

Committee:	Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness
Date:	20 January 2014
By:	Director of Children's Services
Title of Report:	Post 16 Transport for students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities
Purpose of Report:	To seek the Lead Member's agreement to introduce a policy of means-testing support with transport for post-16 students with Special Educational Needs or disabilities from September 2014.

Recommendation:

The Lead Member is recommended to agree a policy of means-testing support for post-16 students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) from September 2014, so that free transport is only provided for those post-16 students with SEND who are from low income families, and to charge all other families a contribution towards the cost of transport for post-16 students with SEND who require transport.

1. Financial Information

1.1 Children's Services in East Sussex County Council currently provides free transport from home to their educational provider for all post-16 students assessed as needing this support due to their Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND). This is different from students aged 16 to 19 without special educational needs or a disability who are means-tested, and transport (or payment of grants where there is no existing public bus) is only provided for qualifying students from low income families (i.e. meeting the criteria for entitlement to free school meals).

1.2 The Home to School Transport Budget in 2012/13 was £9m and under the agreed Medium Term Financial Plan, (MTFP), total savings of 15% for Admissions and Transport have to be made over the financial period from 2013 to 2016. These savings are ambitious and challenging given that there are currently very few discretionary areas of home to school transport, and most expenditure accounts for statutory requirements placed on the County Council.

1.3 The total cost to the County Council of providing transport for students with SEND was £1.123m for the 2012/13 financial year. The average cost of transport per student with SEND was £6,200. The Lead Member is advised this figure is skewed by a very small number of children who have profound disabilities.

1.4 The Lead Member is further advised that savings projections are approximate because to date post-16 transport for students with SEND have not been means-tested. However, an estimate has been calculated on the basis of the number of pupils with SEND statements in years 9, 10 and 11 during the academic year 2012/13 who were in receipt of free school meals. The numbers were as follows:

Current academic year	Total number of pupils with statements	Number of pupils with statements receiving free school meals (and %)
Year 9	230	56 (24%)
Year 10	220	66 (30%)
Year 11	268	86 (32%)

1.5 The average percentage of SEND pupils receiving free school meals shown above is 29% and based on this calculation, 71% would be eligible to pay a contribution towards their transport. The total number of current post-16 students with SEND receiving transport is 180. The contribution proposed is £370 per student per year which is comparable but not the same as mainstream students who purchase vacant seats on hired coaches. It is further proposed that any students whose total annual cost was less than £370 would pay the full cost of their travel.

1.6 Based on these figures and an implementation date of September 2014, the savings to the County Council in the first year would be approximately £28,000. The savings over a full year would approximate to £48,000.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The current arrangements for post-16 support with transport are inequitable. This is because post-16 students without special educational needs are means-tested and those with special educational needs are

provided with free transport (according to their needs) regardless of family income.

2.2 A growing number of rural local authorities are means-testing post-16 SEND student who qualify for transport and levying a charge towards the cost of transport for all students with SEND who are not from families designated as 'low income' (i.e. qualifying for free school meals).

2.3 In 2012, a report into levying charges for post-16 transport for students with SEND was commissioned by the Rural Access to Learning Group (RALG). Other rural authorities' annual charges ranged from £30 to £660 per year, and it was proposed that East Sussex would charge the average contribution which was £370 per year (subject to review). For the Lead Member's information, this would be comparable to neighbouring West Sussex who currently charge £360 per student per year.

3. Eligibility criteria.

3.1 Appendix 1 shows the proposed policy for assessing eligibility for free transport for post-16 students with SEND.

3.2 The Lead Member is advised the County Council proposes that the charge should be paid on a termly basis, which equates to £61.66 per student per term, based on a six term year. This arrangement already exists for the Vacant Seat Scheme. Application forms would be sent to schools and FE providers in the spring, with a request that they be submitted by early May. After assessing eligibility for transport, a payment form would be sent to the families with a deadline for submission. No transport would be organised until payment is received, and this would apply each term.

4. Consultation exercise.

4.1 The Lead Member approved the recommendation to consult on this proposal and the consultation exercise took place between 4 September 2013 and 25 October 2013. It was widely publicised among schools and FE providers who were asked to notify parents and students to ask for their views. The consultation was also published on the Authority's website.

4.2 There were 41 responses. Of these, 73.8% disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 19.44% agreed or strongly agreed. The full details and comments are shown in Appendix 2. Themes include:

Positive themes:

- Proposed charge is reasonable for the service you receive. Easily affordable.
- Low income families should have full support and access. Happy to contribute to the costs.
- Equality with non SEND families.

Negative themes:

- Discriminatory and penalising to SEND students who already have limited choice due to their needs. Targeting an already vulnerable group.
- Further costs when SEND families already have to pay for more – already faced a lot of cuts.
- Placements are often based on child's needs and therefore you cannot choose to send them elsewhere and save money.
- Impacts on low income families who do not meet the threshold.
- Increases cars on the roads.
- SEND needs vary greatly and one policy does not fit all – leads to discrimination.
- Transition and change can be difficult for SEND students – already have to face so many barriers. Emotional impact from stress and anxiety.
- Impact on participation of SEND in further education and training – could stop access.

4.3 The proposal has been described as discriminatory, but the current situation where means-testing post-16 students without SEND while all those with SEND who are eligible receive transport free of charge is inconsistent and inequitable. This proposal is to charge a contribution, not the true cost of transport for post-16 SEND students who do not meet the low income criteria in the proposed policy.

