

Introduction

Who we are?



We are called All Hours All Voices.



We are a group of people who live in Greater Manchester.



We want transport to be easy to use for everyone.



Some of us are disabled. We know it can be hard to use public transport as a disabled person.

What we have already done?



In 2025, we won our first campaign.



Before this, disabled people could not use their free bus pass before 9:30am so we asked for this rule to be removed for good.



More than 40 organisations and charities supported us.



This rule was removed. This has helped a lot of people in Greater Manchester and now we want to do more.

What we want now?



We want Greater Manchester to introduce a Companion Pass, which lets disabled people who need help to travel bring someone with them for free.



Disabled people have a legal right to use transport easily. They also have a right to not be treated unfairly.



Right now, there is no Companion Pass. We think this is wrong.

Our hope for the future



Greater Manchester has already shown big change is possible.



We believe Greater Manchester can go further.



We want it to create the best Companion Pass in the country. Other places could learn from it.

About this report



In this report, we will explain why we think we should have Companion Passes and give examples of Companion Passes that already work well in other places.



We want to show how a Companion Pass would help disabled people. It would remove barriers. It would help people take part in their community.

What we are asking for?



Many disabled people cannot travel on their own.



They need help from a companion or Personal Assistant (PA).



Right now, the companion has to pay for their own ticket.



This costs extra money. It stops some disabled people from:

- going to work
- going to health appointments
- seeing friends
- taking part in their community



This means some people cannot use the free travel that other people already have.



A Companion Pass would make a real difference.



We think three things are important to get this right.



1. Let the person choose their companion

Every disabled person is different and they should be able to choose who travels with them. This is called a "+1" pass.

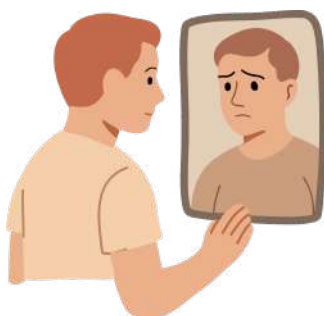


Not every disabled person needs a companion all the time.

Some disabled people travel alone. Some need help sometimes.



A Companion Pass just makes sure that people who need help are not left out.



2. Let people self-identify

People should not have to prove they get a benefit, like PIP, to get a Companion Pass.



Applying for PIP can be hard and stressful.



There are also changes coming called the Timms Review. This might make things harder for some people.



We think people should be able to say they need a Companion Pass themselves.



3. Involve disabled people in the design

Disabled people should help design the pass from the start.



This is important to get it right.



There are already groups who could help with this:

- The Greater Manchester Mayor's Disabled People's Panel
- Transport for Greater Manchester's Disability Design Reference Group

Looking ahead



Greater Manchester has already made free travel better for disabled people.



Now, Greater Manchester could lead the way again.

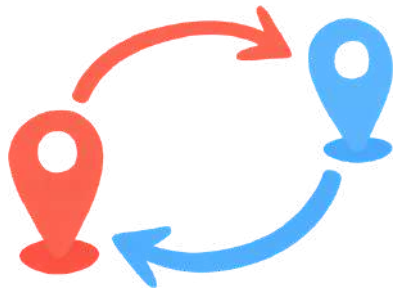


It could create one of the best Companion Passes in the country.



This would make travel fair and inclusive for everyone.

Other places are already doing this



We looked at two places that already have good Companion Pass schemes.

South Yorkshire



South Yorkshire is a different area, similar to Greater Manchester.



South Yorkshire already offers:

- Free travel at any time of day
- Companion Passes



This shows it can be done. If South Yorkshire can afford this, we believe Greater Manchester can too.



Wokingham

South Yorkshire is not the only place doing this.

Wokingham is a place that listens carefully to disabled people.



Disabled people help make decisions instead of being asked afterwards.

This is called co-production.



In January 2024, Wokingham signed something called the Social Care Future Charter.



Disabled people and other residents helped create it together.



The charter has five important ideas:

- Communities where everyone belongs
- Living in the place we call home
- Leading the lives we want to live
- More resources, better used
- Sharing power as equals



As they listened to disabled people, Wokingham removed all time limits on disabled bus passes in December 2024.



Wokingham also has a Companion Pass.

Conclusion



We believe the evidence in this report is clear.



South Yorkshire and Wokingham show that Companion Passes already work well in other places.



The stories we have shared show why this matters. People are waiting too long for change.



Greater Manchester has already shown big change is possible.



We believe the case for a Companion Pass is strong.



We are asking TfGM to try a trial.



This would help everyone travel freely, at all hours.