



Sheffield Citizens Advice & Law Centre

Legal Services Unit

The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, Sheffield, S1 4FW

Tel: (0114) 253 6665 www.advicesheffield.org.uk | www.slc.org.uk

Concessionary travel reinstated for disabled people in South Yorkshire

A client of Sheffield Citizens Advice and Law Centre said she is “extremely pleased” at proposals to reinstate the full travel concession for disabled people in South Yorkshire.

For further information on this press release, please contact Douglas Johnson at Sheffield Law Centre. E-mail douglas.johnson@slc.org.uk or 0114 253 6759.

A report to the Transport Committee of Sheffield Combined Authority (see note 2) will recommend a full reinstatement of travel concessions for disabled people and a new half-fare concession for older people on trains. The new concessions will come into force on 8th June 2014 if approved at the Transport Committee’s meeting on 19th May.

Two disabled clients of Sheffield Citizens Advice and Law Centre issued judicial review proceedings after a decision to cut concessionary travel in February.

Their documents lodged in the High Court showed that the Transport Authority had not considered the impact on disabled people adequately. This meant it had failed to comply with the legal duties in the Equality Act 2010.

The Authority denied the claim which should now be settled without a contested hearing.

One of the clients, Michelle Turner, said:

“I am extremely pleased at the outcome, not just for myself but for all the disabled people affected across South Yorkshire. It is really good to see the Combined Authority reconsidering the needs of disabled people when they got advice on the legal duties to advance equality.”

“Disabled people face a lot of barriers with access to transport and other services. Disabled people have much lower incomes on average but they also experience barriers in the transport system itself. Visually impaired people, for example, have extra difficulties handling change and tickets. They have now got back the concession they originally had.”

“The concession helps people with disabilities to overcome disadvantages arising from their disability. It enables mobility, tackles social isolation, supports access to training, employment, volunteering and caring, and enables independent living.”



Registered Office: Ground Floor, The Old Dairy, Broadfield Road, Sheffield, S8 0XQ

Charity no: 1153277 **Company Registration no:** 08616847 **VAT Registration no:** 169 9524 53

Sheffield Citizens Advice and Law Centre is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority FRN 617731

“The new proposals are an important step in the right direction to increase access for disabled and older people.”

“It is also a positive sign that the Combined Authority contains detailed advice to Members on the role of the Equality Act in their decision-making and acknowledges the need for full consultation in future.”

It is also good news for the local economy – research shows that every £1 spent on concessionary travel generates £1.50 for the economy.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Sheffield Citizens Advice and Law Centre carries out legal casework in public law and judicial review, amongst other matters. The two disabled clients issued proceedings in the High Court under case reference CO/1782/2014.
2. Sheffield City Region Combined Authority took over the functions of South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (SYITA) on 1st April 2014. The Transport Committee of the Combined Authority will meet on 19th May 2014 at 2pm at the Advanced Manufacturing Park, Brunel Way, Rotherham, S60 5WG. The papers for the meeting are at <http://meetings.southyorks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=2627&zTS=B>
3. The judicial review is an application to court for a ruling that SYITA’s decision was unlawful. The grounds of the claim are that the Authority breached the public sector equality duty in the Equality Act 2010. It is not a claim for compensation.
4. There are 265,278 concessionary passholders in South Yorkshire.
5. Sheffield Citizens Advice and Law Centre is a registered charity and provides a range of advice, including specialist casework in housing, employment, discrimination and public law.

Public advice line: 0114 205 5055

For further information on this press release, please contact Douglas Johnson. E-mail douglas.johnson@slc.org.uk. Phone 0114 253 6759