

Why the service provided is unique

- We are able to help children and their carers when other transport options are unavailable. We may help with early morning, evening and weekend appointments;
- With prior notice, we can accommodate other family members and siblings;
- Unlike some other community transport schemes we do not operate within geographical boundaries. We can take children wherever they need, sometimes as far afield as Birmingham and Liverpool;
- We only receive referrals from recognised health sector personnel as they are able to assess need and as a result we only provide transport for those who really need it;
- While we welcome donations, the service is provided free at the point of delivery; and
- We have a dedicated team of transport organisers who can help.

If you are a parent or carer in need of Transport for Sick Children just ask your Health Professional or Social Worker to contact the charity. We have a dedicated team of transport organisers who take referrals from them.

Contact us:

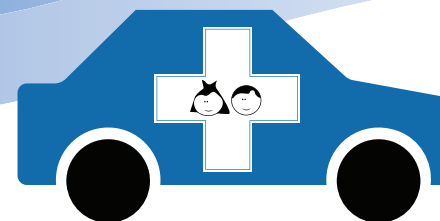
0161 443 4122

to@transportforsickchildren.org

You can also find us on:



Transport for Sick Children, Suite 338, Stockport Business & Innovation Centre,
Broadstone Mill, Broadstone Road, Stockport SK5 7DL



TRANSPORT FOR SICK CHILDREN

Registered Charity No: 1110618

Transport for Sick Children is a volunteer driver scheme that helps children in Greater Manchester to access essential health care.



Who we are

Transport for Sick Children has an incredible team of volunteers who give up their time and use their own cars to take accompanied children to hospital and clinic appointments.

What we do

In 1977 the founder, 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. Originating in South Manchester, it now covers the whole of Greater Manchester.

How the scheme is funded

Supporting funding is provided by the ten Greater Manchester Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG). Also, volunteers, staff and supporters work hard to raise charitable funding to support our work.

The charity also welcomes online donations via the website, anyone can make a one-off donation or set up a regular monthly payment. All donations, however small or large, make a positive difference to families whose children need transport to their health appointments.

The funds allow the charity to provide a managed and safe administrative structure through which the families are matched with appropriate local volunteer drivers.



How the scheme operates

The charity relies on a dedicated team of volunteer car owner-drivers to provide the service. These volunteer drivers transport accompanied children. They are reimbursed their fuel costs but give freely of their spare time. Some drivers carry out one journey a month, others are on the road for us most days of the week. Over the past ten years, the charity's volunteers have driven over 1 million miles helping over 6,000 children to get to over 60,000 appointments.

Volunteer drivers are interviewed, have their driving assessed and go through police checks to ensure they are suitable. Our drivers make sure that the children and their carers arrive for their appointment in an appropriate frame of mind to gain maximum benefit from their check-ups and or treatments.

The sick children and their carers

The needs of children and families are varied. The vast majority of clients are in receipt of state benefits. The charity helped one child with brittle bones who 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. Our scheme has provided a regular driver who the family knows well. This means everyone is happy and confident, travel is stress free and all the child's hospital appointments have been kept.

Many other children have special needs and go to weekly therapy sessions of various types. The parents/carers of these children have told us that they have no idea what they would have done without the help of our drivers.

The office

We have a small team of dedicated transport organisers who match the child with a driver and make sure the scheme runs smoothly. They have good relationships with volunteer drivers and referrers. The organisation has retained a friendly and personal service delivery throughout its expansion.