

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	8 May 2019
Title:	2019/20 Post-16 Transport Policy Statement
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on the outcome of the consultation carried out regarding the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement

Recommendation(s)

1. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services notes:
 - the process that has been followed and the responses to the public consultation that have been received (as summarised in the report).
 - no material changes have been made to the content but the transport policy statement utilises the new template included in the Department for Education's updated guidance which was released on 28 January 2019.
2. Also that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
 - approves the 2019/20 Post-16 Transport Policy Statement set out in [Appendix A](#).

Executive Summary

3. The report provides is to inform the outcome of the consultation that is required in statutory guidance. The consultation seeks comments from schools, post-16 providers and young people into account when considering the content of the statement.

4. Current expenditure on Home to School Transport was just over £31 million in 2017/18, of which £1.3 million was spent on post-16 transport assistance.
5. In October 2017, as part of the Transformation to 2019 programme, Cabinet approved a consultation on proposals to changes to the County Council's Post 16 Transport Policy. The proposal for post-16 transport assistance was to revise the eligibility criteria for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities aged 16 years and above in new placements from September 2018. All future transport would be decided on the basis of students' individual circumstances and upon receipt of evidence to support that HCC funded transport is essential to facilitate their attendance at their post-16 provision.
6. These changes were agreed and incorporated into the Post-16 Transport Policy for September 2018, although due to transition arrangements, some existing students will not be affected by the policy changes until September 2019.

Contextual information

7. Statutory guidance from the Department for Education on post-16 transport to education and training requires local authorities to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement each year specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport for persons of sixth form age, and 19-24 years olds (referred to as the 'adult duty') in education or training. This guidance was last updated on 28 January 2019 and it was noted that there were no significant content changes however it did prescribe a template for future policy statements to follow.
8. Statutory guidance clarifies the duty to consult with stakeholders in developing the statement before publication.
9. Hampshire County Council and its post-16 providers are committed to ensuring transport is available to enable students to access education and training as set out in the policy statement. Information provided within the policy statement includes; transport and travel schemes offered, any college owned bus services, local public transport links and discounted or subsidised season tickets available to students. The support is provided either by the County Council or post-16 providers.
10. There is no automatic eligibility to Local Authority funded home to school or college transport assistance once a student is no longer of compulsory school age. The authority has considered its resources and the travel to college opportunities for students. Students can attend a college of choice and, if needed, apply to their college's student support for assistance.

11. The County Council does offer, under discretionary powers, transport assistance to enable post-16 students with a statutory assessment of their Learning Difficulty or Disability to access a place that is the closest suitable provision for their needs where they are otherwise unable to attend. Such travel assistance may require a parental contribution.
12. Students from low-income families, in care, or care leavers may be eligible for a yearly bursary through the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund from the Education Funding Agency. This fund replaced the Education Maintenance Allowance in September 2012 and offers students from the most vulnerable families greater financial support towards the cost of staying in further education. Students and their families apply for the bursary directly through their chosen college/post-16 provider.

Finance

13. The County Council spent just over £31 million in 2017/18, of which just over £1.3 million was spent on post-16 transport assistance.
14. It is expected that the cost of providing transport assistance for Post-16 students in 2019/20 will grow significantly where participation from post-19 students has been identified as a pressure.

Performance

15. The Post-16 Transport Policy for 2019/20 details how the County Council will meet its statutory obligations with regards to post-16 transport assistance, paying due consideration to the guidance published by the DfE.
16. The County Council are proposing to retain the current level of support for the 2019/20 academic year. No changes have been made to the meaning, intent and offer included in the 2019/20 Transport Policy Statement.
17. The updated statutory guidance was released after the public consultation went live therefore the County Council have not consulted on the revised layout.