5. Paying due regard to the Equality Duty

5.1 In order to promote equality, fairness, and achieve the required savings, it is proposed the County Council applies a charge that is still treating students with SEND more favourably than mainstream students as a reasonable adjustment. A full equality impact assessment was carried out as part of the consultation process.

5.2 Mitigating plans include the following:

- Information about the changes will be communicated to parents/carers of Post 16 SEND pupils in as many different ways as possible, so that parents and carers will have information as early as possible about any changes.

- Post-16 SEND pupils from low income families will continue to receive home to school transport free of charge.
- Reviewing the impact on the families impacted by this policy change, in relation to their decisions about post-16 education or training.
- All post-16 SEND pupils who are not from a low income family will be charged the same rate regardless of their location, rural or not. This approach aims to remove any disadvantage which students living in rural areas might face.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Although it is recognised a large majority of the comments that were received were negative, it is recommended the Lead Member approves the proposal to provide free transport only for those post-16 students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities who meet the criteria set out in Appendix 1 for determining low income, and to charge families a contribution towards the cost of transport for all other post-16 students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities who are assessed as requiring transport with a view to implementation for all new applicants in September 2014.

6.2 The Lead Member is also asked to note that level of contribution will need to be reviewed on an annual basis in line with the requirements of the MTFP.

GED ROWNEY

Interim Director of Children's Services

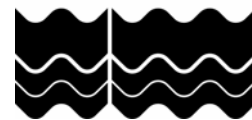
Contact Officer: Sheila Locke, Head of Admissions and Transport

Tel: 01273 335771

Local Members: All

Background Documents: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Suggested eligibility criteria for payment of student grants.
Appendix 2 – Comments received following the consultation.



Appendix 1.

Post-16 Transport Policy – Assistance with Travel/Transport costs for students with Special Educational Needs – 2014/15

If you are of sixth form age with Special Educational Needs, and you will be attending a course appropriate to your needs in September 2014, you may be entitled to help with transport to your school, sixth form college or college of further education. This will normally mean that you have a statement of Special Educational Needs or a 139a assessment of needs.

In order to qualify for help from East Sussex County Council, you will need to meet all of the criteria below.

If you do not meet all four requirements, you may still be able to get help through your establishment's 16-19 Bursary Fund. You should ask at your school or college for further information.

Eligibility criteria.

Students with Special Educational Needs will be provided with free transport provided **all** of the following apply:

1. Where the proposed further education course or a course appropriate to the level of needs is at the nearest school/college to the student's home address;
2. The course is full time;
3. The shortest walking route to the nearest school or college is more than three miles or the student has learning difficulties or a disability (evidence will be required) meaning that they are unable to manage the journey;
4. The family is in receipt of one or more of the following (evidence of benefits received must be sent with the application);
 - Income Support
 - Employment Seeker's Allowance (Income Based)
 - Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)
 - Child Tax Credit with an annual Inland Revenue assessed income below £16,190
 - Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

If a student is able to meet numbers 1 to 3 of the above criteria but not number 4, parents will be charged £370 per year towards the cost of the transport.

Although the County Council expects students to use public transport where this is available, it is recognised that some students are not able to use public transport and some may need independent travel training so that they can use buses and trains.

You may be entitled to a Disabled Person's Bus Pass which gives you free travel on bus services. If so, the County Council will expect you to apply for the pass and use it to get to and from school or college if you are able and there is an available bus service.

Where help with travel is agreed, it will be by one or more of the following, as appropriate;

- a) Free place on a contract or school bus;
- b) A mileage allowance, where travel by car is agreed
- c) By taxi, **in exceptional cases only**, usually only for students with severe disabilities

If you are eligible for support, you will be sent a letter explaining how your support will be provided and

whether you will be charged £370 contribution towards the cost of the transport. You will be charged this contribution if you do not meet the financial criterion (point 4 above). If this applies to you, a payment form will be enclosed with your letter. You will need to complete this, stating whether you want to make your payment monthly, termly (six payments) or for the academic year in full.

Assistance with travel to Programme Led Apprenticeships is not considered under this scheme.

Travel assistance is not normally provided for retakes or repeat periods of study. It does not cover the cost of journeys to placements of any kind; students are expected to meet these costs.

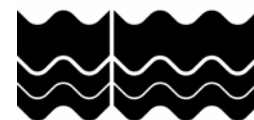
If your family income is too high to qualify for free transport, but your income subsequently falls during the year because of redundancy, illness or divorce, please write to us explaining the circumstances, with professional or official evidence as appropriate, and we will reconsider your case.

If you feel that you qualify for support with transport under this policy, but have been refused help, please write to:

Admissions and Transport Team
East Sussex County Council
County Hall
St Anne's Crescent
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1SG

If you are still refused support but want to take your case further, you can appeal to the Transport and Student Support Panel. This panel consists of a small number of elected members who can decide to exercise their discretion and agree support with travel in the light of personal or financial hardship.

The Transport and Student Support Panel will normally only exercise their discretion and agree transport support in the most exceptional of circumstances, their decision is final, and there is no further right of appeal.



Proposed changes to post – 16 transport grants for students with special educational needs

Our proposal is that free transport from home to educational establishments should only be provided for students aged 16 - 19 with SEN who are from low income families, and to charge a contribution of £370 per student per year towards the cost of transport for all other post-16 students with SEN. This proposal would be implemented from September 2014.

We would like to hear your views on this proposal as well as any impact it might have on you.

Q1: What is your email address?

28 (66.7%)

Q2: Do you agree with our proposal?

