

## Press Release

**\*\* EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2019 \*\***

### **Uber to offer free rides to the polls for wheelchair users, people with disabilities and the elderly**

For this Thursday's General Election, Uber will be offering free rides to and from polling stations in partnership with a number of leading disability organisations.

Together with [Scope](#), [Whizz-Kidz](#), [Transport for All](#) and a number of local organizations, Uber is helping ensure everyone can cast their vote.

Trips to and from polling stations between 7am and 10pm on Thursday, December 12th, will be free up to £10 per trip.

Wheelchair users will be able to redeem two Uber Access trips to travel to and from polling stations in seven cities across the UK including London, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool and Brighton.

The offer also extends to Uber Assist trips for those who need additional assistance but do not require a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

Uber Assist is available in more than fifteen cities across the UK, and is regularly used by older people, riders travelling with assistance animals, those who have visual or hearing impairments and riders with foldable wheelchairs.

Existing users of Uber Access and Uber Assist will be given a special code to access the free rides and new users will be sent one by charities such as Whizz-Kidz, Transport for All and Scope.

#### **Jamie Heywood, Regional General Manager of Uber in Northern and Eastern Europe, said:**

"We're proud to provide options for people who require additional assistance in more than 15 cities across the UK, including wheelchair accessible vehicles. We believe that everyone should be able to have their say, so we're delighted to be working with organisations like Whizz-Kidz, Transport for All and Scope to offer free trips to and from the polls this Thursday."

#### **Ruth Owen OBE, Chief Executive of Whizz-Kidz, said:**

"When Uber launched wheelchair accessible vehicles in London, many of the young people Whizz-Kidz works with were pleased to have another accessible choice for getting around town. We are pleased to partner with their scheme for free rides to and from polling stations for wheelchair users."

#### **James Taylor, Head of Policy, Campaigns and Public Affairs at disability equality charity, Scope said:**

“Disabled people often rely on public transport and taxis to get around. When transport is accessible it makes life much easier for disabled people, so it’s great that Uber is continuing to provide accessible options. We’re pleased to support this initiative to help make sure disabled people can get out and cast their vote.”

**Kirsty Hoyle, CEO of Transport for All, said:**

“We are pleased to share this opportunity from Uber with our members, a long-standing idea from their team which intends to offer a free and accessible option for disabled and older people to vote in the upcoming election. Too often disabled people are isolated by societal barriers that limit their opportunities to participate in the parts of life that others take for granted and we hope this encourages everyone to get out and vote.”

**Geraldine Desmoulins, Chief Officer of Possability People, said:**

“Possability People’s experience is that disabled people often have fewer options for getting out and about; walking, taking the bus, nipping out in the car - the things that most of us take for granted are not always viable. Accessible transport can make a huge difference to people’s lives and we welcome the opportunity to work with Uber so that disabled people can get to a polling station.”

**Mark Baker, Co-Chief Executive of Age UK Bristol, said:**

“Age UK Bristol is proud to work in partnership with Uber. The ‘Uber to the polls’ campaign will help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to place their vote on the 12th December, even if they have mobility issues.”

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors**

- Partners include: Scope, Whizz-Kidz, Transport for All, Age UK Bristol, Impact Initiatives (Brighton) and Possability People (Brighton).
- Photos and videos of Uber Access, wheelchair accessible trips, can be found [here](#).
- Uber Access (wheelchair accessible cars) is available in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool and Brighton.
- Uber Assist, for those that need additional assistance in an UberX vehicle is available in more than 15 cities across the UK. This includes London, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield, Nottingham, Bristol, Brighton, Bradford, Wolverhampton, Southampton, Portsmouth, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Cardiff.
- How to book Uber Access and/or Uber Assist? - Download/Login into the Uber app -> Enter your destination -> Scroll down to Access and/or Assist -> Chose the product you require -> Confirm booking.
- You can find more information on Uber’s accessibility products [here](#).

**Promotion Terms and Conditions**

This promotion applies to Uber Access and Uber Assist rides taken with a promo code between 7am and 10pm on 12 December 2019 in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield, Nottingham, Bristol, Brighton, Bradford, Wolverhampton, Southampton, Portsmouth, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Cardiff. The promo

code provides 2 free rides (up to a maximum of £10 each). The promo code has to be added to the rider's account and the promotion will be applied after the trip finishes.

This promotion does not apply to tips, tolls, surcharges and fees and cannot be combined with other offers and discounts. Uber retains the right to amend or cancel this promotion at its discretion without notice.

### **About Uber**

Uber's mission is to create opportunity through movement.

We started in 2010 to solve a simple problem: how do you get access to a ride at the touch of a button? More than 10 billion trips later, we're building products to get people closer to where they want to be. By changing how people, food, and things move through cities, Uber is a platform that opens up the world to new possibilities.

### **About Whizz-Kidz**

Whizz-Kidz is the UK's leading children's mobility charity. Our mission is to transform the lives of young wheelchair users by providing the equipment, support and skills they need, when they need them, giving them the chance to develop their full potential. Our vision is that all young wheelchair users' lives are full of fun, friendship and hope for an independent future. Just like any other child's.

### **About Scope**

Scope is the disability equality charity in England and Wales providing practical information and emotional support when it's most needed, and campaigning relentlessly to create a fairer society.

### **About Transport for All**

Transport for All is a pan-impairment Disabled People's Organisation who exist to champion an equitable society that builds inclusive transport systems and streets, accessible for D/deaf, disabled and older people, in London and across the UK, so that everyone can travel seamlessly and no one is isolated or disabled by barriers in society.

### **About Possability People**

Possability People is a charity. We provide services in Brighton, Hove and East and West Sussex. We believe in making more things possible for you in your life, no matter what your situation is.

### **About Age UK Bristol**

Age UK Bristol offers a range of services for older people in Bristol. Our flagship service is our Information & Advice service which provides benefits and entitlements advice for over 2,500 people a year. Last year we raised over £2.5 million in additional entitlements for older people in Bristol.