

3. A sustainable and effective training program must be defined and documented, along with a clear plan for its long term introduction wherever feasible within Cardiff Council.
4. Parents, carers, teachers and other stakeholders must have confidence in the training service and its effectiveness.

to adult education courses, medical appointments and other commitments. This support is provided either in the form of a taxi or by the client being transported by a support worker. Neither of these options is cheap and, with a client who is able to travel independently, Adult Services will be able to focus their support more effectively in the knowledge that support with travel is not necessary. The table below shows the predicted cost savings gained from those learners who will make trips independently rather than being accompanied by a carer or support worker. This is an estimated saving, over 5 years of approximately £69,904 for just the 25 students who have been trained thus far.

Table to show Predicted Transport Savings for Adult Services

Wider access to transport

	From Learner Details
Proportion of those completing travel training who will use training on other routes after completing learning	54%
Number of learners	25.0
Number of other return trips they will make on public transport independently as a result (assumes 100 per person per year) adjusted for % that will use other routes	1,360
Saving in carer's time of accompanying person on these trips (number of hours) Assumes 2 hours per return trip	2,720
Value of leisure time per hour (DfT 2009 prices)	£ 5.14
Value for one year per person	£ 13,981
Number of years of independent travel (attributed to training beyond period of learning)	5
Value of saved carers' time	£ 69,904

This table was created using the Department for Education's Travel Training Resources (Independent Travel Training Model Learner Details) which is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/studentsupport/a0064797/independent-travel-training-itt>

Accessed March 2011

Conclusions

The provision of travel training for pupils in Cardiff has been a valuable project and has shown that there is a sustainable demand for this service in schools and special units across Cardiff. The current waiting list and number of pupils being trained suggests that, as pupils move up through the school, more referrals will be attained from year to year. There are obvious benefits to travel training, environmental, social and in terms of cost savings. However, these benefits only become evident after a large core of pupils have been trained. In terms of cost savings, the extent to which taxis can be cancelled and optimised is dictated by how often the school transport team review and optimise taxi routes. For example, this project was running for 10 months before the first pupil was signed off. By the end of the project, the number of pupils being signed off is expected to have gained momentum and will have a tangible effect of the provision and optimisation of school transport routes in the new academic year (September 2011). It is suggested that this project continues to run, funded either by Cardiff Council or by the Welsh Assembly Government. The long-term benefits are difficult to quantify but are unquestionable and the project is in a position to expand its remit so that these benefits may be made available for pupils, parents, schools, service areas and Local Authorities across South Wales.

