

Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire
County Council

Proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy (2021)

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Department: Children's Services

Date of assessment: 05/03/2020

Description of current service/policy

The Home to School Transport service provides transport for about 13,000 users each day and costs £32m p.a. The policy helps the authority meet its statutory duty and allows parents and users to understand how compulsory school age children may be eligible for a local authority funded transport transport service.

Geographical impact: All
Hampshire

Description of proposed change

To amend the Home to School Transport policy to clarify that the distance from a child's home to their school is calculated using the nearest available entrance to the school grounds; to clarify that the route to a school is measured using the nearest available road route, passable for a suitable motorised vehicle, when determining whether a non-catchment school qualifies as a nearer school (if all of the routes to a school are beyond statutory walking distances); to clarify that school transport would not be removed from children attending a non-catchment school if a place at their catchment school, or a closer school, becomes available and reflect a change in the appeals process.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

The County Council carried out an open consultation designed to give all Hampshire residents and wider stakeholders the opportunity to have their say about proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy and Post-16 Transport Policy. The general public living outside Hampshire were also able to respond. In total there were 165 responses to the consultation, this included paper and online responses. The consultation/ questionnaire ran between 13 January 2020 and 23 February 2020. There was majority agreement with three of the four proposals, with one proposal receiving a mixed response. All proposed changes have been recommended for inclusion in the amended policy.

Statutory considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Age: Neutral		
Disability: Neutral		
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	Impact	Mitigation
Poverty: Neutral		
Rurality: Neutral		

Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)

The changes are largely technical and introduce into policy existing practice.

Any other information