

Volunteering as a Driver

Why do we need Volunteer Drivers:

Getting to healthcare and wellbeing appointments can be challenging for many people in our communities, this could be due to mobility issues, health conditions, lack of accessible or affordable transport, or just having the confidence to use the transport available.

The Transport to Health Project (T2H) which covers much of the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board operating area is no exception when it comes to accessing the healthcare appointments needed. There are many rurally isolated areas where there are little or no transport options to take people to where they need to be.

As a volunteer driver for one of our community transport operators, you would help someone in your community get to a hospital, clinic, GP surgery, dentist, optician and other health related journeys within and outside of the ABUHB Region.

Becoming a volunteer driver helps you connect with your community, meet people and build trust. Many of our passengers use the service on a regular basis and the feedback we receive is always so positive.

What you can expect:

Depending on which Operator you decide to volunteer with, they are all independent in the way they manage their operations. Some of our operators have their own wheelchair accessible vehicles which you would use. Other operators use a system where the volunteer driver uses their own car to take passengers to their required destination.

You will be reimbursed for your mileage by the operator, you will receive full induction training and support from the operator where you volunteer.

Volunteering is flexible to fit around your availability, ideally it would be great if you can commit to some time each week, but it may be that you can only commit fortnightly or monthly. Each and every journey is important and of course sometimes there may not be a journey on the day you are available.

Skills needed:

Valid driving licence, be punctual, friendly, caring and empathetic.

Reimbursement of costs:

The community transport operator where you volunteer will provide you with expense claim forms, this will allow you to be reimbursed for the mileage associated with your journey.

Currently the HMRC rate for reimbursement is 0.45 pence per mile, you will be asked to record your start and end mileage for each journey.

What our Operators are likely to need from you:

Offer your time based around your personal commitments, using your own car to transport passengers, except where a scheme has its own vehicle, a copy of your motor insurance certificate, driving licence and MOT certificate. Drivers will be required to undertake a DBS check.

Where are our Community Transport Operators based:

We currently have community transport operators as part of the T2H Scheme in the following communities:

Blaenau Gwent Community Car Scheme – Contact Bridges Car Scheme 01600 228787 or carscheme@bridgescentre.org.uk

Community Volunteers Wales (Risca) – 01633 848899 or info@cvw.org.uk

Crickhowell Volunteer Bureau – 01873 812177 or crickhowellvolunteerbureau@gmail.com

Disability Can Do Transport (Blackwood) – 01495 233555 or info@disabilitycando.org.uk

Llanwrtyd Wells Community Transport (Builth Wells) – 01982 552727 or office@lwct.org.uk

Torfaen Community Transport (Cwmbran) – 01633 874686 or torfaenct@btconnect.com

We also anticipate engaging TWO further operators in the coming months, these will be in the Blaenavon and Caerphilly areas.

What do Volunteers and Passengers say:

“Volunteering changed my life for the better”

“I wouldn’t be able to attend my appointment without the project”

“.....was very patient and understanding of my circumstances”

“.....was nervous at first, but made at ease once I was familiar”

“very grateful to this scheme as it allowed me to attend an important drop-in session”

“not only did you take me to my appointment you also accompanied me”

“it can take the stress out knowing that someone is on hand to take me to appointments”

“Being able to plan when I can attend appointments makes me feel that I am independent”

If you have a couple of hours to spare, please consider becoming a volunteer driver for your local community transport operator

To connect with your local Community Transport Operator, you can search on our website:

[Community Transport Map](#) | [Community Transport Association](#)



Alternatively, you can email: alison.owen@ctauk.org



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