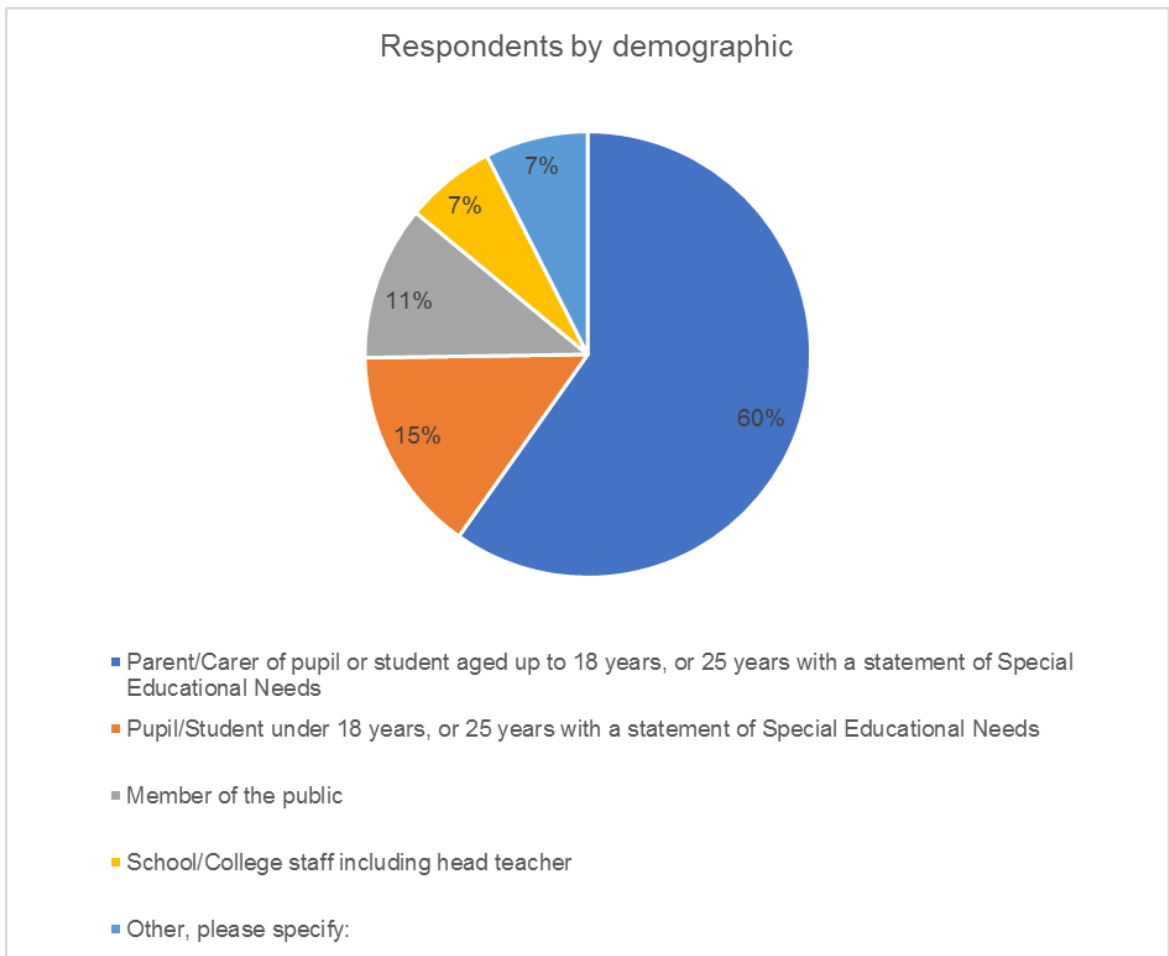
Consultation and Equalities

18. The public consultation on the 2019/20 Post-16 Transport Policy Statement ran from 23 January 2019 to 8 March 2019. Responses were invited by completing a dedicated online survey.

19. There were 104 responses to the consultation, all of which have been taken into consideration when compiling the statement for publication. An analysis of the 104 responses to the consultation can be found below.

