



Doncaster
Council

Home to School Transport Policy

Consultation Feedback 2021/22



Home to School Transport Policy – Consultation 2021/2022

A key part of the consideration of a new Home to School Transport Policy was the need for Consultation. This consultation was undertaken in a number of ways, both prior to and during the formal consultation process and comprised:

- Five Pre-Consultation Events (including one session with Doncaster Parents Voice) – comments and feedback are included in Section 1
- Seven Formal Consultation Events – comments and feedback are included in Section 2
- A formal Consultation Document for people to complete and return – comments and feedback are included in Section 3
- A short form survey with several questions on the key proposals within the Consultation Document – comments and feedback are included in Section 4
- Several one to one telephone conversations when requested – comments and feedback are included in Section 5

Section 1 – Pre-Consultation Events

A number of pre-consultation events were held to gauge initial reactions to the key proposals for change and to receive overall comment and suggestions to support the development of the Home to School Transport Policy. The outcome and feedback of these events are as follows:

Request for a contribution towards the future provision of dedicated taxi and/or minibus transport for all Post 16 - 19 SEND (SEND) pupils and students.
Education is compulsory for children up to 18 years so why do we need to start paying for this?
Unfair to ask for a contribution for travel costs when they have no choice and need to attend Education.
I am a working parent and would be concerned over more additional costs - because of work, I am unable to take my child to college and need this support.
Currently child travels approx. 50miles in one day - what would happen if needed to travel further to college?
Certainly appreciate and respect peoples circumstances are different but to pay a contribution for travel when in employment is Unfair.
If a contribution is approved, this will effect 'Parents Choice' of Post 16 provision to access the correct provision to meet the needs of the child. This will disadvantage parents & children in having to choose a closer school / college.
Will need to limit the distance from home to college to limit the cost required.
Is this the correct place to save money? If a great amount is not saved, is it worth the unfairness and upset to do this?
Group Consensus: No contribution to Post 16-19 should be required across the board !! Impact children in the future.
How much do other Authorities charge parents as a contribution for their child's travel?
One solution will not suit everybody !!
How will the contribution be calculated as this needs an explanation - will it be measured in Distance / Mileage etc.?

Provide greater Independent Travel Training opportunities (pending needs of the child) to build confidence at Post 16 level to use public transport & reduce the need of arranged minibus / taxis.

What is the expected amount which will be charged to parents as a contribution - detail to be made clear.

Exceptions to the proposed contribution policy need to be confirmed - more detail required.

Confirmation required to what Settings, Colleges and Universities will be impacted by this policy - will it be for Doncaster settings only or include Out of Area provision? (Needs to be clear).

Building aspirations for college students with SEND within the college setting is very limited and would struggle with ITT if offered - feel it's too late stage of their education as should be started at a much younger age both in Mainstream and SEND settings.

A contribution would be considered to ensure transportation of children - appreciate funding reductions from the Council.

Impact on children's / families choice of college provision to meet the needs of the child due to cost implications.

Removal of the clause which currently provides bus passes on the basis of parental preference in certain situations.

This policy suggestion is activated by parental choice.

Be clear this refers to Zero Fare Passes and not any other pass a child or student may have and use.

To no longer provide bus passes to pupils whose families move house during Academic Years 10 or 11

This policy suggestion is activated by parental choice.

Be clear this refers to Zero Fare Passes and not any other pass a child or student may have and use.

Additional Comments and Suggestions

Central coordination travel task: To establish the use of one minibus to pick up from one locality and drop off at other colleges instead of covering numerous localities for one college – potential to reduce costs

Would it be more effective and beneficial to pick-up / drop-off children at other schools on the same transport to one locality area instead of a number of buses arriving together in the same area locality to transport just to one school? Utilise school minibus fleets to do this

Policy changes will effect children in years to come. Confirmation when new Policy will be implemented would be beneficial to confirm (maybe include proposed date within consultation documentation?)

Keep parents & guardians informed throughout the overall process.

Advertising campaign to promote ALL current travel passes available for children & students !!

ITT in place at Stone Hill which is a great service from the school as child's independence and awareness has improved. This should be offered to SEND children with secondary mainstream schools to support their independence as unaware this is being offered on a regular and sustained basis within schools (recommended Y7 onwards). Early Intervention will improve child's confidence / independence over time reducing the need for arranged transport therefore reduced costs?

Work more closely in partnership with other agencies and services to provide support and advice as required. Example: Promote ITT and work closely with service who supply Free Bus Passes for Disabilities.

