim help with travel costs to and from hospital for NHS treatment when escorting your child. You can obtain a refund of your fares directly from the hospital if you produce proof that you are in receipt of benefits. Ask at the hospital for form HC1.

If you are not receiving these benefits but are on a low income (if your child is 16 years or over it is their income that counts, not yours) you may still be able to get help. Ring the hospital and ask who you need to speak to, to find out what help is available.

Blue Badge scheme

- www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/care-and-support/disability/apply-for-a-blue-badge

If you're disabled or have a health condition that affects your mobility, you can apply for a Blue Badge. You can also apply for a badge if you care for a child with a health condition that affects their mobility. Apply online through Kent County Council.

Bus pass

- www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/travelling-around-kent/bus-travel/bus-passes/bus-passes-for-older-or-disabled-people

- 03000 418383

Free off-peak travel on local bus services for a disabled person and a companion, between

9.30am and 11.00pm, Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and public holidays. An application form can be downloaded from the Kent County Council website.

Disabled Persons Railcard

- www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk
- 0345 605 0525

For people with a disability that makes travelling by train difficult. Get 1/3 off adult rail fares and, if you're travelling with another adult, they will also get 1/3 off their rail fare. There are no time restrictions on the Disabled Persons Railcard, so you can use it to get a discount on tickets at any time of the day and each railcard costs £20 a year.

Exemption from vehicle tax

If your child gets the higher rate DLA or PIP mobility component, you should automatically be sent a

vehicle tax exemption form (DLA 403) from the DLA unit. It is important that you complete and return the exemption form to the address stated on the letter enclosed with the form.

London congestion charges

- www.cclondon.com

Blue Badge holders are exempt from the congestion charge in central London. You need to register with Transport of London and make a one-off payment of £10.

Motability scheme

- www.motability.co.uk

The motability scheme enables disabled people to get mobile by exchanging their mobility component of their DLA or PIP to lease a new car, scooter, powered wheelchair or wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV). You can apply after your child is three. You may have to make an advance payment.

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