42 (100%)

Option	Total	Percent of all
Strongly agree	<u>3</u>	7.143%
Agree	<u>5</u>	11.90%
Neither agree nor disagree	<u>2</u>	4.762%
Disagree	<u>5</u>	11.90%
Strongly disagree	<u>26</u>	61.90%
Don't know	<u>1</u>	2.381%
Not Answered	0	0%

Q3: If you wish, please give your main reasons for your answer to Q2, including any impact the proposal would have on you.

41 (97.6%)

Q4: As we explained these savings have to be made. If you disagree with this proposal do you have any suggestions for how we could make these savings?

34 (81.0%)

Q5: Are you a...?

42 (100%)

21 (50%)	Parent/carer or a student living in East Sussex aged 16 to 21 with SEN or a disability
8 (19.05%)	Parent/carer or a post-16 student living in East Sussex
1 (2.381%)	A member of staff or governor of an East Sussex School
12 (28.57%)	Other

About you...

We want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally and that no one gets left out. That's why we ask you these questions.

We won't share the information you give us with anyone else. We will only use it to help us make decisions and make our services better.

If you would rather not answer any of these questions, you don't have to.

Q6: Are you....? Please select one answer

42 (100%)

8 (19.05%)	Male
29 (69.05%)	Female
5 (11.90%)	Prefer not to say

Q7: Do you identify as a transgender or trans person? Please select one answer 39 (92.9%)

0 (0%)	Yes
31 (73.81%)	No
8 (19.05%)	Prefer not to say
3 (7.143%)	Not answered

Q8: Which of these age groups do you belong to? Please select one answer 41 (97.6%)

0 (0%)	Under 18
0 (0%)	18 – 24
1 (2.381%)	25 – 34
13 (30.95%)	35 – 44
17 (40.48%)	45 – 54
6 (14.29%)	55 – 59
1 (2.381%)	60 – 64
0 (0%)	65 – 74
0 (0%)	75+
3 (7.143%)	Prefer not to say

Q9: What is your postcode? 37 (88.1%)

Q10: To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong? (source 2011 consensus) Please select one answer. 40 (95.2%)

32 (76.19%)	White British
0 (0%)	White Irish
0 (0%)	White Gypsy/Roma
0 (0%)	White Irish Traveller
2 (4.762%)	White other
1 (2.381%)	Mixed White and Black Caribbean
0 (0%)	Mixed White and Black African
0 (0%)	Mixed White and Asian
0 (0%)	Mixed other
0 (0%)	Asian or Asian British Indian
0 (0%)	Asian or Asian British Pakistani
0 (0%)	Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi
0 (0%)	Asian or Asian British other
0 (0%)	Black or Black British Caribbean
0 (0%)	Black or Black British African
0 (0%)	Black or Black British other
0 (0%)	Arab
0 (0%)	Chinese
5 (11.90%)	Prefer not to say
0 (0%)	Other ethnic group
2 (4.762%)	Not answered

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted or is likely to last at least 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS, for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

Q11: Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equalities Act 2010? Please select one answer 41 (97.6%)

7 (16.67%)	Yes
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30 (71.43%) No
 4 (9.524%) Prefer not to say
 1 (2.381%) Not answered

Q12: If you answered yes to Q11, please tell us the type of impairment that applies to you. 8 (19.0%)

2 (4.672%) Physical Impairment
 1 (2.381%) Sensory Impairment (hearing and sight)
 2 (4.762%) Long standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy
 1 (2.381%) Mental health condition
 0 (0%) Learning disability
 2 (4.762%) Prefer not to say
 1 (2.381%) Other
 34 (80.95%) Not answered

Q13: Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion or belief? Please select one answer 42 (100%)

14 (33.33%) Yes
 20 (47.62%) No
 7 (16.67%) Prefer not to say
 1 (2.381%) Not answered

Q14: If you answered yes to Q13 which one? Please select one answer 14 (33.3%)

14 (33.33%) Christian
 0 (0%) Buddhist
 0 (0%) Hindu
 0 (0%) Jewish
 0 (0%) Muslim
 0 (0%) Sikh
 0 (0%) Other
 28 (66.67%) Not answered

Q15: Are you...? Please select one answer 39 (92.95)

1 (2.381%) Bi/Bisexual
 27 (64.29%) Heterosexual/Straight
 1 (2.381%) Gay woman/Lesbian
 0 (0%) Gay man
 0 (0%) Other
 10 (23.81%) Prefer not to say
 3 (7.143%) Not answered

Comments following consultation for proposed changes to post-16 transport grants for students with SEN

Case 1	Question 3: It could be detrimental to families with more than one child with SEN needs. The closest School may not be the best school. It is the right of every child to have education. SEN students go through a huge vetting process in order to get the services that they need and to reduce them or take them away is discriminatory compared to those that don't have SEN needs.
	Question 4: Stop wasting money on surveys about SEN transport with ridiculous profiling questions that have nothing to do with SEN or transport and getting people to call to make sure we received the survey during the last week of the summer holidays.

Case 2	Question 3: 1. It penalises young people with SEN from families who are just above the "low-income" cut-off. 2. It will lead to many more parents driving their SEN child to school and consequent problems with unloading and manoeuvring many wheelchairs in limited school parking/drop-off zones.
	Question 4: Cut County salaries and benefits.

