Why does the scheme exist?
The Essential Companion Scheme exists to enable all patrons to equally participate, with dignity and respect, in Eastbourne Theatres events. The purpose of the scheme is to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the Scheme Member.

Who is the Essential Companion Scheme for?
The scheme is offered to those who require a companion to assist them in accessing the facilities at Eastbourne Theatres. (Hereafter called the Scheme Member.) Most, but not all, Scheme Members have a disability as defined by The Equality Act 2010*.

Who is the Essential Companion Scheme not for?
This scheme is not open to, or intended for, those who simply require a companion to assist with transportation to and from the venues, or to keep them company. The scheme is not offered to anyone who can cope independently in a public venue.

What is the role of the Essential Companion?
The Essential Companion’s primary role is to assist the Scheme Member with mobility or guidance, to enable them to use and enjoy the services at Eastbourne Theatres. The Essential Companion is expected to attend to the needs of the Scheme Member at all times whilst on the premises.

How should an Essential Companion prepare?
The Essential Companion should familiarise themselves with the layout of the relevant theatre and the location of services. They should liaise with Eastbourne Theatres staff if special assistance is required, and take instructions should the need to evacuate the building arise.

What does the Essential Companion scheme offer?
The scheme offers members the opportunity to obtain one ticket, free of charge, for the Essential Companion.

How do I join?
The applicant, or their appointed representative, must complete and sign the Essential Companion application form (available on the Eastbourne Theatres website or from the Box Office). Please return completed forms to Eastbourne Theatres. NB The contact details on the form should be those of the Scheme Member, not of the Essential Companion.

*The Equality Act 2010– A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
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1. What would the Essential Companion be doing for you?

*Please give as much information as possible*

By signing below the applicant, or their appointed representative, declares that they have read the explanatory document, and will adhere to the guidelines of the Essential Companion Scheme.

Signed

Signed Date

Print Name (if representative)

Eastbourne Theatres reserves the right to review a member’s eligibility, and to revoke membership following review. A false application could lead to civil proceedings and/or prosecution under the Fraud Act 2006.

It is the Scheme Member’s responsibility to communicate any change in circumstances.

Completed forms should be returned to: Box Office, Eastbourne Theatres, Congress Theatre, Compton Street, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4BP. Thank you.