Section 2 – Formal Consultation Events

As part of the formal consultation two initial virtual events took place in December 2021 to seek further views on the Council's proposals. A further five events were planned for January 2022. One of these was subsequently cancelled as no one registered to attend but four others took place. Whilst face to face meetings had been considered, due to the ongoing Covid situation it was decided to continue to hold these events virtually. The outcome and feedback of these events are as follows:

Request for a contribution towards the future provision of dedicated taxi and/or minibus transport for all Post 16 - 19 SEND (SEND) pupils and students.
Children which are placed by local authorities are entitled to free travel assistance if they are 3 or more miles away from the place of education
Reductions will be made to help people receiving universal credit or free school meals.
If my son is already in post 16 education and travel assistance is already in place will then this will continue as normal however, this may change when the child turns 18 yrs old and further advise will be required at that time
What happens if a parent can't or won't pay the contribution for transport?
There are no more than 100 post 16 students is this going to affect at a cost of circa £30K to £40K
Comments received around the benefits which should be used for reduction in costs. Should not use working tax credit but other benefits
Do not agree with this charge as it will hit the wrong families. Lots of families struggling at present
It will mean less money to spend on my son
I would have like the closer school where he could walk but that school cannot meet need so needs to go further away
Local school is not a choice and SEND is not a choice
We have to battle for services
Children might not go to post 16 if parents cannot afford transport
Could the mobility component of DLA be used towards transport
Family Allowance and other benefits stop at 18 –lose a lot of income
These children are still catching up at 16 and learning what others do at 8 or 9. Need more help in early adulthood
Think that we should promote independence more
Children need more support in later years rather than earlier years
Need more resources working together
We are struggling on universal credit. Husband works but I cannot as I need to be a carer for my children
Many families are on lower incomes or part time as they need to be at home when child gets home due to needs
Children have not chosen to be born with disabilities. They don't have the same options of sharing lifts with friends
Need to look at taxing everyone. Adult Social Care element is in Council Tax Bill, why not childrens
Taxi firms are invaluable to us
Parents of children with SEND are more likely to be carers

Should be means tested. Lowest income should not pay anything
These children have an EHCP for a reason
Last thing anyone needs is more financial worry
Shocked by the suggestion, these are the most vulnerable students
If that is what is needed we would have to pay but hopefully will reconsider

Removal of the clause which currently provides bus passes on the basis of parental preference in certain situations.
Which bus passes might be removed. Daughter has a disability pass

To no longer provide bus passes to pupils whose families move house during Academic Years 10 or 11
No comments made

Removal of bus passes issued to pupils based on Catchment school if this is not the nearest school
No comments made

Additional Comments and Suggestions
Transport for medical placements will be arranged however if its arranged between 2 schools then it becomes the responsibility of the schools to make their own arrangements.

Section 3 – Formal Consultation Document Responses

Thirteen responses were received to the full consultation and the feedback to each individual suggestion was as follows:

1. Changing the name of the policy: (3 comments received)
I have no objection to this change of name to the policy.
No Comment seems reasonable
We do not mind the change of name at all. The contents of the policy and provision are of greater importance to us.

2. The introduction of a monetary contribution towards the future provision of dedicated taxi and/or minibus transport for all Post 16 - 19 SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) pupils and students: (10 comments received)
Where do you expect us to find the £294 from? X is still in full time education until he is 19 as there is no alternative available, to suit X's needs. All special education children are different and it is unfair to put all post 16 Special Education children in the same box one cap does not fit all!.
I do not agree with this proposal due to the negative financial impact this will have on my family. This is almost £50 per month for us which is just not financially viable and will push us into hardship. We work full time and get a small amount of universal credit to top up our pay. My son attends an out of area specialist school because it is the nearest that can meet his specific needs. We have never been offered anything closer so I feel it is unfair that we

should have the financial burden of the council failing to provide appropriate schooling in area.

My son is doing 3 years post 16 at his school. He has no option to go to college because it cannot meet his needs. He cannot work because he has no qualifications. The only way he can get qualifications is to remain at school and do his qualifications over 3 years. I do not feel that it is fair that we are financially punished because my son needs extra time to achieve what mainstream children can achieve by year 11. It is not anybody's fault that he needs to stay in school, it is nature of his SEN.

I do not feel that it is fair that we will be charged more than children who are transported within the Borough. I would feel that it would be fairer if we were charged the same as children attending post in Doncaster.

This charge is totally related to my son's disability. If he did not have his disability, we would not be faced with these charges because he would not need to be transported to an out of area special school.