Case 3	Question 3: I think if you charge parents its a reasonable charge for what you get, I also feel that many parents have cars and don't use them even though they probably get DLA for the car, this charge will encourage parents to drop off and pick them up, if they know they will have to pay they will use there cars, most parents probably don't work, hence they can pick up there children.
	Question 4: Yes impose parents who get higher dla mobility to use there cars, this was piloted in London east and it works,

Case 4	Question 3: It is grossly unfair that young people with disabilities are penalised in this way. The disabled are suffering more than their fair share of spending cuts. This move will preclude many young people from taking up their right to further education, as it will not be affordable for many families, even though on paper they may not be deemed sufficiently ' low income'. Day centres for young adults with disabilities are virtually non existent; there is nothing meaningful for this population to fill their days with. They have the basic right to further education, and no measures which put that in jeopardy for considerable numbers should be implemented. The impact this could have on my sons future circumstances, are exactly as outlined above.
	Question 4: Sell st.annes school site for development, and any similar sites- realise assets.

Case 5	Question 3: The provision should depend on the need of the child with SEN rather than some benchmark, which is likely to change, that would determine whether or not the family is a 'low income' family.
	Question 4: Look at the allowances made to Councillors. Look at providing child care allowances made to councillors. Look at other equipment and electronic devices provided for councillors for use in their homes.

Case 6	Question 3: We are on income support so the new change would not affect us. But I think it is fair for families with average income to pay £370. It is per year and not per month, I'm sure people can manage it.
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Case 7	Question 3: Whilst I do not live in East Sussex, I have no doubt that this sort of blatant attack on our more vulnerable people & their families will also spread to my own authority. For that reason, I am participating in this consultation. I am a parent carer of a disabled child. My own family are just over the low income threshold. We do not own a car. We would not be able to afford such a payment in addition to all the other price hikes that governments (both Labour & Tories through their staggering ineptitude at managing their country) & their corporate cronies have subjected our family & others all over the country to.
	Question 4: Of course we are all fully aware that we are stretched & held to gunpoint. They are holding us all to ransom. Please mobilise & speak out. Please tell the government to take some salary freezes for a start, to look far wider into lobbying & regulate the sodding banks.

Case 8	Question 3: His educational statement is in place to enable him to receive the education he needs from the establishment that best suits his requirements as agreed by the LA. I do not agree that he/our family should be penalised for this. DLA/PIP payments pay for motability for adapted vehicles and powerchairs, as well as much needed help for additional costs that SEND entails. :-(and not to cover this essential transport. I am not classed as low income - family of 2 adults and 4 children earning £20,000, but this additional cost will cut deeper into an already stretched, more than 'normal' family, budget.
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	<p>Question 4: Many rural secondary schools offer free transport for those living within a set radius. This is not assessed on family income status. I suggest exploring the viability charging transport to those families over an agreed income first, before penalising families with no option. There are a higher proportion of higher earners living rurally than higher earners with children with SEN.</p>
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<p>Case 9</p>	<p>Question 3: I am *****, the father of a profoundly and multiply disabled son (****, now age 28) who went through the ESCC SLD school system (it was excellent!), plus I was the Headteacher of an ESCC SLD School (Hazel Court) from 1994 to 2011 (now retired). I therefore have both an ex-parent and ex-professional viewpoint. Could I firstly point out that there is a very wide variation in the type and level of special educational needs that the term 'SEN' covers. This is reflected in the variety of special schools that ESCC operates, plus the agency schools that it also places pupils with SENs in. Therefore, I would strongly suggest that one policy to cover all pupils with SENs would inevitably be discriminatory to some groups. I am responding from the viewpoint of those pupils with 'severe and profound learning difficulties' (SLD). My main argument against this proposal has to be that very few SLD school pupils live within 'walking' (including wheelchair pushing) distance of an SLD school. These youngsters have no option but to be transported by vehicle to their nearest SLD school (only otherwise locally available within parts of Eastern Bexhill - Glyne Gap School, North East Eastbourne - Hazel Court School, or Southern Crowborough - Grove Park School). Therefore, the ESCC proposal is to punitively tax them due to their having a severe disability. I know that it will be argued that they receive certain benefits, but those benefits are required towards meeting the considerable additional living costs of being severely disabled, and NOT to transport them to a distant school (and although we may talk of '16 to 19 year olds FE provision', in the cases of the three SLD schools it is in reality - and very properly - clearly still 'school provision'). I do not think that it is an option for many parents with a child with SLD to transport their child themselves to school (as an alternative to paying the £370 proposed charge), even if they don't already have to take their other children to their local mainstream school - which many do. Getting your severely disabled child ready in time for the 'school transport' is already extremely demanding for most such parents, but adding in transporting their child to the school plus the time for the return journey would even further reduce their time available for all other tasks (including working, if they are lucky enough to be able to do this whilst caring for their child). As a parent with a severely disabled child you, you become a 'disabled parent' and 'disabled family' as well. Having to transport your child to and from school could very much add to this role. Finally, there will inevitably be some parents for whom paying a £370 charge is just not possible, and who would withdraw their child from educational provision (to age 19) as the alternative. Even if this happens in just one case, it will be a tragedy for that child. The local government budget has been cut by the national government, and as such is a political decision. I have many political suggestions of my own as to how the national government could alter its policies and make savings elsewhere, to allow ESCC to continue to meet the school transport needs of these most severely disabled youngsters. If you would like to hear some of my suggestions for national government, please contact me.</p> <p>Question 4: The local government budget has been cut by the national government, and as such is a political decision. I have many political suggestions of my own as to how the national government could alter its policies and make savings elsewhere, to allow ESCC to continue to meet the school transport needs of these most severely disabled youngsters. If you would like to hear some of my suggestions for national government, please contact me.</p>
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<p>Case 10</p>	<p>Question 3: This would be costly if you have more than one child in this category. Would there be an opportunity to pay in instalments? What is your classification for low income families? How did you decide on the amount?</p> <p>Question 4: Look at other services where cuts and efficiencies can be made rather than cut services for the most vulnerable.</p>
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Case 11	Question 3: Agree as savings need to be made and £370 per year is not very much!
Case 12	<p>Question 3: I think this should be provided free of charge. Most of these children are used to being collected and dropped off by taxi and to take this away now will be very hard if not impossible to get used to and put a lot of pressure on parents. Most of these children find it hard to cope with such changes in their lives. Also, most of them are picked up in a mini-bus/taxi with other children, so it would not cost the council any more money to have children picked up of people who don't belong to the "poorer" of society.</p> <p>Question 4: At least make sure that children are all collected in a mini bus/people carrier taxi, as opposed to a taxi for one person, to minimise the cost of the service.</p>
Case 13	<p>Question 3: The cost of living for a family with a child with SEN is already very high compared to living with a 'normal' child. For example, I have to buy special foodstuffs and pay for one to one swimming lessons for my child (£16.70 for 30 minutes) because he can't join a group (£4 per child for 30 minutes). There are so many scenarios for the SEN child's family where costs are astronomical in comparison to those for a normal child. It is grossly unfair to remove support with travel expenses for SEN pupils. It is likely that these are children who will have to take taxis (expensive) rather than buses (cheap) or travel further to a suitable place of education, rather than attend a school or college on their doorstep. Removing this support is simply adding yet another burden to families with a SEN child and makes it even more likely that the SEN child, however bright, will not achieve and have the same life prospects as their 'normal' friends or siblings.</p> <p>Question 4: Reduce wastage on services - e.g. I am caring for my elderly grandmother and we are in contact with a number of ESCC-funded services that seem to provide duplicate, but completely unsatisfactory services. A lot of people working in social care in East Sussex (for children and adults) seem to spend their days filling in lengthy forms on home visits that lead to no result for the client. This is a waste of time and money for the Council and a source of constant frustration for clients and their families. Streamlined administration, rather than cutting services that have clear benefits and boundaries, seems far more sensible.</p>
Case 14	<p>Question 3: I feel strongly that low income families with a child with special needs should have full access, and full transport support and funding - it is reasonable to ask those families with the means to help fund the transport for their own child in order to enable lower income families access to free transport. As someone who is likely to be contributing to transport funding, I would expect to be fully involved in selecting who is chosen to transport my son and the option to increase my contribution if this was needed to retain that transport or individual. I am very happy to "pay my way" but expect full engagement and involvement in decision making. This has not been the case historically.</p> <p>Question 4: Perhaps you could explore wider opportunities for means tested solutions where parents or individuals who are supporting the funding of the specified services, also get involved in making the choices</p>
Case 15	Question 3: I do not understand why young people with SEN are being singled out for this cost cutting exercise (particularly on top of cuts to state funding for disabled people and carers). Life is difficult enough for them without having changes being made to their transport arrangements. Every year we are faced with proposals to make changes to our transport arrangements and every year this causes us a great deal of concern and anxiety for our son who is extremely vulnerable, has very limited communication (he is non verbal) and who finds change very difficult to cope with. Part of the process of making him more independent of his family, is that he travels to school without them - he could not possibly travel on public transport with an escort as this would be far too dangerous. And in any case, there is no public transport service that would take him to school from where we live. If you go ahead with this proposal, some parents will choose, or be forced, to transport their young people to and from school, at a time in their lives when they should be encouraged to have greater independence from their families not less. This policy sends a very mixed message from the Council. Throughout our son's education with East Sussex County Council, we have never felt anything other than that the Council has been