Respondents by demographic

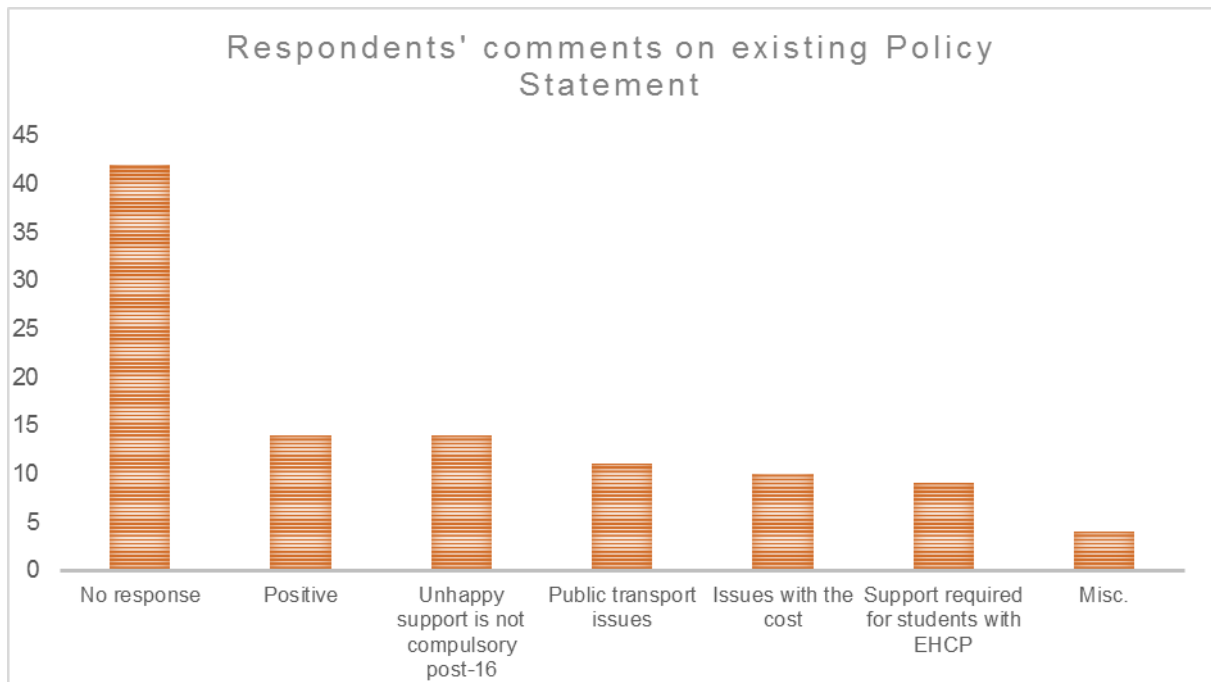
20. Responses were invited from anybody. The following graph shows the % of the total responding “mainly as” for each demographic:



21. There were no responses from “mainly as” the following; School/College governor, Other Education Provider, Hampshire Councillor or Member of Parliament, Parish/Town Councillor or representative, or Business/Chamber of Commerce so these have been excluded from the above graph.

Respondents’ comments on the existing Policy Statement

22. Respondents were asked to comment on the existing Policy Statement. These have been grouped and the following graph shows the number of responses by category:

