

Consultation: Home to School Travel Support for Young People with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND) who are in Post-16 Education

We are proposing to make several changes to travel support for post-16 students who have a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND). We would like to hear your views on these proposals.

What we are proposing to change

Free school transport does not have to be provided once a student with special educational needs or a disability (SEND) or an Education Health Care Plan has reached the age of 16 and has started post-16 education. At the moment, Sheffield City Council pays in full for post-16 students with SEND who travel to school or college by minibus or taxi meaning that families get this completely free of charge.

Unfortunately, in the light of successive budget cuts, the Council are having review all services we provide for free.

It costs up to £4000 per year to transport a full-time post-16 student to and from their school or college on a Sheffield City Council minibus. It costs up to £12,000 to transport a high needs student in an individual taxi.

Please click [Next](#) to read more information about what we are proposing.



Proposal 1

From September 2017, we are proposing to ask families whose child is educated within South Yorkshire and receives post-16 SEND transport by minibuss or taxi to make a contribution of £540 (£10.38 per week) per year towards the cost of travel on the minibuss or taxi. This contribution has been worked out based on the cost of a 16-18 termly bus pass issued by Travel South Yorkshire.

Proposal 2

For those whose child is educated outside of South Yorkshire, the contribution that we would be asking families to pay is £700 (£13.46 per week). This reflects the increased equivalent public transport cost.

To make both of these proposals easier for families, the amount could be paid either yearly, termly or monthly by direct debit.

The weekly cost over the year would be £10.38 (or £13.46 for those outside South Yorkshire).

We would like to know how families would prefer to spread this cost. **We are expecting that students from low income families who get a minibuss or taxi to school or college will use part of the 16-19 Bursary to meet the cost.** (Further information about the bursary is provided on our website.)

Proposal 3

Families could choose not to continue using transport but take their child to and from school or college and receive a discretionary travel allowance based on the distance travelled. This travel allowance will be discretionary and families will have to meet certain criteria to receive it.

Your Views on the Proposals

Section 1: About You and Your Family

The questionnaire is anonymous but the following information will help us to measure the coverage of the consultation and to understand how the proposals might affect families in different circumstances.

Q1 Do you have a child or children with SEND in post-16 education at school or college?

85 (79.4%) Yes

22 (20.6%) No

Q2 Do you have a child or children with SEND in post-16 education who is educated outside of the city?

3 (2.8%) Yes

104 (97.2%) No

Q3 Do you have a child or children with SEND in one of the following school year groups? Tick all that apply.

33 (30.8%) Year 11 (age 15 / 16)

28 (26.2%) Year 12 (age 16 / 17)

22 (20.6%) Year 13 (age 17 / 18)

23 (21.5%) Year 14 (age 18 / 19)

4 (3.7%) None of the above

This questionnaire has been designed for families who have a child or children with SEND in post-16 education (or who will be entering post-16 education in September 2017). If this does not apply to you, you will find that many of the questions are not relevant so please give your views on the proposed changes by emailing:

ed-adviceandconciliation@sheffield.gov.uk

Q4

How does your child or children with SEND currently get to and from school or college? Tick all that apply.

3 (2.8%) Walk

4 (3.7%) Public Transport

2 (1.9%) Car

74 (69.2%) Minibus provided by Sheffield City Council

30 (28.0%) Taxi provided by Sheffield City Council

3 (2.8%) Other

Q5

Please tell us how your child / children with SEND currently gets to school or college.

3 (100.0%)

Q6

Which of the following describes your family situation at the moment?

39 (37.1%) One parent family

66 (62.9%) Two parent family

Q7 Which of these best describes your family's transport situation at the moment?

46 (45.5%) I am a driver and have regular access to a car

15 (14.9%) Another adult in the house drives and has regular access to a car

13 (12.9%) I am a driver but do not have regular access to a car

25 (24.8%) No-one in our house drives

5 (5.0%) I have a disability that makes it hard for me to plan transport arrangements

Q8 Do you have a mobility vehicle funded through the Disability Living Allowance?

20 (19.0%) Yes

85 (81.0%) No

Q9

Is your family receiving any of the following benefits?

- 29 (33.7%) Income Support
- 0 (0.0%) Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- 15 (17.4%) Employment Support Allowance (ESA)
- 1 (1.2%) Incapacity Benefit
- 63 (73.3%) Carer's Allowance
- 31 (36.0%) Housing Benefit
- 35 (40.7%) Council Tax Benefit
- 7 (8.1%) Not sure

Q10

Would the proposal to introduce a contribution towards travel for post-16 students with SEND affect your family?

66 (65.3%) Yes, it would affect my family now

35 (34.7%) Yes, it would affect my family in the future

13 (12.9%) No, it wouldn't affect my family

Q11 Please give details. (Include further information about other children in your family who may be directly affected by any proposed changes.)