	<p>trying to save money at our son's expense - from trying to play down his needs on his statement, to steering him away from an SEN primary school, to avoiding for many years making adequate provision for his speech therapy needs which we have funded ourselves since he was 1 year old. Now you are seeking to jeopardise his homeschool transport at a time when he needs greater independence. I do not work because having a child with needs such as my son's takes up too much time for me to be able to contemplate working and my husband and I have agreed that it is in the interests of the whole family that I devote myself to being a carer and full time mother. When our son is at school, much of my time is spent on matters relating to him which I cannot deal with when he is at home. If you were to go ahead with these proposals, of course I would pay the sum suggested, however, in that case, I would expect to have a say in the matter of my son's transport and the right NOT to have my son's transport arrangements changed, as you threaten to do every year, until he has left school at 19. I am at pains to understand why you are targeting this vulnerable group in society and why you continue to make it so difficult for parents of children with special needs who have to fight for everything for their children.</p>
	<p>Question 4: I do not have access to full information on how you spend your budgets therefore it is difficult for me to comment on how else you may make savings. However, I have known of families in the past who, because they have chosen to send their children to schools which have not been their nearest school, and have even been out of County, that they have had their children transported to and from school by taxi (this is children without SEN). If this practice still continues, I believe it is most unfair. County have already made great savings from closing special needs schools in East Sussex, leaving a large gap between the south coast and the north of the County. If County are therefore facing a large transport bill for SEN children, I must point out that some of this is of your own making.</p>