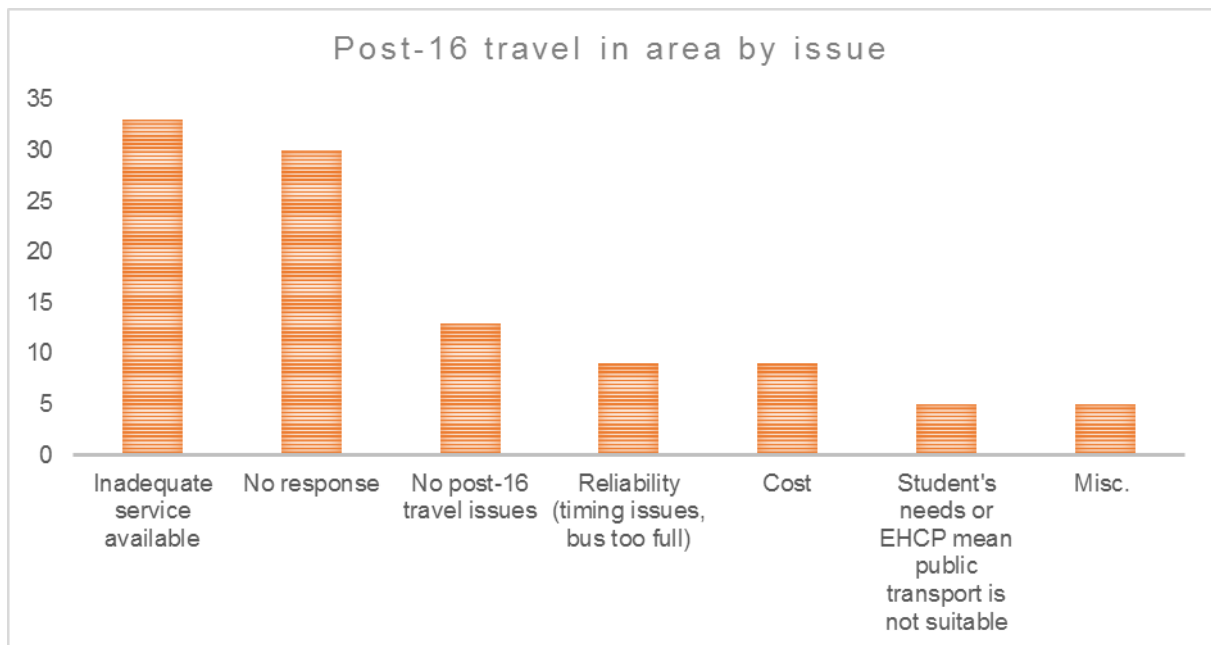


23. Some responses included a range of comments. In these cases the respondent's comment has been included in the category which was deemed the most prominent. The above graph shows that:

- 40% of the respondents did not comment on the Policy Statement.
- 13% provided positive feedback.
- 13% thought that post-16 transport should be compulsory, as students are now required to remain in education or work-based learning until they reach 18 years of age.
- 11% used this section to raise concerns with public transport in their area. All but one of the respondents in this category were specifically talking about transport from Fleet and the surrounding villages to Farnborough and expressed concerns about the reduction in the number 10 service. Comments were also made about the lack of a sixth form provision in Fleet forcing the need to travel to Farnborough.
- 10% had an issue with the cost. Depending on their circumstances this was either the cost of public transport, or the need to pay the Council a contribution towards the cost of transport assistance.
- 9% felt that students with an EHCP should be offered transport assistance.
- 4% were put into the miscellaneous category which included issues such as: denominational schools were not considered in the policy and parents' health issues.

Post-16 travel issues in area

24. Respondents were asked to list any post-16 travel issues in their area. These have been grouped by the type of concern raised:



25. The above graph shows that:

- 42% of the respondents either did not comment on the post-16 travel available in their area or confirmed that there were no issues with the transport available.
- 32% believe that the service available is inadequate. Of these, 70% were specifically referring to transport from Fleet and the surrounding villages to Farnborough and expressed concerns about the reduction in the number 10 service. Comments were also made about the lack of a sixth form provision in Fleet forcing the need to travel to Farnborough.
- 9% stated the service that was available was unreliable. Reasons given included lateness or the bus being too full.
- 9% claimed the cost of the public transport was an issue.
- 5% felt that students' needs or having an EHCP means that public transport is not suitable.
- 5% were put into the miscellaneous category which included feedback such as; too much traffic on the road causing congestion and making it unsafe for pedestrians, transport assistance being hard to obtain and parents' ill-health.

Recurring themes

26. This section addresses the recurring public transport issues raised in the consultation:

- Stagecoach number 10 service from Fleet to Farnborough was reduced in February 2019 from a half hourly service to an hourly service. A regular service remains for students to access college and the route continues to serve Farnborough Sixth Form College. Fleet and Farnborough are also connected by a rail service.
- The remaining 30% listed in the “public service is inadequate” category were highlighting that a number of bus and train services were unreliable. These are performance issues and do not indicate the lack of a suitable service.

27. As is evident in the [Equality Impact Assessment](#) the policy changes implemented in September 2018 and rolled out fully in September 2019 may have a potential impact in respect of the characteristics of age, disability and rurality as new applicants will no longer have automatic eligibility for Hampshire County Council funded post-16 transport under the policy. With respect to age and disability when a student is refused transport assistance under policy there is an opportunity for this decision to be appealed.

REQUIRED CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=715	09 May 2018
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772913/Post16_transport_guidance.pdf	January 2019

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

[Appendix B](#) details the Equality Impact Assessment.