I'm emailing my feedback on the proposed changes to the policy. I.e. monetary contributions

Wow !!!! is all I can say, my son has attended north Lindsey college from 15 on an early entry as NO school in Doncaster could meet his needs he has a Ehcp and was massively failed by his secondary school he has remained post 16 as it's been very successful and is now happy and educated. The SEN also felt this was the best place to remain because of how successful it is. so according to the proposal because he is in a out of area provision that was the only one that could meet needs we would have to contribute around double £588 to continue there. How is that Fair? When a place in Doncaster wasn't an option?!. We are highly concerned, as you can also appreciate money is extremely tight and if my son could travel and was capable to do so he would. Obviously to Scunthorpe there isn't any other means to get there as buses don't run and the train station is too far away for him to safely arrive due to his Autism. My other concern is also his sister also SEN and has EHCP currently isn't accessing a school as her Sen school that was in Rotherham (also out of area) announced they couldn't meet her need any longer, so consultations out of area are also been done again and this will likely mean she will ALSO be out of area again as a Doncaster school isn't an option. So Approx. £588 per child! I appreciate other local authorities do charge for travel but they also have a lot more SEN schools to choose from to remaining inside the local authority.

Unfortunately we do not class as low income as £20 thousand a year take home is too much but to pay Over £1000 to pay towards taxi will financial hit us were unfortunately the like hood is my son wouldn't be able to continue when a place on Doncaster wasn't and isn't a option! And my daughter well this will definitely put additional pressure when NOTHING in Doncaster is an option!.

So How Is this remotely Fair when a school in Doncaster wasn't an option? And How on earth are we going to afford over £1000 ?!

This is deeply distressing when all factors were out of my parental control as to were my children accessed a successful education, as local authority COULDN'T provide one in the area. So we had to seek the best one and in fact North Lindsey was the closest one available, Barnsley and worksop was suggested.

I will be Waiting anxiously to see what happens with this proposal as money aside my children deserves an education, and due to Doncaster not having a place to meet need, we as parents should not be financially hit to ensure they are successful in achieving one.

I do not agree with the introduction of asking parents for a contribution to the costs of travel to a further education establishment.

My child is unable to travel safely alone on public transport, where she could use her bus pass. She needs someone to go with her to safeguard her, as like many others at her school she is vulnerable, she has SEND.

I do not like the idea of the provision of a taxi - but would consider this as a last resort.

She is due to attend college shortly so this proposal will affect us. As most colleges are now academies and so not under council support, surely in their privately sourced budgets funding would become available for transport and not solely rely on the council to supply this request?

Agreed - ESFA do provide 6th form Bursary funding which could be used to cover travel costs of those post 16 students that meet the criteria for a bursary – the bursaries are to cover specific financial barriers to participation including travel

I don't agree that SEN students should be charged in line with comparison to their non-SEN peers ability to travel to school as this strikes me as further discrimination and incompetent comparison. Like for like just does not work for several reasons - SEN students are far less likely to have achieved similar levels of qualification and independence at 16 than their mainstream peers and therefore post-16, while no longer compulsory, is likely to be far more essential to those with SEND. In terms of their travel ability, walking even supervised is rarely an option (due to physical and mental issues and dangers outdoors), again unlike their peers who would not necessarily need to spend on their post-16 transport. And at the very least would be doing so independently if transport is chosen to be used. The cost to a family of helping an SEND child to attend school is far greater as it is not simple the cost of the child themselves. And by cost I don't just mean financial, there is the time and therefore loss of income of the person supporting that child to/from school too. If you were to consider the saving that is making to the council in paid carer support, then to ask for a further monetary contribution is pretty damn unfair. It also doesn't consider the health of the parent/carer and their ability to walk or accompany a child. Most parents/carer are physically and mentally broken enough. In theory, yes, there should be relevant respite and other support systems in place across other council departments but as we all know, this is not happening and anything offered doesn't remotely bridge the gap.

In addition, the idea that those travelling outside of area should be charged more is outrageous. Parents do not choose for their child to travel further every day on a whim. The extra journey in itself can be stressful so this is only considered by a parent when there is no other option for that child. You note that the SEND department may identify a local school that can meet need for that child and it is the parents 'choice' to attend further afield but we all know what nonsense that is - the SEND system is totally broken and provision is ineffective and unavailable to meet the needs of so many children with SEND. No child should be shoved somewhere because it is convenient for the council's budget. To charge parents extra is further penalising them for the lack of provision within the authority area. Parents often have to pay ridiculous sums of money for legal help and external professionals to get the right provision for their child and disprove the SEN departments manipulation and lies. To then charge them double to get there is a disgraceful idea and discriminatory

It seems unfair to penalise 16-19 year olds who are still accessing education, in a manner which does not apply to under 16s. We should be supporting children with SEN/D who are continuing to engage with education and training, not making this more financially challenging for their families.

There has educationally been a big shift in supporting young people with SEN/D to gain employment and be better prepared for adulthood and this particular proposal would present a clear barrier to this. I feel this would be ethically questionable.