<p>Case 16</p>	<p>Question 3: Transport and help getting your child to school is a key part of being able to parent a child with special needs. Parents with a disabled child no matter what spectrum do a fabulous job and this is a vital part of day to day care. I understand that the council is making cuts but in this area it should not be approached. As a parent the monies received from the government by no means cover the extra costs of having a special needs child and I would expect most families struggle with finances due to this. For you to ask for more money for this vital day to day service is quite frankly appalling. You guys are pushing us parents to quite frankly give up and place children in permanent residential care, and that would be disastrous for your budgets! this may sound extreme but these small things are huge when caring for a special needs child.</p> <p>Question 4: Well I would personally look at a more local service in terms of not using taxi companies from Eastbourne to collect children who live 3-4 miles away from the school. Another obvious thing would be to supply the schools with internal transport solutions such as a couple of suitable vehicles and staff to work it locally and only in extreme distances use taxi firms. Most parents would be happy with a new schedule of collecting children at a revised time rather than loose any help.</p>
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<p>Case 17</p>	<p>Question 3: My son has severe learning difficulties and is unable to walk more than 100m. He attends Bexhill College (Glyne Gap Faculty) which is only 1 mile from home, but he is unable to walk there. He would love to be able to walk there, but due to his disabilities is unable to a) he physically cannot walk there and b) he could not find his way across our quiet road, let alone walk to the college. Why should he be penalised and have to pay £370 per year when he would love to be like his peers and walk to college? I don't think you realise how upsetting this proposal is. Yet again I am being reminded of how different my son is to his peers and of the things he is unable to do</p> <p>Question 4: It's your job to work out savings ... not mine</p>
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<p>Case 18</p>	<p>Question 3: the minute any cuts need to be made you target the vulnerable and disabled. you are the service that send our kids god knows where without us having a choice as there are so few special needs schools and none within a reasonable distance . which is why st annes should never have closed. we struggle on a daily basis with our children that have special needs. you close respite schemes due to funding then charge high fees that we cannot afford. I would be forced to take my daughter out of her right of education and keep her home , which would then cause me considerable difficulties so I would then sue as you're denying her human rights</p>
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	to an education which you state have to be till she's 19 . it's a disgrace.
	Question 4: have a pay freeze and look at other departments and stop victimizing the vulnerable, disabled and their families. I am fed up of your continual harassment of trying to give our kids the decent life they are entitled to with the pittance of help you give ,

Case 19	Question 3: All parents have to get their children to school, SEN children have many benefits other families don't, it's hard but fair.
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Case 20	Question 3: all families with children with disabilities and complex health conditions are at a disadvantage in a number of different ways irrespective of their income. Increase in heating bills due to extensive time away from education, lone parenting, if a couple reduced income due to time required to care, personal and financial cost of caring - there are a number of other reasons why this is a discriminatory proposal.
	Question 4: reduce the level of outside consultants employed by the council to undertake work paid employees should undertake; reduce the level of management; reduce the level of paperwork;

Case 21	Question 3: we have two children who have sen needs at this moment in time they are ate primary school but in the future they will want to go to college and this could be hindered as to were they go due to transport costs and this would mean that they would have to settle for a college that may be very close but may not be the best or suitable for them and this would mean that they would have to settle for a second rate education instead of the first class education and a level playing field that they deserve to have with those who have no education problems.
	Question 4: why not ask some of the big businesses to sponsor a driver and a mini bus .

Case 22	Question 3: I would like clarification of what you class a "low income family". If we fall outside of your definition it would mean having to find an additional £30 or so each month for my son to travel to college which we can ill afford (both parents being employed by East Sussex County Council as a school site manager and a teaching assistant which means we are both paid very little.)
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Case 23	Question 3: What is the cost of administering such a scheme? Families who are on the cusp of being low income will find this charge very onerous and the young person will need the transport regardless of the family income.
	Question 4: Ridiculous question when you have all of the information. By all means think the unthinkable but don't cut the transport costs of transporting children to school.

Case 24	Question 3: Just because the children hit 16 years of age does not mean they suddenly become able to travel on their own, children need to be assessed depending on their special needs.
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Case 25	Question 3: These children have already had a bad start in life and will be handicapped when seeking work. They need every bit of help they can get to be able to have a fair chance. My great niece is profoundly deaf and is very intelligent. If she does not get every bit of help she will fall behind.
	Question 4: They must be a small majority of children so how much will you actually save?? Perhaps target time waster in the NHS and Police and charge them when wasting the emergency services time.

Case 26	Question 3: My daughter's school is a 40 minute drive away. If she did not have special needs, she would be at a school closer to home, and at the age of 16 she would be able to take public transport on her own to get to school. As a working mother it is very difficult for me to take 3 hours out of my day to drive her to school, and very expensive to pay for a taxi service. We are not a 'low income' family, but that does not mean we can afford hundreds of pounds in taxi fees. I think it's unfair that we should be penalised because I work and because my daughter has special needs.
	Question 4: I don't thin health care, social care or education budgets should be cut. Instead cut budgets in other areas.

Case 27	Question 3: Your proposal is both immoral and disgusting. Any cuts for children with SEN or in fact people with physical and mental disabilities regardless of age or income should be illegal and we will campaign to make it so.
	Question 4: Make cuts from non- essential services and works. Bexhill Promenade - poorly designed shelters constantly having to be maintained - waste of money! Bexhill-Hastings Link road - won't change the congestion at all on the sea road - waste of millions of pounds worth of money!

Case 28	Question 3: My answer above depends on what you consider to be a low income? what is a high income? surely this needs clarifying before anyone can judge. This deserving poor and not deserving rich dichotomy is full of ambiguity. For example, being considered poor like myself as a lone parent with no capital (house, savings). But rich is owning a house and receiving a decent wage-what is that wage? many people are still poor if they are earning, they really struggle to keep a float. But others are penny pinching and are very rich indeed, but they are in denial and they are the ones who need to be made to pay, good luck with that one though s they have a strong voice and many supporters.
	Question 4: I think this is tough for you. Being deaf, as my daughter Hannah is means using public transport is difficult. She was not statemented, no SEN. Meaning had to drive her all her school life, she now walks mainly which means that she has to risk her aid getting wet and can't hear with a hood up if windy/wetbuses are always crowded and late or non existent here in Hasting/St. Leonards, depending where you need to get to.