APPENDIX A – 2019/20 Post-16 Transport Policy Statement

Hampshire County Council's Post-16 Transport Policy Statement - Academic Year 2019/20

Transport policy statement for young people aged 16-18 in further education, continuing learners aged 19 and those young people aged 19 – 24 (inclusive) with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Department Responsible: Home to School Transport, Children's Services

Contact details: school.transport@hants.gov.uk

Document first release: TBC

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1. Introduction

Local authorities do not have to provide free or subsidised post-16 travel support but do have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or other support that the authority considers it necessary to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.

Young people carrying on their education post-16 and requiring Local Authority assistance with travel would need to submit a request for travel support.

'Sixth form age' refers to those young people who are over 16 years of age but under 19 or continuing learners who started their programme of learning before their 19th birthday (years 12,13,14).

The 'adult duty' means Local Authorities also have a duty to encourage, enable and assist young people with learning difficulties / disabilities to participate in education and training, up to and including the age of 24.

This policy uses the term 'Post 16' to include both learners of sixth form age and those with learning difficulties / disabilities up to and including the age of 24.

This policy document specifies the support that Hampshire County Council considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of Post 16 learners receiving education or training.

Education or training refers to learning or training at a school, further education institution, a council maintained or assisted institution providing higher or further education, an establishment funded directly by the Education Skills Funding Agency, learning providers delivering accredited programmes of learning which lead to positive outcomes and are funded by the council, for example, colleges, charities and private learning providers.

2. Aims and Objectives

The council has the following aims and objectives when assessing transport / travel support:

- Hampshire County Council and its post-16 providers are committed to ensuring transport is available to enable students to access education and training as set out in this policy statement.
- When offered, support is provided by either the Council or post-16 providers.
- There is no automatic eligibility for Hampshire County Council funded home to school transport once a student is no longer of statutory school age. The authority has considered its resources and the travel to college opportunities for students. Students can attend a college of choice and, if needed, apply to their college's student support for travel assistance.
- The cost and mechanical process of transporting young people with special educational needs is greater and more complex. Hampshire County Council recognises that families may need travel assistance to ensure that post-16 special needs or disabled students can access a place that is suitable for their needs and so do offer, under discretionary powers, travel assistance that may require an annual parental contribution.

3. Transport and travel support

a. Travel support from schools and colleges for young people aged 16 – 25 including public transport providers

There are a number of public transport service providers in Hampshire. Colleges and schools in Hampshire also have their own travel arrangements but the situation does vary. See Appendix A for details of any transport or support available for students in Hampshire.

b. Concessionary fares

Post-16 students may be eligible to apply for a concessionary bus pass which can be used to get to and from college. Please click [here](#) for more information on concessionary travel.

c. Other transport solutions

Post 16 education providers and other agencies provide support with transport in certain cases, for example:

- My Journey - <https://myjourneyhampshire.com/>
- Cycle schemes
- Wheels to Work - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/wheelstowork>
- Brain in Hand - <http://braininhand.co.uk/>

4. The 16-19 Bursary Fund

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help young people overcome specific barriers to participation so they can remain in education.

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

A vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200 per year for young people in one of the defined vulnerable groups below:

- in care
- care leavers
- in receipt of Income Support, or Universal Credit in place of Income Support, in their own right
- in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit and Disability Living or Personal Independence Payments in their own right

Discretionary bursaries which institutions award to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment. To be eligible for the discretionary bursary young people must:

- be aged 16 or over but under 19 on 31 August 2019 or
- be aged 19 or over on 31 August 2019 and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- be aged 19 or over on 31 August 2019 and continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 ('19+ continuers')
- be studying a programme that is subject to inspection by a public body which assures quality (such as Ofsted), the provision must also be funded by either a Government funding agency or the local authority

Schools and colleges are responsible for managing both types of bursary. Young people who want to apply for support from the bursary fund should contact their chosen school or college to make an application.

Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund to search for post 16 bursaries.

5. Young parents / Care to Learn

If you are a young parent under 20, Care to Learn can help pay for your childcare and related travel costs, up to £160 per child per week, while you're learning.

Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

- childcare, including deposit and registration fees
- a childcare 'taster' session (up to 5 days)
- keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays
- taking your child to the childcare provider

a. Types of child care

The childcare provider must be Ofsted registered and can be a:

- childminder
- pre-school playgroup
- day nursery
- out of school club

If your child needs specialist childcare, the provider must also be on the Care Quality Commission's register for specialist provision.

If you want a relative to get Care to Learn for looking after your child they need to be both:

- providing registered childcare for children they're not related to
- living apart from you and your child

b. Payments

Childcare payments go directly to your childcare provider. Before your childcare provider can be paid:

- your childcare provider needs to confirm your child's attendance
- your school or college needs to confirm that you're attending your course

Payments for travel costs go to your school or college - they'll either pay you or arrange travel for you.

c. Attendance

Payments will stop if:

- you stop attending your course
- you finish your course
- your child stops attending childcare

d. Eligibility

You can get Care to Learn if:

- you're a parent under 20 at the start of your course

- you're the main carer for your child
- you live in England
- you're either a British citizen or a national of a [European Economic Area \(EEA\) country](#)
- your course is publicly funded (check with your school or college)
- your childcare provider is registered with Ofsted or the Care Quality Commission

e. Type of course

Care to Learn is only available for courses in England that have some public funding. This includes courses that take place in:

- schools
- school sixth forms
- sixth form colleges
- other colleges and learning providers, including Foundation Learning
- your community at Children's Centres

Young parents are also entitled to apply for an Under 19 Bus Only Ticket or for those aged 19 and over can apply for the 19 – 25 card.

For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn/how-to-claim>

6. Hampshire County Council support

a. Hampshire County Council support for students without special educational needs or disabilities

Post-16 students without special educational needs or disabilities should [contact their sixth form school or college](#) directly for details on available transport. Those who require assistance with the cost of transport to their chosen post-16 establishment should apply to the sixth form school or college 16 to 19 Bursary Fund.

b. Hampshire County Council support for students with special educational needs or a disability

Hampshire County Council may provide assistance with travel for post-16 students with special educational needs or a disability in exceptional circumstances where it is demonstrated that assistance is necessary to facilitate a student's attendance at their placement and they cannot access their placement by any other means. The following factors are considered when assessing a request for assistance with travel:

- A student must be 16 years or older on 1st September 2019
- The student must be a Hampshire resident
- Assistance may be offered if the student has either an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) or a disability that means they require support with travel
- If the student has a current Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), the student must be attending 'the nearest most appropriate placement'. A course is deemed appropriate where it enables a student to meet their career objectives and is *designed specifically* to meet the special needs of the student.

- If the course or programme is not specifically designed to meet the needs of those with an SEN, travel assistance may be given to the nearest provider offering an appropriate course.
- The distance between the student's home address and the placement will be measured and transport assistance will be considered for those that live more than 3 miles by the nearest available walking route
- Requests will also be considered for students who live less than 3 miles from their placement if:
 - they have a disability that affects their ability to walk or
 - they need to be accompanied by an adult (usually parent/carer) who has a disability that affects their ability to walk
- The need to take other primary-aged siblings who are attending their catchment or nearer school will be considered, where the timing of the school day or the direction of the other school(s) prevent the parent/carer from accompanying the student to their placement.
- The availability of alternative modes of transport.

There are no low income requirements to receive assistance with travel assistance.

c. Parents/carers should note the following restrictions:

- Where the distance between a pick-up / drop-off point and home / college is less than 1.5 miles, the Council will not normally provide transport for that part of the journey, however:
 - Transport assistance may be provided for students within these distances where this is recommended following an assessment of their individual needs.
 - The factors used when considering walking distances, as detailed above, apply in these circumstances.
- Transport assistance will not be offered to destinations other than the placement and home.
- Transport assistance will not be tailored to individual timetables and will only be provided at the beginning and the end of the day.

d. Travel assistance for students over the age of 19 with learning difficulties or disabilities

- Students over the age of 19 may be offered transport assistance if they are subject to an Education Health and Care plan (EHCP).
- Transport assistance for students with learning difficulties or disabilities will be reviewed at the age of 19.
- Parents/carers must apply annually for transport assistance. If offered, transport assistance can be provided either up to the age of 24 or until the student completes the course, whichever is the earliest.
- When assessing a request for transport assistance, the considerations and restrictions (as detailed above) are also relevant for post-19 students.

e. Parent/carer contribution

Home to School Transport costs Hampshire County Council over £30 million each year. The average cost of providing transport assistance to post-16 passengers is almost £7,000 each year.

