

## **DISABLED PERSONS FREEDOM PASS**

**Please read these guidance notes before completing the application form.**

### What is a disabled persons Freedom pass?

It is a pass offering free travel in Greater London on buses, Tube, Docklands Light Railway, Croydon Tram link 24 hours a day and on local national rail network OFF peak only. The pass is for people with long term disabilities that mainly affect their mobility. Applicants must be over 5 years of age and not yet in receipt of the State Retirement pension.

In 2008 the new national scheme was introduced. This means that everyone with a Freedom Pass will be able to travel outside the London area OFF PEAK on BUSES only, all over England. The London concessions have remained the same, only for London residents. Visitors to London will only be eligible for free travel on the buses.

Inspire Community Trust (Inspire) provide a range of Disabled Persons services, including the Disabled Freedom pass scheme, on behalf of London Borough of Bexley Council. Inspire is responsible for carrying out assessments for people that are applying for a disabled freedom pass.

### Who can get a Disability Freedom Pass?

Freedom passes are issued to those applicants who meet the criteria under the Transport Act 2000. Only applicants who meet at least one of the criteria listed below will qualify for a Disabled Persons Freedom pass.

- **Blind or partially sighted**

We will need a photocopy of your CVI form, which confirms that you are either registered or confirmation that that you are registered with the Bexley Sensory Support Team.

- **Profoundly or Severely Deaf**

We can check with the Bexley Deaf team for your registration category or you can provide an audiogram.

- **Unable to communicate orally**

This means that you are unable to make clear oral requests. This does not include those who are able to communicate orally, but whose speech is slow or difficult to understand because of a stammer, or those who cannot speak English, but who can communicate in another language.

Medical evidence will be required to support your application.

- **Loss of the use or loss of BOTH arms**

If this applies to you, you will be required to attend a mobility assessment at the Inspire Office or provide medical evidence.

- **Learning Disability -**

Under the Concessionary Bus Travel Act, 2007, you will be eligible for a Disabled Person's Freedom Pass from your fifth birthday if you have "a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning".

Government guidance to the Act defines 'learning disability' in the following way:

A person with a learning disability has a reduced ability to understand new or complex information, a difficulty in learning new skills, and may be unable to cope independently. These disabilities must have started before adulthood and have a lasting effect on development. The person should be able to qualify for specialist services and he or she may have had special educational provision.

A learning difficulty is not the same as a learning disability. Examples of what conditions are not accepted as a learning disability include ADHD, dyslexia, Aspergers Syndrome and Autism.

Inspire's Freedom Pass Co-ordinator will seek information, advice and support from the Council's Adult Complex Care Team to determine whether or not an applicant fulfils the above condition. In turn, they (Complex Care Team) may seek medical information from the appropriate medical professionals involved in the care of the applicant.

- **Physical Disability affecting your mobility**

Those who have a physical disability which affects their walking will undergo a mobility assessment by one of Inspires Disability officers to determine that they have a substantial disability or injury that affects their mobility. If you are in receipt of the high rate mobility component of the disability living allowance or the new PIP moving around descriptor of 8 points or more, we may take that into account. Please provide a copy of the award which must have at least 12 months of the award left to run. **You must also provide supporting medical evidence.**

- **Refused A Driving License**

If you have been refused a driving license, on the grounds of being medically unfit, either due to epilepsy, severe enduring mental illness or sudden attacks of fainting, but NOT the persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol. Please provide a copy of the DVLA issue letter or medical evidence or ask your doctor or consultant psychologist for those with a mental health illness to complete the 'Fitness to Drive' form. Information on Fitness to Drive is available on the Department for Transport website.

### **How to apply for a disabled pass?**

**Please complete the application form fully and enclose**

- **one passport size colour photo**
- **proof of address not more than 3 months old**
- **any medical evidence required**
- **proof of identity.**

Post or deliver your completed application form to:-

Inspire Community Trust

20 Whitehall Lane

Slade Green

Kent DA8 2DH

(Opening times Monday – Friday 9am-5pm)

Or you may take it to any of the local libraries except Blackfen or Slade Green, within the London Borough of Bexley for them to send down in the secure post

### **What happens next?**

If we have all the relevant documents we will assess and process your application. If you are required to attend a mobility assessment we will telephone you to arrange.

**If you are eligible for a pass you will be required to attend Inspire in person to collect your pass from the Inspire office.**

Please allow up to 4 weeks to process your application.

