



TRANSPORT FOR SICK CHILDREN

# Who we are & what we do.



Registered Charity Number 1110618

## Who we are

Transport for Sick Children is an incredible team of volunteers who give up their time and use their own cars to make a difference to needy areas of Greater Manchester.

## What we do

Health Professionals refer children to the Charity who need transport to health appointments. Our volunteer drivers take the accompanied child, wait until treatment is finished and bring them home.

## How we started

In 1977 a retired paediatric nurse, was asked to help transport a family, whose child was failing to thrive. With the help of her family, she provided the transport to a hospital play unit and successfully prevented the child from being taken into care. As their need diminished, a request for help with another family arose, and so the scheme was born. The scheme has grown to cover the whole of Greater Manchester.

## How the scheme is funded

Funding is primarily provided by the 12 NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups of Greater Manchester.

## How the scheme operates

The charity relies on a dedicated team of volunteer car owner-drivers to provide the service. They are reimbursed a mileage allowance but give freely of their spare time. Some driver's carry out one journey a month, others are on the road most days of the week. Volunteer drivers are interviewed; have their driving assessed and subjected to a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check, (formerly a Criminal Records Bureau check) to safeguard children.

Our volunteers ensure that the children and their parent/carer's arrive in an appropriate frame of mind to gain maximum benefit from the appointment. Some volunteers with larger vehicles are able to take siblings and other family members.

## Sick children and their carers

The majority of families are in receipt of state benefits. Children have a variety of need: one child has brittle bones, uses a special seat and needs to be handled with great care so public transport is out of the question. Nor can his family afford taxi fares.

The likelihood of children missing appointments is very high causing wastage. The charity ensures both the child's health needs are met whilst scarce NHS resources are used to the full.

Health Professionals and Families speak highly of the charity's service for relieving stress and aiding health recovery.

## The office

We have a small team of dedicated transport organisers who arrange volunteers with referrals, record data, inform Health Professionals of times and check with parent/carer on day prior to appointment. They have good relationships with volunteer drivers and referrers.

## Why our service is unique

There is no other volunteer organisation in the UK dedicated to helping children in deprived areas get to health appointments.

- We take children wherever they need to go, sometimes as far afield as Birmingham, Leeds and Liverpool
- We only receive referrals from Health Care Professionals or Social Workers as they are best able to assess need and ensure that children in need are not disadvantaged by transport issues.
- The service is provided free at the point of delivery. We do however, welcome donations
- We offer a bespoke service which focuses on the needs of the child; all our drivers have the appropriate children car-seats to carry children safely and legally.



*Why not become a...*



**TRANSPORT FOR SICK CHILDREN**

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