75 (100.0%)

Section 2: The Proposals

Q12 Proposal 1 is to ask families to make a contribution of £540 per year (£10.38 per week) towards transport to school or college is. Do you think this is...

29 (29.6%) About right

69 (70.4%) Too high

0 (0.0%) Too low

Q13 Proposal 2 is to ask families whose child with SEND is educated outside of South Yorkshire to make a contribution of £700 per year (£13.46 per week) towards transport to school or college. Do you think this is...

18 (26.1%) About right

50 (72.5%) Too high

1 (1.4%) Too low

Q14 Please explain why you answered this way.

77 (100.0%)

Q15 If contributions are introduced, what kind of payment would best suit your family?

- 62 (88.6%) Monthly
- 4 (5.7%) Termly
- 4 (5.7%) Annually

Proposal 3 is to look at providing a discretionary travel allowance to families who take their child to school or college in their own vehicle or on public transport. This allowance will have eligibility criteria.

Q16 Would you be interested in this option?

7 (6.6%) Yes

87 (82.1%) No

12 (11.3%) Possibly

In which of the following ways would you be most likely to use this?

	Yes	No	Need more information
Drive my child in the family car and pay for petrol	8 (61.5%)	2 (15.4%)	3 (23.1%)
Pay a friend to help me / take my child	1 (10.0%)	7 (70.0%)	2 (20.0%)
Take my child on public transport	5 (38.5%)	3 (23.1%)	5 (38.5%)
Share duties with other parents	2 (18.2%)	6 (54.5%)	3 (27.3%)

Q18 If you would use the travel allowance in another way (not listed above), please give details.

7 (100.0%)

Section 3: The 16-19 Bursary Fund

The 16-19 Bursary is available for students in post-16 education who need financial help to access their course. The fund is applied for through school or college and is intended for course-related costs such as travel, books, equipment and lunches on days of study / training. More detailed information can be found on our website.

We know that some students receive the bursary and also get free home-to-school travel on a minibus or taxi. We would expect these students to use some of their bursary as a contribution towards their transport.

Q19 Before filling in this questionnaire, had you heard of the 16-19 Bursary Fund?

- 39 (36.8%) Yes
- 62 (58.5%) No
- 5 (4.7%) Not sure

Q20 Have you already applied for the 16-19 Bursary?

- 20 (51.3%) Yes
- 19 (48.7%) No

Q21 Are you in receipt of the 16-19 Bursary?

- 14 (73.7%) Yes
- 5 (26.3%) No

Q22 Why haven't you applied for the bursary?

- 6 (33.3%) My son or daughter is not in post-16 education at the moment
- 3 (16.7%) My family income is too high
- 5 (27.8%) I don't know how to apply for it
- 4 (22.2%) Other reason

Q23 Please tell us why you have not applied for the 16-19 Bursary.

- 5 (100.0%)

Q24

Sheffield City Council currently administers the 16-19 Bursary for special schools in the city. One option might be for the family to ask the Council to take out the cost of transport before transferring the remainder to the student.

Do you think this would be helpful for families?

31 (88.6%) Yes

4 (11.4%) No

Section 4: Your ideas and suggestions

Q25 We are always interested to hear suggestions from families on ways of making changes that we may not have thought of. Please use the box below to put forward any suggestions you might have.

38 (100.0%)

Section 5: Equalities

Please answer these final two questions which will help us to see who the consultation has reached.

Q26 Are you a foster carer?

- 2 (2.0%) Yes
- 98 (98.0%) No

Q27 Which of these best describes your ethnic or cultural background?

- 81 (80.2%) White
- 4 (4.0%) Mixed / Dual Heritage
- 10 (9.9%) Asian or Asian British
- 3 (3.0%) Black / African / Caribbean or Black British
- 3 (3.0%) Other Ethnic Group

Q28 Are you...

- 76 (93.8%) English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish
- 0 (0.0%) Irish
- 0 (0.0%) Gypsy / Irish Traveller
- 1 (1.2%) Roma
- 1 (1.2%) Other European
- 3 (3.7%) Other White Background

Q29 Are you...

- 2 (50.0%) White and Black Caribbean
- 0 (0.0%) White and Black African
- 1 (25.0%) White and Asian
- 1 (25.0%) Other Mixed Background

Q30 Are you...

- 1 (10.0%) Indian
- 2 (20.0%) Bangladeshi
- 7 (70.0%) Pakistani
- 0 (0.0%) Chinese
- 0 (0.0%) Other Asian Background

Q31 Are you...

- 0 (0.0%) Caribbean
- 3 (100.0%) Somali
- 0 (0.0%) Other Black African
- 0 (0.0%) Other Black Background

Q32 Are you...

1 (33.3%) Yemeni

1 (33.3%) Other Arab

1 (33.3%) Other Ethnic Group

Thank you for giving your views.

Please make sure that you click on the Submit button at the bottom of this screen to send your completed questionnaire.

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