



investing in children

# *The Drive Project*

***Ensuring looked after young people are better equipped for life is vitally important so that they can go on to live fulfilled and independent lives.***

## **The Drive Project**

The Drive Project provides up to the value of £500.00 funding for driving lessons, a theory and practical test for looked after young people 17+ and care leavers up to the age of 21 (or 25 if in full-time education) who are the responsibility of Durham County Council.

The Drive Project is limited to 15 people per year, if the Drive Project has been fully allocated you will be placed on a waiting list until a space becomes available.

## **The Drive Project will**

-  Contribute to half the cost of driving lessons. Young people are expected to pay the other half themselves. This can be done using birthday or Christmas money or money from a job. The Drive Project will pay for the lesson one week, the young person will pay for the lesson the next week.
-  Support young people by paying in full for their first theory and one practical test. It is expected that young people turn up for their test and key workers provide the support to help them do this. This includes supporting them to get to test centres and helping them to prepare for tests.
-  Arrange with Education in the Community Skills for Life to provide support for those young people who want it, to help them pass their driving theory test. Young people will be able to practice the test on laptops, try the multi choice questions and the hazard perception.
-  Young people, their key workers and their carers are expected to decide together the best way forward. To access the Drive Project it must be part of the young person's Pathway Plan.
-  Motorcycle CBT is included in the Drive Project Scheme at 50% of cost, the young person to contribute 50%.

*Promoting the Rights of Children & Young People*



Everyone should be in agreement that driving lessons are the best option for the young person. The young person and their key worker must agree to review progress together every 10 lessons.



Everyone needs to be 100% committed to learning and supporting the young person. For driving lessons to be effective, there needs to be consistency. Therefore young people have to agree to have one lesson per week (which means they pay for one lesson a fortnight).



On passing a driving test you must provide feedback regarding the Drive Project Scheme your key worker will help you to do this, please share your views on:

1. What are the best things regarding the Drive Project?
2. What could be improved?
3. Do you think the Drive Project is well advertised? If no please suggest how we could do this better
4. Any other comments

Please return:

- An application form completed and signed by both the young person and key worker.
- Keyworkers should also include a copy of the relevant part of the Pathway Plan.

**To The Drive Project Scheme at Investing in Children by email:**

**[info@investinginchildren.net](mailto:info@investinginchildren.net) or by post: One Point, Burns Green, Chester le Street, County Durham, DH3 3QH. For enquiries telephone 0191 3746113.**

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## Most frequently asked Questions & Answers

- Q.** What happens when I reach the top of the waiting list?
- A.** A member of staff from Investing in Children will give you a ring to discuss your options.
- Q.** What happens if my chosen driving school have a waiting list and can't fit me in for 2 to 3 months?
- A.** We can pay in advance for your first 5 lessons or you can choose another driving school if you don't want to wait.
- Q.** If I can't afford to pay for 5 lessons in one go what can I do?
- A.** Investing in Children will inform your Driving Instructor that you may wish to pay half of each lesson or every other lesson, should you not have the money to pay half of a 10 hour block booking.
- Q.** If I have issues with my Driving Instructor what can I do?
- A.** Contact Investing in Children or your Key Worker.
- Q.** Can I do an Intensive Driving Course through the Drive Project?
- A.** Yes, as long as you have money saved up to pay for your 50% of driving tuition.
- Q.** What happens if I am not ready to learn to drive when I reach the top of the waiting list?
- A.** Your place will be suspended until you contact us to say you are ready. You will then have priority for the next available place.
- Q.** What happens once I have received £500 towards my lessons and tests?
- A.** You will be notified by letter when you have received over £400. Once you have received £500 you can continue to learn and pay yourself. If you have a job offer as a mechanic you can apply to County Durham Community Foundation for a grant for driving lessons.
- Q.** Do I need to do anything when I pass my practical test?
- A.** Yes, please inform Investing in Children and your Key Worker. We will ask a few questions around your Drive Project experience, your answers will help future young people learning to drive.