This is heartbreaking to read. My child is in a post 16 placement, however he is not at that level emotionally or intellectually. My son does not qualify for any extra money or benefit from the government once he turned 16. It is not his fault or his parents that he is unable to go to the nearest post 16 provision (which is on the street he lives on) yet he would have to pay out to get to one of the only provision available to him. If this amendment went ahead many parents including myself would find it extremely difficult to pay this out. I am already financially impacted due to my son's special needs as I have had to significantly

reduce my work hours in order to care for him. I would not be classed as a low income family, but this does not mean I could just find an extra £300 a year for my son's transport. Once again it's children with disabilities and their parents that are being penalized because local schools are not providing appropriate provisions for their special needs.

3. Removal of bus passes issued on the basis that no additional expenditure is incurred to the Council: (3 comments received)

Surely when a school place was originally allocated to a pupil it was under the grounds of the school being the nearest to where the pupil lived?

I am supportive of children walking 2 miles to school, as this will address the obesity issue in Doncaster – unless it is unsafe for a child to do so, such as SEND.

Agreed – this is integral to ensuring where possible pupils attend their catchment school. Pupils should not receive free transport if they are attending schools out of area

SYMCA support the removal of discretionary spend so that these discretionary/"at no additional cost" Zoom Zero passes are not issued as a result of changes in the commercial bus market that create a legacy issue and pressures on home+D9 to school transport budgets.

4. Removal of bus passes issued to pupils whose families move house during Academic Years 10 and 11: (4 comments received)

I agree with this change, as this is from the perspective of choice/want not need, the only exception should be if the move was to keep the child safe under safeguarding if domestic abuse was the reason for the house/dwelling move.

Agreed

Where moving house is by the choice of the parents, this seems reasonable. I would like to think that cases could be put together where families have to move for reasons beyond their choice however.

Surely there should be a clause in this that if they have to move and are unable to start at a new school until the start of a new term/school year dependant on the school's policy.

5. Removal of bus passes issued to pupils based on Catchment school if this is not the nearest school: (3 comments received)

I agree with this.

Agreed – It is sensible that pupils should attend their nearest school and that funding should be removed for travel to schools further away irrespective of catchment.

SYMCA would like to discuss the implications of this in more detail including the implications for the transition period. Details of how "nearest" will be measured and if this is crow flies or using the road network (ITN).

6. Clearer wording around 'compulsory leaving age' and 'participation age': (4 comments received)

Surely this should be reviewed case by case and not a blanket change? i.e. every child is different and have different needs. X for example, there was no choice for him other than

him to stay in full time education until he is 19. Therefore X's school leaving age should be officially 19.

While the child is in further education – especially with regard to SEND then transport should be provided – free – if it is unsafe for the child to travel independently.
If the child was in an apprenticeship or work placement and therefore earning a wage then I would expect them to pay towards their travel, but not whilst a full time student.

Agreed

SYMCA would like to continue dialogue on home to school transport for Y12 and Y13 where they continue at the same establishment and use funded/commercial dedicated home to school buses. Capacity is provided for these students currently but they fall outside of the available funding.

7. Additional information regarding types of 'travel assistance': (2 comments received)

Mileage allowance?

SYMCA anticipates that parents' need for information will not stop at the scope of DMBC's provision of travel assistance. Concessionary fares and commercial public transport ticket products are likely to be relevant to parents' and students' decision-making. SYMCA would expect to be involved in discussions with DMBC as to how best parents and students can be informed about their options.

8. Clearer wording around 'dual registration': (3 comments received)

I agree transfers between schools should not be funded during the school day.

Yes agreed schools should pay any costs of transporting pupils to alternative provision

SYMCA are not aware that the volume of Zoom Zero passes issued for dual registration generates additional costs for SYMCA home to school services but would like to understand any risks associated with this and additional transport provision that may be required.

9. Additional information around occasions when we would not provide travel assistance: (4 comments received)

I agree with this. Breakfast clubs and after school clubs are again a 'choice' and therefore should be funded by parents, but not essential going to and from school which is mandatory, which I feel should be funded.

Yes agreed

SYMCA would recommend that additional specifics are added

- Shorter than normal days where the school closes early – for example at the end of term
- Where there is a temporary change in the school day, such as for Covid-19, and additional funding from central government is not provided
- Where industrial action results in local bus services or dedicated school buses not operating.

These kind of examples should be within the policy. The last point in particular should be clearly presented to ensure continued safety for the drivers and passengers, with no 'grey areas'.