Where transport assistance is offered to students aged 16 - 18, or post-19 students on a continuation course (that began before their 19th birthday), a parental contribution towards the cost of this transport will be required. This is a fixed rate which cannot be offered pro-rata for individual timetables or circumstances. The cost will be decided by applying the following charging schedule:

Distance to travel	Annual charge
Up to 5 miles	£600
5.01 miles to 7.5 miles	£831
7.51 miles to 10 miles	£1,164
Over 10 miles	£1,330

Where transport assistance is offered, parents/carers of post-19 students up to and including 24, who started their course after their 19th birthday, will not be required to pay a contribution towards the cost of transport.

The parental contribution will be waived when the student's parents are in receipt of any of the benefits listed below:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of the State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided the parent/carer is not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your annual household income must be less than £7,400 (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Payment for the first term of travel or proof of exemption must be received before transport will commence.

f. Refunds

Please note that if the travel starts at any time during the first half of any term or ends at any time during the second half of any term, the full termly cost will be due.

If travel starts at any time during the second half of any term or ends at any time during the first half of any term, half the termly cost will be due.

All refunds will be made on this basis.

g. Type of transport offered

The type of transport offered will be the most cost effective transport solution for the Council. Parents/carers must be able to evidence that they have explored all other options, including public transport, prior to submitting a transport request.

The Council will try to incorporate your child's transport in an existing contracted vehicle (most likely a minibus or taxi) serving the base your child attends. If no such transport is available then the Council will procure a vehicle for your child. Parents/carers must note that the transport can change throughout the academic year, with the inclusion and removal of students at any time, and therefore the exact pick up and drop off times are subject to change.

h. Travel training

Hampshire County Council provides some mobility/independence training for students with learning difficulties or disabilities. Children in special schools will be subject to transition plans in year 9 and independence training can form part of that plan. Some colleges also provide mobility/independence training.

i. Apprenticeships

Students attending post-16 training providers will be considered following the factors detailed above.

Students in apprenticeships with employed status are not considered for assistance with travel.

j. Those not in education, employment or training (NEET)

In addition to the support offered by Hampshire County Council to post-16 students as detailed above, post-16 providers may also provide financial support towards transport costs for certain students such as; young parents, those from low income families, those at risk of being Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs).

This financial support is determined by the post-16 provider and is often based on how they have locally determined to use 'hardship' funds.

k. Hampshire County Council support in other circumstances

Some students with complex and/or severe needs are placed in a residential out of county special school or college because there is no appropriate provision available locally. Such students may receive travel assistance at the beginning and end of each term, half term and at other school/college closures. Any additional transport will be the responsibility of parents/carers to arrange.

l. Additional eligibility criteria

The Council may provide assistance with transport to support students attending providers outside of the county but would need to consider students' circumstances as per the factors detailed above. The post-16 provider may also be able to provide some support.

Students attending providers in Hampshire but living outside the county should apply to their home Local Authority for assistance. However, providers themselves may provide assistance and are not bound by county boundaries.

7. Applying for Hampshire County Council travel assistance

Students wishing to request support with travel assistance can do so via the [Hampshire County Council website](#) where further details are available. Hampshire County Council will consider any application against the criteria detailed in this document.

Students may also wish to apply to their school / college directly for help. Click [here](#) for a list of colleges in Hampshire.

Parents/carers must make a new transport request each academic year and include up-to-date evidence which will be used to consider the new request.

8. Appeals

Parents/carers can challenge a decision regarding:

- the outcome of their transport request;
- the transport arrangements offered;
- the distance measurement in relation to statutory walking distances; and
- the safety of the route

Appeals must be submitted in writing to Entitlement Officer, Children's Services Department, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UG.

The full Review/Appeals Process is detailed within Hampshire County Council's Home to School Transport Policy, and also applies to all post-16 students: [Home to School Transport Policy document](#)

Complaints regarding any aspect of the policy statement must first be taken up with the Local Authority in writing to Home to School Transport Manager, Children's Services Department, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UG. If this does not result in a satisfactory outcome, young people or their families may complain to the Secretary of State.

