

# Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project/proposal 2017 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement  
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Department Childrens Services  
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## **Description of Service / Policy**

Hampshire County Council publishes an annual Post-16 Transport Policy Statement in accordance with statutory guidance from the Department of Education. The statement specifies the arrangements for the provision of transport for persons of sixth form age in education or training. 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. The support is provided either by the County Council or post-16 providers.

Geographical impact\* All Hampshire

## **Description of proposed change**

The County Council will, through the Decision Day of the Lead Member for Education on 14 June 2017, consider on the 2017 Transport Policy Statement. Minor amendments are proposed from the previous year; revision of the annual contribution paid by families of children with SEND from £555 to £570 per academic year, revision of statement appendices to provide up to date travel information for colleges and post-16 providers, and clarification on the review/appeals process.

## **Engagement and consultation**

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

The public consultation on the 2017 Post-16 Transport Policy Statement ran from 31 January 2017 to 21 April 2017. Responses were invited by completing a dedicated online survey. There were 158 responses to the consultation, all of which have been taken into consideration when compiling the statement for publication.

## **Impacts of the proposed change**

This impact assessment covers Service users

### **Statutory considerations**

#### **Impact**

Age Impact	Low There is no automatic entitlement to free home to school or college transport once a student is over 16. 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.
Disability Impact	Low Families with children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) could be limited in their choice of college. The cost of transport may present difficulties for families.

SEND students who are unable to use public transport and whose families cannot accompany their child to college could be unable to access their chosen college.

To mitigate these impacts; students with special educational needs and disabilities who can access public transport can apply for a disabled persons concessionary bus pass to enable them to travel for free on local bus routes. For those unable to use public transport the County Council offers support with travel, subject to certain conditions, and an annual parental contribution is required. The County Council offers families the option of paying the annual contribution of £570 in instalments to spread the cost across the academic year. SEND students from low income families who are in receipt of qualifying benefits are not required to pay the annual contribution.

Sexual Orientation Neutral

Race Neutral

Religion and Belief Neutral

Gender Reassignment Neutral

Gender Neutral

Marriage and civil partnership Neutral

Pregnancy and Maternity Neutral

### **Other policy considerations**

Poverty Impact Low  
Students from low income families may find the cost of travel to attend their preferred college limits their choice of colleges or hinders their attendance.

To mitigate this impact; low income families may be eligible for financial assistance to help with the cost of travel through the 16 – 19 Bursary Fund. Colleges and post-16 providers also offer discretionary schemes to support students from low income families with financial assistance.

Rurality Impact Low  
Students living in rural areas may find it difficult to access the college of their choosing due to limited transport options available.

To mitigate this impact; Travel information for colleges and post-16 providers in Hampshire is included in the 2017 Post-16 Transport Policy Statement, detailing financial assistance, subsidised tickets and travel bursaries offered to students by each provider. Post-16 providers will also work in partnership with local transport operators to ensure services are available

for those in more rural areas where possible.

Mitigation

***Additional Information***