10. Clearer wording around dual custody arrangements: (3 comments received)

X is in shared care, between ourselves and the Local Authority, therefore he has two address's and needs to be picked up/dropped off by school transport at both these address's for the consistency of X's well being.

If this change is implicated, it will have a massive impact on my ability to work. We will be forced to either put X into full time care before we are ready to do so, or I will be forced to pack my job in, creating bigger financial implications and stress.

Again these proposed changes appear to be blanket changes and need to be reviewed on a case by case basis, every Special Education receiving child will have different needs and requirements and it is very unfair to implement a one cap fits all change, like you are proposing.

This is causing unnecessary stress for us as a family, when life is hard enough with a severely disabled child

I agree with this. Wherever the child spends the most nights should be the prominent address. If the custody is 50/50 split then the payments should be halved to each parent to make it fair.

Agreed

11. Additional information regarding criteria for suitable walking routes: (2 comments received)

I feel unable to comment on this section, as my daughter is unable to walk far, so this suggestion doesn't really apply to us.

Yes agreed

12. Cross Referencing the 'Post-16 Policy Statement': (1 comment received)

I look forward to reading this.

13. Clarification around excluded pupils and managed moves: (1 comment received)

If a child is excluded then the responsibility of collecting that child safely from school and its return should fall under the responsibility of the parents and not the school/council. This may assist the school on working with the parents on why the child was excluded in the first place. This then places onus on the parent (s) to take responsibility for the child's absence and (hopefully) address the behaviour that instigated the exclusion in the first instance.

14. Addition of information around travel assistance on medical grounds: (1 comment received)

I agree with this.

15. Addition of information around parental choice of schools for pupils with SEND: (4 comments received)

I agree with this. It comes back to my earlier comment about a child attending the nearest school – unless the places were full and an alternative catchment area was offered – but not at the suggestion of the parent's sole preference of a choice of school.

This is a disgusting idea. Parents do not choose a school for their child on a whim from a plethora of suitable options. Sadly the SEND department is totally broken at best and corrupt at worse. The reality is that parents (who know their child best) have a long, exhausting and stressful time finding a school for their child in which they feel they have the best chance of thriving. It is so common for the SEN department to name a school for a child that is completely inappropriate and would actually do their child damage emotionally or educationally, just because they have no other options. Even in the face of advice from external professionals, the council will take parents to tribunal and submit them to horrendous trauma and mind games (as well as massive financial outlay for the parents) in order to avoid admitting that their provision is not acceptable.

When parents are finally able to get funding the placement for what is in reality the only suitable placement for their child, to refuse to transport that child to school is nothing short of disgusting. It is nothing less than looking for another loophole to save money in an already corrupt system with one team's corruption supporting another team (yours) money saving attempts. At the end of all of this is a child and a very vulnerable one at that. They are usually also surrounded by a very broken family - broken not by their child but by 'the system' and you are then asking them, yet again, to mitigate for the council's shortfall in money.

The cost to a family of helping an SEND child get to school is far greater as it is not simply the cost of the child's transport themselves. And by cost I don't just mean financial, there is the time and therefore loss of income of the person supporting that child to/from school too. If you were to consider the saving that is making to the council in paid carer support, then to ask for a further monetary contribution is pretty damn unfair. It also doesn't consider the health of the parent/carers and their ability to walk or accompany a child. Most parents/carers are physically and mentally broken enough. In theory, yes, there should be relevant respite and other support systems in place across other council departments but as we all know, this is not happening and anything offered doesn't remotely bridge the gap

School allocations for children with SEND should be focused on the best meeting of needs for the child, not proximity. Provision and facilities across schools varies greatly and where children have an SEN Support Plan or an EHCP they have been identified as having challenges beyond that of their typical peers.

Legislation supports that reasonable adjustments should be made to ensure that children with SEN/ D should not be put at a disadvantage to their peers and accessing a school with suitable facilities and resources should be seen as the most basic way of supporting access.

I understand that budgets can be challenging, but the best way to support the development of children and young people with SEND is to ensure they can access the best suited provision to meet their needs (without causing financial stress to families), not simply the setting which is most convenient for the Local Authority.

16. Clarification around requests for parents to travel: (2 comments received)

Surely, this should come down to an agreement between the school and the parents?

SYMCA will continue to allow parents to travel on dedicated home to school services where there is capacity and the relevant fare is paid. Travel at times other than for the school movement of the child will not be provided.

17. Additional Comments and Suggestions: (6 comments received)

These proposed changes to School Transport feel like a simple money saving exercise at the expense of the already stressed and pressured parents of the children with Special Education needs. Surely it would be better to maintain the current transport policies rather than risk the additional cost of parents of children with special education needs having no choice and being pushed into placing their children into full time care, as they feel there will be no alternative if these changes come into place. Lots of parents rely on receiving respite to help them manage their children at home. If transport will no longer take their children to respite as well as home, this will add unnecessary stress and strain on the families. As I have previously stated these blanket changes will not work and need to be done on a case by case basis.