Appendix A - College and sixth form school details

Please see below a list of Hampshire colleges and sixth form providers, including neighbouring colleges and sixth form providers that Hampshire students often choose to attend. Clicking on the college name will take you to the individual establishments' travel information. ***In most cases, information and figures provided are for the 2018/19 academic year.*** For full, up to date, travel information for each college please refer to the relevant college website (links are provided).

Hampshire establishments:

ALTON COLLEGE
ANDOVER COLLEGE
BARTON PEVERIL COLLEGE, EASTLEIGH
BASINGSTOKE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
BROCKENHURST COLLEGE
EASTLEIGH COLLEGE
FAREHAM COLLEGE
FARNBOROUGH COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
THE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, FARNBOROUGH
HAVANT COLLEGE
PETER SYMMONDS COLLEGE
QUEEN MARY'S COLLEGE, BASINGSTOKE
RICHARD TAUNTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, SOUTHAMPTON
SPARSHOLT COLLEGE
ST VINCENT SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
TOTTEN COLLEGE

Out of county establishments:

CHICHESTER COLLEGE
GUILDFORD COLLEGE & MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE
HIGHBURY COLLEGE, PORTSMOUTH
NEWBURY COLLEGE
PORTSMOUTH COLLEGE
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COLLEGE

APPENDIX B – Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire County Council's Post-16 Transport Policy

Accountable officer: Martin Goff

Email address: martin.goff@hants.gov.uk

Department: Children's Services

Date of assessment: 02 April 2019

Description of current service/policy

Expenditure on post-16 transport assistance in 2017/18 was over £1.3 million per annum.

Hampshire County Council currently provides post-16 transport assistance for 300 students to attend places that meet their Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities. A team of 3 full time staff arranges and manages this provision. There is no automatic eligibility to Local Authority funded home to school or college transport assistance once a student is no longer of compulsory school age. The authority has considered its resources and the travel to college opportunities for students. Students can attend a college of choice and, if needed, apply to their college's student support for assistance.

The County Council does offer, under discretionary powers, transport assistance to enable post-16 students with a statutory assessment of their Learning Difficulty or Disability to access a place that is the closest suitable provision for their needs. Such travel assistance may require a parental contribution. This area has seen the greatest growth in recent years, particularly for those EHCP students aged 16 – 25.

Geographical impact: All Hampshire

Description of proposed change

There are no changes proposed for the 2019/20 academic year however, due to transition arrangements, some students will not be affected by the policy changes implemented in September 2018 until September 2019.

Impacts of the proposed change

These changes resulted in the removal of all elements of non-statutory provision and the introduction of charges where transport is arranged as an exception to policy.

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out?

Public consultation ran from 29 January 2019 – 8 March 2019.

Statutory Considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Age: Medium	Some students, previously eligible under discretionary policy elements would, in future, not receive a free home to school transport service	A robust service to consider the circumstances of any case to decide if it merits support as an exception to policy. Critical in this consideration would be whether the student can access the named setting without transport assistance. If an exceptional arrangement is provided then a charge may be applied.
Disability: Medium	Some students, previously eligible under discretionary policy elements would, in future, not receive a free home to school transport service	A robust service to consider the circumstances of any case to decide if it merits support as an exception to policy. Critical in this consideration would be whether the student can access the named setting without transport assistance. If an exceptional arrangement is provided then a charge may be applied.
Sexual Orientation: Neutral		
Race: Neutral		
Religion and belief: Low	Some parents may choose to send their child to a school or college on the basis of their faith or religious views, rather than their most local school. There is no eligibility when choosing a school or college on religious grounds.	

Gender reassignment: Neutral		
Gender: Neutral		
Marriage and Civil Partnership: Neutral		
Pregnancy and maternity: Neutral		
Other policy considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Poverty: Low	The consideration as an exceptional case, will need to take account of the family's ability to pay for any exceptional transport service.	
Rurality: Medium	The service will consider the circumstances of any case to decide if it merits assistance as an exception to policy.	A robust service to consider the circumstances of any case to decide if it merits support as an exception to policy.