

# Information for Carers: Accessibility and travel

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Information sheet E9

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## This information sheet is about:

- Going out and getting about
- Vehicle tax
- Motability
- Concessionary bus passes
- Community transport
- The Blue Badge Scheme
- Shopmobility
- Accessible toilets (that need a RADAR key)

## Going out and getting about

There are all sorts of services and benefits that can help you and the person you care for to get out and about for enjoyment and the essentials of everyday living. You may have your own car, or you might need other transport options, such as community or public transport, or help to get around town. For days out, information is available about accessible facilities.

## Vehicle Tax

You may be entitled to a free vehicle tax if you, or the person you care for, are a disabled person who gets the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance, War Pensioners Mobility Supplement or if you have an invalid carriage. To find out more, phone 0845 712 3456 if you have higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance or 0800 169 277 if you have War Pensioners Mobility Supplement or go to [www.gov.uk/driving-if-disabled/driving-with-disabilities](http://www.gov.uk/driving-if-disabled/driving-with-disabilities)

## Motability

The Motability Scheme gives disabled people the opportunity to exchange either their Higher Rate Mobility Component (HRMC) of Disability Living Allowance or their War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement (WPMS) for a new car, powered wheelchair or scooter. If you, or the person you care for, receive either of these benefits you could be eligible for the Motability Scheme. To find out more phone 0845 456 4566, Minicom 0845 675 0009, phone lines open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, or go to [www.motability.co.uk](http://www.motability.co.uk)

## Concessionary Bus Passes

Concessionary bus passes are available to Somerset residents of pensionable age or eligible on the grounds of disability. The pass allows free travel on buses in every area of England, subject to certain time restrictions. For more information phone us on **0300 123 2224** or go to [www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary)

## Community Transport

To find out about accessible and community transport services that may help if public transport isn't suitable for you or isn't available in your area, phone us on **0300 123 2224**, phone lines open Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm and Saturday 9am to 4pm, or go to <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/public-transport/community-transport/>

## **The Blue Badge Scheme**

This scheme is for people with severe walking difficulties who travel as drivers or passengers. The scheme is also for people who are registered blind and people with very severe upper limb disabilities who regularly drive a vehicle but cannot turn a steering wheel by hand. People who have Blue Badges can park close to their destination in on-street parking and some car parks.

The Department for Transport (DfT) sets rules about who can have a Blue Badge. You automatically qualify for a badge if the DfT rules apply to you. You can see what those rules are on the DfT website, [www.dft.gov.uk/topics/access/blue-badge/](http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/access/blue-badge/)

You can find out more and apply online at [www.somerset.gov.uk/bluebadge](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/bluebadge) or by phoning us on **0300 123 2224**, lines open Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm and Saturday 9am to 4pm.

## **Shopmobility**

This is a service provided by your District Council for people with limited mobility, whether permanent or temporary, that helps them to shop and get around town centres. For more details about the loan of scooters, manual and powered wheelchairs or escorts, and charges, phone us on **0300 123 2224**, email [adults@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:adults@somerset.gov.uk)

## **Accessible toilets (that need a RADAR key)**

RADAR, the disability network, produces the National Key Scheme guide. This guide, which is updated and has information about Changing Places toilets, provides all you need to know about the National Key Scheme and the scheme's accessible toilets around the UK.

For more information or to apply, go to <http://www.radarkey.org/>, phone 0207 2508191 or email [shop@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:shop@disabilityrightsuk.org)

## **Your opportunity to feedback**

We welcome your comments about the services you receive. If you would like to tell us what you think, please either:

Contact us by going to our website, [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk), or

- Speak to your social care worker
- Phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224, or
- Contact the Adults and Health Customer Experience Officer  
Floor B2 East  
County Hall  
Taunton  
TA1 4DY  
Email: [customerexperience@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:customerexperience@somerset.gov.uk)

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