I hope I have answered the questions as truthfully as I can.

If you would like further clarification on the reasons for the answers, I have supplied them please do not hesitate to contact me.

In relation to the Home to School Transport consultation we would like to put on record our agreement of all proposals put forward. We are particularly glad to see that you are proposing to remove any travel assistance to pupils attending their catchment school where this is not the nearest school to where they live. We agree that travel assistance should only be provided where distance criteria is met for attending your nearest school.

This proposed change should hopefully encourage parents to choose schools close to where they live.

Due to my maternity leave, we are selling one car. Dad working 10hrs a day.

My daughter badly needs transport from home to school and school to home as I am a single parent with two children. Children start and finish school at the same time and it is impossible to get the other end of the city at such a busy time to pick up my other child from school. I am asking for help with school transport because we need it. Also my daughter is safe with the people who look after her in the bus and she is very happy when she returns home by bus. Thank-you

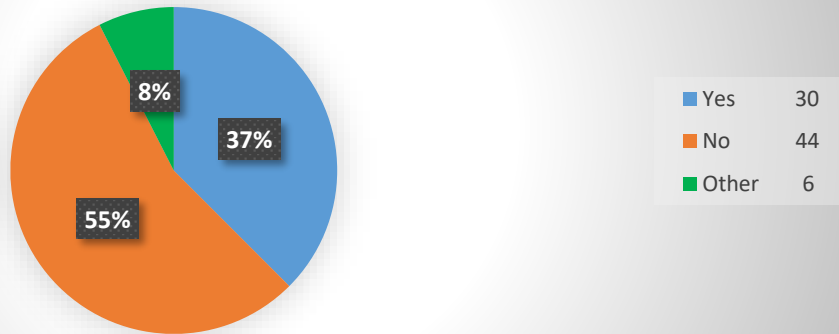
Section 4 – Survey Responses

A short form survey was created during the formal consultation to enable people to consider the key proposals and respond to these. 80 responses were received and the outcome was as follows:

Post 16 contribution towards SEND Transport

This proposal would affect approximately 82 students per annum

Q1 Do you agree with asking for a contribution?



Other Comments

The young is fostered by us and has a disability/complex needs

I think peoples situations are different and it may be too expensive for people to contribute.

Only if you have allocated a school place as per the parents request. IE if a child has been given a place in a distant school, then the council should not ask for a contribution

These people require assistance for a reason. If reason is a disability then this already impacts financially on family /parents ability to earn due to caring responsibilities. Having to pay more out when already sacrificed a lot financially is unfair and the child may have to forgo the education/training they prefer due to financial cost. Non disabled people have more choice to start with. Many families not considered low income but who are financially restricted due to caring responsibilities will be hit by this.

I do but i think the cost is rather high

My son gets a free bus pass so transport should be free

Q2 Do you think that the proposed level of contribution is reasonable?



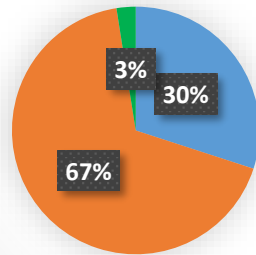
Other Comments

Our

I think all disabled people should always have transport provided free

Seems a lot for those on low income but if taken month at 24.00 that's reasonable, especially for those who use a taxi

Q3 Do you think a higher cost for a longer journey is reasonable?



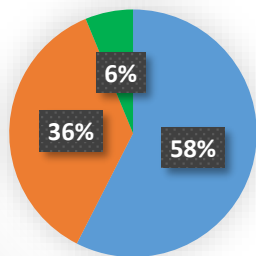
Yes	24
No	54
Other	2

Other Comments

Again, it depends whether the family have chosen a school this far away. If it is due to allocation or need, then no

Only if it's their choice to be out of area. If it's the only available place then it's not reasonable

Q4 Do you think a reduction for low income families is reasonable?



Yes	46
No	29
Other	5

Other Comments

I think it should be free for all

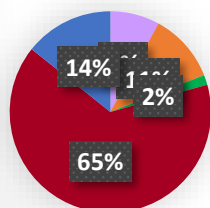
School travel needs to remain funded for these families.

Do not agree with it full stop shouldn't have to pay

if they are only on UC, if they receive other benefits as well then maybe less of a reduction

It depends, often low income families receive benefits to top up there income. Maybe introduce a tier system depending on income of family & include benefits in this, so amount contributed will differ taking into consideration total households income including benefits.

