

NEWS RELEASE

8 MAY 2017



ENHANCEMENTS TO CHILD CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL APPROVED

DISCOUNTED public transport fares are to be offered to more young people in South Yorkshire, after South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive's (SYPTe's) proposals to extend the current concessionary travel scheme for 16-18 year olds were approved by the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee today, 8 May.

The enhancements mean that from 1 July all 16 to 18 year olds living in South Yorkshire, including those in apprenticeships and employment, will be able to apply for a 16-18 Travel Pass, which provides access to discounted travel across the region.

The pass will also, for the first time, be valid during August, to allow young people in this age bracket to benefit from reduced travel rates across South Yorkshire, including 80p single fares on bus and tram, half price rail fare on Northern rail services and value for money operator tickets all year round.

Stephen Edwards, SYPTe Executive Director, said: "We are pleased to announce the upcoming enhancements to child concessionary travel for 16-18 year olds in South Yorkshire. The changes have been made in response to customer feedback, and to better support young people to access learning, training, employment and other opportunities beyond existing academic boundaries."

The 16-18 Travel Pass can be applied for from 1 July, online at travelsouthyorkshire.com, or via a paper application from an Interchange, and can be used as soon as it is received. Unlike the previous 16-18 Student Pass, card holders are no longer required to reapply for their pass after a year, as the enhanced 16-18 Travel Pass is valid for two years, until 31 July of the young person's second year in further education, apprenticeship or employment.

Prior to the enhancements, only 16-18 year olds in full time education, or classroom based learning over 12 hours per week, were entitled to a 16-18 Student Pass and the concessionary fare entitlement for 16-18 year olds was in line with the academic year meaning it ended each year on 31 July, and recommenced on 1 September.

Molly Crossmore, Rotherham Youth Cabinet member, said: "We welcome the enhancements to the concessionary travel scheme for 16-18 year olds. These changes will make a real difference to many of South Yorkshire's young people who are in

apprenticeships or employment, that previously were not eligible for discounted travel.”

Child concession fares and operator child and student tickets are available on production of a MegaTravel pass or a 16-18 Travel Pass, which proves to bus drivers, tram conductors and ticket sellers that the passenger is entitled to travel at reduced cost on public transport.

More information on the upcoming 16-18 Travel Pass, including information on how to apply for a pass, will be made available at travelsouthyorkshire.com/ticketspasses

ENDS

For more information contact SYPTE Communications Officer, Georgina Thomas, on **0114 221 1265** or at communications@sypte.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

- To read the full papers presented to the Sheffield City region Combined Authority Transport Committee meeting today, 8 May, visit <http://meetings.southyorks.gov.uk/>
- The validity of a MegaTravel pass remain unchanged, meaning that young people aged 11-16 can continue to benefit from discounted travel across South Yorkshire.
- Previously, to qualify for a 16-18 Student Pass, young people must have met the following criteria: be in full-time education and; have been born between 1 September 1998 and 31 August 2000 and; live in South Yorkshire at a household that pays council tax to Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham or Sheffield councils.
- Previously, young people studying with a non-school-or-college provider of training and development (Training Agencies) may have qualified for a 16-18 Student Pass if they were engaged in at least 12 hours classroom based education/learning per week.
- SYPTE implements the decisions of SCR Transport Committee, which is made up of nominated elected members from the local authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, North East Derbyshire, Derbyshire Dales, Bolsover, Bassetlaw and Chesterfield. More information southyorks.gov.uk

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