



<b>Policy No:</b> SJD/YP/29	<b>Authorised by:</b> Davina Powell	<b>Review Date:</b> 20th October 2023
<b>Policy Date:</b> 12th April 2021		<b>Date of Next Review:</b> 19th October 2024
<b>YOUNG PEOPLE USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND UNDERTAKING VISITS</b>		

### **Using Public Transport**

An important part of SJD Homes developing the life skills of every young person we care for is enabling them to use public transport safely and with confidence.

Young people who are placed in, or near to, their previous home area, may already possess a sound knowledge of how to use local transport links whereas young people who are 'new' to the area, including asylum-seeking young people may require considerable support before they are able to travel independently.

Part of the placement agreement meeting should therefore be dedicated to determining the level of support each young person will require and this should be factored into the young person's internal care plan.

Young people should initially be shown how to use the internet to access routes and timetables for buses, trains (including the Underground and Overground where appropriate), trams and any other public services relevant to the area in which the placement is located.

Priority should be given to ensuring a young person knows how to access the places they visit most frequently: e.g., schools or colleges; the job centre; their place of employment; local leisure resources; their GP and dental surgeries or the homes of friends and/or relatives if it is deemed appropriate and safe for them to make such visits.

Staff must accompany a young person when they make their first few journeys and use their own judgement to determine when the young person has the skill to make each journey alone. Staff should also give guidance regarding keeping safe whilst travelling including what a young person should do in the event they are threatened or feel they are at risk of being threatened.

Young people should be reminded that the majority of buses and trains now have CCTV installed for their protection and the protection of their fellow passengers. They should also be given guidance regarding the actions that should be taken if they leave personal possessions on public transport.

In a number of areas, free or discounted travel is provided for young people subject to certain criteria. Staff should ensure they are familiar with the arrangements applicable to the area in which the placement is located, and that assistance is given to young people in making the necessary application. Where it is possible to register the relevant card, staff should do this to assist in obtaining a replacement card if necessary and also to assist in 'tracking' the movements of a young person in the event of them being missing from care.

### **Undertaking Visits with Young People**

The aim of staff should be to enable every young person who is of an age and ability to do so, to make visits unaccompanied by staff. Some young people will however need support initially in doing this. It is important

that this is undertaken in a way that is supportive and not intrusive and in order to achieve this staff should be discreet when accompanying young people in public by, for example, not visibly displaying their work ID cards or engaging in loud conversations which contain comments which would indicate the young person is living 'in care'.

It may be necessary for staff to accompany a young person to the required location, ensure they gain entry and then return at a pre-agreed time to meet the young person and return them to placement. Where the location is sufficiently near to the placement staff should return to work but where this is not feasible due to distance staff should remain in the area and undertake any work-related tasks such as shopping for items needed at the placement.

Every young person cared for by SJD Homes will be in possession of a mobile phone and staff should ensure they have the relevant number to enable them to contact the young person if it is necessary to so.

**Under no circumstances should staff take a young person to their own home or to the home of a friend or relative.**