Q5 If you replied 'Yes' to Q4, what would be a reasonable adjustment in the contribution cost?



25%	5
50%	7
75%	1
Free for Low Income	41
Other	9

Other Comments

Free for all , these families have enough worries for a lifetime

Should be dependant on individual circumstances

People with additional needs that require transport assistance should not be asked to contribute. Financially many of these families are already restricted due to parents being unable to earn as much as they probably could if their child didn't need assistance. So every penny counts. While required to do education or training transport should be paid for otherwise the person who needs assistance is disadvantaged compared to a child that doesn't need assistance. Choices of school/college/training will be restricted without the assistance.

None

My son did not ask to have LD. He should be supported by the local authority to be able to access transport to education for free. Unacceptable to expect him to pay . Discriminating him. Cut services to individuals who have chosen their addictions not my son who has no choice.

If a young adult age over 16 is in receipt of enhanced motability then it should be free as that shows that travel is difficult for the person, although pip/dla cannot be used as income it shows level of need for young person

Maybe a tier system depending on household income depends on amount of reduction.

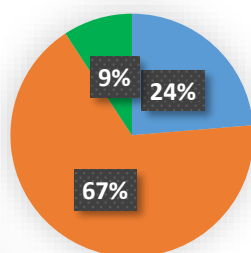
It should be free for all send children

It should be free for low income

Provision of Bus Pass based on “No Extra Cost”

This proposal would affect approximately 100 pupils

Q6 Do you feel that this exception should be removed?



Yes	18
No	51
Other	7

Other Comments

I dont think pupils should be penalised for finding the best choice of school or college for themselves

Yes If it a parental choice. No if it is a LEA allocation.

Is this question deliberately hard to understand? Again the council needs to do better at allocating school places as per parents wishes. Help should only be given if the school was not a parent's choice

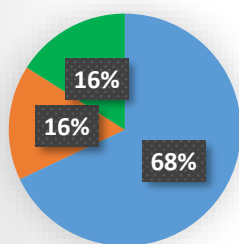
Don't understand the question!

Depends on the reason

Need examples of such exemptions to be able to decide.

yes but all efforts should be made to get a child into their nearest school if applicable

Q7 If you answered 'Yes' to Q6 what is your reason?



To make things fair for everyone	17
To prioritise Council spending	4
Other	4

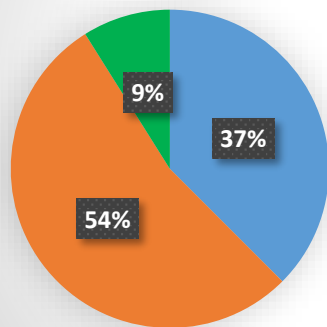
Other Comments

Our child is fostered and has complex needs/disability as above

The fact that people can make the council pay because they don't want to go to their closest school is a joke

to help families get their children into a closer school so no need for public transport, unless they live a distance away

Q8 If you answered 'No' to Q6 what is your reason?



- This would incur extra cost to families when the cost of living is already high 21
- Pupils should receive free travel to school if they meet the distance criteria 30
- Other 5

Other Comments

It depends whether the child has to travel due to being allocated a distant school place, or due to the families choice

some children cannot go locally because the schools do not meet individual childrens needs. so this is no fault of the parents where the childs needs will be met.

If families are buying new properties with no school provision available so forced to attend schools further away this should not be their cost. LA should be building more capacity first

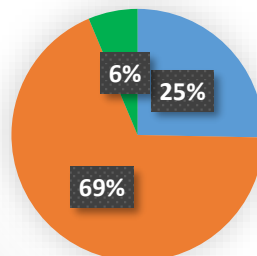
Families should not be Penalized for attending special schools when local schools can not provide adequate education or support.

Pupils should receive free travel to school if they have a need to be at a different school. Not all schools can meet all children's needs.

Provision of Bus Pass based on house move in Years 10 and 11

This proposal would affect approximately 14 pupils

Q9 Do you feel that this exception should be removed?



- Yes 20
- No 54
- Other 5

Other Comments

again I feel this would be another worry for people , so transport should still be provided

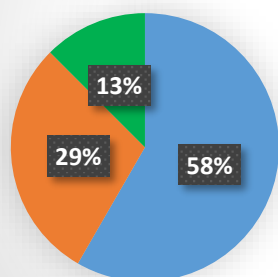
le
It depends why they moved - if was by choice then it should be removed . If moving is a necessity then should not be removed

Each family will have different reasons for moving. Sometimes you may be financially penalizing families when there is an important reason that they need to move. Eg maybe they need to move due to disabilities of another child that mean they need to move nearer to relatives or a hospital. Having to decide what's best for both members of the family is cruel.

