

Transport for Visually Impaired Children and Young People

Where Visually Impaired Children and Young People are transported by taxi there have been

- issues with taxi's not dropping off at the correct place
- lack of understanding of the methods of assisting a visually impaired person's access/ egress to a vehicle
- lack of training in guiding visually impaired people
- lack of training in the problems that visually impaired people have in communicating with others and their lack of awareness of the non verbal signals that others use

Where Visually Impaired Children and Young People travel on mainstream school transport there have been issues with them accessing seating as they cannot see where the seats are free. They also struggle with getting on and off the bus due to the numbers using this transport.

Transporting Visually Impaired Young People by taxi contributes to a culture of dependency as they are not given mobility training to ensure that they are independently mobile and safe for themselves. Mobility training should be given to all visually impaired children to prepare them for life and to enable them to fully participate in the activities of their school life. This would then give older Young People the same opportunities as their peers to become more independent and to travel to school independently where this is feasible.