Case 29	Question 3: Families who have children with SEN have many other costs to bear. We are not in receipt of benefits, though we are struggling financially. Our daughter does not qualify for DLA, so we don't have that help. She does need to see an osteopath every 2-3 weeks throughout the year. We have also had to buy her specially made braces for foot support (NHS was not able to deliver the level of support needed) - these were extremely expensive, and it's like she will need others in a year's time.
	Question 4: You could ask for a voluntary contribution, or use a sliding scale, rather than only offer transport for people in receipt of benefits.

Case 30	Question 3: I am concerned that your proposals will affect the effective participation of young people with SEND in Further Education and Training. As you know the Education and Skills Act 2008 requires authorities to raise the participation age to 24 if they have SEND. If young people require transport in order to participate at 15 then it is very likely that they will need transport at 18. If anything the Children and Families Bill strengthens the entitlement of young people with SEND to participate in further education and training - In my opinion the changes you are proposing are incompatible with your responsibilities under current and forthcoming SEND legislation.
	Question 4: I would suggest a process rather than a specific solution. If you draw on the expertise of young people, families, schools, LA Officers and transport providers I am confident that their collective expertise would allow you to come up with a solution.

Case 31	Question 3: Hazel Court FE dept is the only college locally that is appropriate for my son and we live in Seaford and his school is in Eastbourne, there is no way when I work full time that I can drop him off at college as I have to work. This is hitting vulnerable individuals who have no choice where they attend college as legally they must be in education or training until they are 17. Do you not think our children have enough barriers to life.
	Question 4: Yes stop paying staff in an adult social care setting triple pay on bank holidays and giving them a day off in lieu if they work it, pay a fair wage like the private sector has to and not an inflated wage as is paid at present. Ensure that those who are truly entitled to housing benefit receive it, surely there must be a way where those claiming job seekers allowance must be made to do a few hours work for the council i.e. litter picking or volunteer work in charitable organisation .

Case 32	Question 3: my 9 year old son was born profoundly Deaf, there are many difficulties we face as a family but the hardest by far is the constant battle for help in his education, it is exhausting and has a profound affect on all the family. As a family we all work very hard for what we have just because we are not on benefits doesn't mean we have any spare money, we haven't had a family holiday in five years. I don't understand the logic of the government giving free school meals to all 5-7 year olds but need to save money by charging sen children some of the transport cost, we do get DLA but we pay out triple that each week with the extra literacy lessons, reading lessons that he so desperately needs just to keep up with his peers also TRAVEL to hospital appointments (east sussex to london GOSH) and the extra equipment we have to buy for him, like headphones for his mp3 player for example we can't just go and buy any old ones we have to buy specialised one for his processor that cost three times that of my hearing son so there you have it at the end of the day we need spend out around three times as much on my deaf child as to my hearing child each year and so no I don't agree with the proposal as we struggle so much already to meet all my son needs this is just another £370 we don't have and will have to struggle to find :-)
	Question 4: yes look deeper into benefits, I know a lot of people who are on benefits they have holidays twice a year walking around with their iphones, designer clothes on and so they can have more of a choice in changing that lifestyle than families with sen children who do NOT have that luxury. Plus the school dinner issue again, I cant get my head around that one, we are on a low budget but our children have been fine with a low cost packed lunch, I know this is probably falling on deaf ears because if you never had a child of your own with a disability you will never understand the tremendous affect and financial strain it has on the whole family

Case 33	Question 3: we could not afford this contribution and therefore our son would be unable to continue with his further education. Even more importantly he would no longer be able to get to his current placement which is the only provision which can meet his needs. Due to the severity of his condition this would lead to devastating consequences. Surely we should be looking at a different area to make cuts rather than the DISABLED Community.
	Question 4: Cut back on admin staff within the council offices allocating more than one responsibility each section.

Case 34	Question 3: Transport is not a luxury or an optional extra. Parents will have to pay this sum - they can't decide to economise and not pay it. Although of course if there was better local provision for post-16 then students wouldn't have to travel. How much money will this proposal raise? It can't be much compared to £35m. You are targeting the most vulnerable group of young people for an amount of money which will be a lot for individuals to pay but a paltry amount in total for ESCC. Parents of SEN children have many expenses out of college time which are not faced by parents of 'ordinary' children e.g. special care, ancillary support, respite etc. This new demand for money will impact on already strained family budgets and will mean that parents have to choose between transport or cut back on these 'extras' ESCC is not making savings at all in the sense of lowering costs and delivering a service more efficiently. It is simply passing its costs onto a vulnerable group.
	Question 4: We could start with the bloated salaries of directors, many of which are

	on more than £100,000 per annum.
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Case 35	Question 3: Life is tough enough financially with a disabled child. DLA only goes so far. Charging post 19 will probably mean these children will not have further education as they could not afford to go.
	Question 4: Enabling young people to travel on public transport with a companion and their bus pass would be great as long as there is a college bus to take them. Those that it is impossible to travel on public transport should be picked up by a mini bus provided by the college.

