

Appendix 1

Volunteer Car Scheme

Northampton Volunteer Car Scheme has been running for many years. It is a service for older and disabled people in the borough of Northampton. Transport is provided by volunteers using their own cars to take people to medically related appointments. These may include GPs, hospitals, dentists, opticians, etc.

Passengers may be wheelchair users so long as they are able to get in and out of their wheelchair.

Registering with the Car Scheme Charges

There is an annual fee to be part of the scheme, currently £20.00 for 12 months or £11.00 for 6 months. In addition to this, passengers pay the driver 45p per mile to cover his/her expenses with a minimum charge of £2.50. Passengers can take someone with them at no extra cost. But please note that if an appointment takes longer than one hour, the driver may go home and come back for the return journey, and this may increase the cost. If you make 2 or more journeys using the scheme, you are likely to find that you are getting more from using this scheme than you would if you had to pay for a commercial taxi.

Bookings for the scheme should be made as well in advance as possible, and have to be made at least 48 hours before the car is required.

Assistance with Costs

If you are attending hospital for NHS treatment and in receipt of certain benefits. e.g. income support, pension credit guarantee credit (not just pension credit), tax credits with exemption certificates, income-based jobseekers allowance, HC2 or HC3 certificate - you may be able to claim your travel costs back. Please contact the Car Scheme Organiser on 01604 628234

To Find Out More

For more information about the Car Scheme, please call us on 01604 628234 or carscheme@nvconline.org.uk. An answer-machine is on from 12 noon while drivers are being booked, but please do leave a message with your name and telephone number and someone will return your call.

Northampton Live at Home Scheme

This is not available for hospital appointment transport, but can help with a range of other activities including assisted shopping, outings, befriending, craft group and gardening. For more information contact the Manager tel: 01604 721772 or email: northampton.liveathome@mha.org.uk or visit the website www.mha.org.uk/lahs35.aspx

Northampton Door to Door Service

This is a minibus service for people in Northampton who cannot use public transport and who become members of the service. It will pick you up at your door and take you to any destination within the borough of Northampton. But the service cannot take members who have been referred to the GP for appointments with hospitals or clinics. NDDS vehicles are specially built to allow access for wheelchairs and electric scooters. You don't have to be a wheelchair user. There is a registration fee to become a member which is currently £15 for 12 months. Once registered members pay a fare on the outward and return journeys, depending on distance travelled. Guide and helper dogs are carried free of charge. For more information the website is www.ndds.org.uk or tel: 01604 583553.