

Pilot scheme

As of 1 April 2016, people diagnosed with a mental disorder or cognitive impairment may be eligible for a Blue Badge – if they meet further eligibility criteria.

'Mental disorder' means a mental illness, a personality disorder or a learning disability. For example, children with autism or Down's Syndrome may be eligible for a Blue Badge.

Eligibility criteria

To meet the eligibility criteria for a Blue Badge the applicant must:

- Have a diagnosed mental disorder
- Lack awareness of danger from traffic, meaning something is likely to risk the applicant's safety or the safety of other people during journeys.

The applicant must also receive one of the following:

- Disability Living Allowance care component at middle or higher rate
- Attendance Allowance at lower or higher rate
- Personal Independence Payment, having been given a total of at least 8 points from the following sections:
 - section 7 (communicating verbally)
 - section 8 (reading and understanding signs, symbols and words)
 - section 9 (engaging with other people face-to-face)

This is a 'pilot' scheme, which means it's only running as a trial.

If you want to apply for a Blue Badge for a mental disorder, this is separate to the normal Blue Badge application process. Contact your local council for the full eligibility criteria and to see how to apply.