Depends on reason for move

If a child is moving to get away from domestic violence or any other family split then the child should not have this removed

Q10 If you answered 'Yes' to Q9 what is your reason?



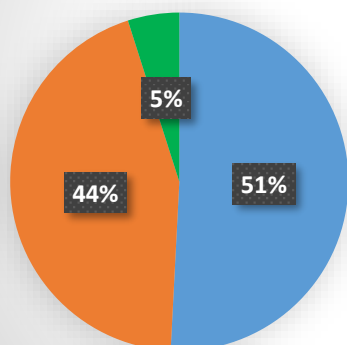
Because they have chosen to move	14
To make things fair for everyone	7
Other	3

Other Comments

Disability/complex needs our child is also fostered as above

If they still meet the criteria they should not be punished

Q11 If you answered 'No' to Q9 what is your reason?



They may not have had a choice when moving	31
It may mean they have to move schools if they cannot afford the bus fare	27
Other	3

Other Comments

Both above reasons, they may not have a choice and not good for th child to move schools at this point in their education for the sake of bus fare. Could create more costly issues for council such as school refusal and then many other services need to get involved. Short sighted in the long run to potentially upset education.

If they still meet the criteria they should not be punished

Depends on the reason for the move, children's education should not be disrupted by having to move schools if it can be avoided.

Provision of Bus Pass based on Catchment criteria

Q12 Do you feel that this exception should be removed?



Other Comments

I cannot understand the question - this is a very unfair survey as it is written to confuse

It would depend if they were offered a place at their nearest school. If their offer was for the catchment school then it is reasonable they receive payment

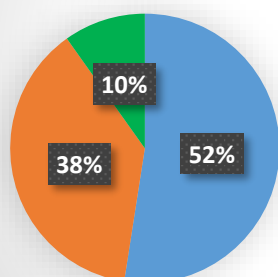
Q13 If you answered 'Yes' to Q12 what is your reason?



Other Comments

Again, students should attend their closest school. Simple.

Q14 If you answered 'No' to Q12 what is your reason?



- This would incur extra cost to families when the cost of living is already high 32
- Pupils should receive free travel to school if they meet the distance criteria 23
- Other 6

Other Comments

Na

Unless you are guaranteeing the nearest school has a place and is minimum of good ofsted rating then they should receive free travel, also there may be individual reasons why the family do not choose the nearest school. May not qualify for EHCP but one particular school might meet child needs better.

Disgusted that vulnerable children's access to education will be comprised to save a few pounds.

Family circumstances need to be considered on individual basis

Again not all schools are able to meet all children's needs. The 'nearest' school may not be a suitable school.

Both of the above reasons. Plus making it so they can only travel to the nearest local school is ridiculous and not an option for many reasons for some children.

Section 5 – One to One Telephone Conversations

There were a few families who were unable to attend one of the booked events and separate discussions were undertaken with them on a one to one basis. The outcome and feedback from these one to one telephone conversations are as follows:

One to One Telephone Conversations - Comments and Suggestions

Preferred face to face consultation at Stonehill school with encouragement from parent to make sure other parents to attend.

If 125 parents took their children to school individually it would create mayhem.

If children need a taxi to go to a mainstream school there is a reason why they get a taxi.

The consultations are not as good as we could have made them.

Get everyone round a big table and get parents to put in suggestions how we can save money.

All this is doing is to save the council money which is a shame on the back of our children.

It is a cost cutting exercise that's all !!

Transport system is not fit for purpose anyway. Had son allegedly spat at, had to get off the bus because of behaviour. Buses are now worse than they were 18 months ago. The bus driver was going to kick son off bus because he had his headphones on and the music was loud.

If son needed to go on public transport he would have to change in the bus station. If they go to catch a specific time bus and the bus doesn't turn up his anxiety would go through the roof. What would he do? He would not know what to do and where to turn. He would be anxious. He would not know how to react. He would worry, overthink, not be able to react to the situations. Factors to be taken into account.

Buses don't turn up, would leave children in the interchange. E.g.. Bus didn't turn up to Don Valley the other week and children had to walk from Toll Bar.

Children not safe on buses and on transport.

What price is the safety of our children. It is an awful situation to be in. We are no longer safe.

The post-16 charge is discriminatory.

It doesn't make allowances for the fact that parents of children with SEND have less choice as to where to send their children and often it is much further.

Low income – parents are often carers for their children, therefore low income, often not able to work as less access to after school support.

Young people less likely to be able to travel independently.

If I have to pay, my child won't be able to access post 16.

Not sufficient educational access in localities.

Would this affect mileage payment. My child cannot travel on bus so I take him and receive mileage