Case 36	Question 3: For many children this will be spell the end of their education as families earning just above the £16190 limit may not be able to afford the contribution.
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Case 37	Question 3: In our case our daughter has no option but to travel from Lewes to Crowborough to attend a Special Needs School. I feel this proposal discriminates against SEN pupils. Even though these measures won't affect us, as this is her last year at school , I feel that it is unfair on other children and their families.
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Case 38	Question 3: As a parent who will be directly affected I would obviously prefer you to consider other options. If you were able to provide an appropriate education setting for my child within a reasonable distance of our home then they would not have to travel so far to school in the first place. I also feel it is totally inappropriate to make the assumption that at 16, SEN students are continuing their education through choice and not necessity. I do however, appreciate that if budgets must be cut then what little money there is must be distributed via means testing, as I would be appalled to discover that even 1 SEN child can no longer continue their education because the parents cannot afford to get their child to school/college.
	Question 4: No. I don't envy your position!

Case 39	Question 3: There are degrees of wealth, and there will be a section of society that won't be able to afford to pay that £370 pa even though they are not considered low income. Also, the distance to the educational establishment should be considered and the level of support the young person needs.
	Question 4: Means test and have a sliding scale of what people should pay. Encourage car pooling. Experiment with public transport. Insist on people using shared transport.

Case 40	Question 3: Your proposal will prevent many 16+ students from pursuing A level or similar education courses from 16 onwards either because their parents / carers cannot contribute or (after 16 years of battles and the eye watering additional costs of rearing a disabled child) just chose not to. Lack of means to continue education would be discrimination to a group of young people who are already badly and inadequately supported by our countries education system.
	Question 4: Cut money from other budgets, turn off computers and lights in council offices. Don't keep refurbing your buildings to have swanky offices. Look to efficiencies within your organisation. Stop spending money on vanity projects until you can afford them.

Case 41	Question 3: My child is now obliged to continue education until the age of 18, he is a vulnerable student who requires assistance with travel to school/college. As our family income is not quite low enough to be classed as low income, nor high enough to be classed as wealthy we would be financially worse off as a family having to meet extra costs for transport.
	Question 4: I would suggest vulnerable students are not penalised in any way for

	their disabilities by having to meet extra expenses for now having to stay on in education
--	--

Katie Neal

Subject: FW: Consultation on proposals to impose charge for 16-19yr olds with SEN for Transport..

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 October 2013 12:51
To: Sheila Locke
Subject: Re: Consultation on proposals to impose charge for 16-19yr olds with SEN for Transport..

Dear Ms. Locke,
Thankyou very much for your full replies., it is much appreciated and I will share with the ESPACC.
Kind regards
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

On 14 Oct 2013, at 11:44, "Sheila Locke" <Sheila.Locke@eastsussex.gov.uk> wrote:

> Dear [REDACTED]
>
> Thank you for your email.
>
> For clarity, I have answered each of your questions in turn.
>
> 1. It is very difficult to predict accurately the savings that would be made over the course of a year, because post-16 students with SEN have never been means tested. However, looking at the proportion of pupils with SEN statements who qualify for free school meals, it is estimated to be approximately £47,000 over the course of a full year.
>
> 2. Currently in East Sussex, there are 2642 children with statements of SEN. Of these, 7.6% are currently in Year 12 or above.
>
> 3. Current methods of payment in other areas of transport are by cheque, (postal) or card (over the telephone). We can also take direct debits. We can accommodate six equal payments across the year (i.e. one payment per term based on a six-term year).
>
> 4. The annual figure of £370 was the average sum of all local authorities who made charges for FE SEN students in 2012 according to a report undertaken on behalf of the Rural Access to Learning Group.
>
> 5. We are not aware which authorities consulted on but decided against making post-16 SEN charges. However, we understand the number of local authorities charging contributions from FE students with SEN will increase, and among those already charging, contributions will be reviewed on a regular basis.
>
> The criteria for calculating whether a family has a 'low income' is based on the government's criteria for qualifying for free school meals. For mainstream pupils, only those qualifying under these rules as low income families receive any help with transport. All other students have to pay. If it is decided to means-test families with post-16 students with SEN, those designated as low income families would continue to receive free transport. For other families, the contribution would be charged but the level of charge proposed would still mean students with SEN were treated more favourably than mainstream students financially.
>
> I hope this information is helpful, and please feel free to contact me again if you should have any further queries.
>
> With kind regards,
>
> Sheila Locke
> Head of Admissions and Transport

> East Sussex County Council

>

> 01273 335771

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: [REDACTED]

> Sent: 30 September 2013 14:57

> To: Sheila Locke

> Cc: [REDACTED]

> Subject: Consultation on proposals to impose charge for 16-19yr olds with SEN for Transport..

>

>

> Dear Ms Locke,

> I am writing concerning the above, in my role within ESPACC as an Associate (parent)

..

> There are some relevant points which I would like to raise with you ,on behalf of the group., The purpose of which is that our members be better informed when responding to the consultation:

>

> 1.what are the projected potential savings - taking in to account the costs to administer?..

>

> 2.there are approx.2,460 children/young people with statements in the county, what proportion of these are 16-19 year olds ?.

>

> 3.what methods would be used to collect payment from parents, and the frequency..I.e.instalments ?.

>

> 4.How has the annual figure of £370 been arrived at , given the disparity of journey length, therefore cost, between students ?.

>

> 5.what is the process and Timeline for consultation,and publishing results?.

>

> 6. We understand there are other Authorities who have consulted on this, but have then decided against implementing .- please could you advise which Authorities ?.

>

> Speaking for myself, as a parent who would be affected by this..I feel strongly that our young people with disabilities would be disproportionately disadvantaged, if this proposal is implemented..meaningful activities for young people such as my son, with complex needs, are virtually non existent, and to remove the opportunity to access specialist provision from age 16 on grounds of cost, will cause yet more social exclusion for some.

> I recognise that the cost is considerable in transporting our young people, but the choice is not ours that the appropriate facilities are often a considerable distance from homes, unlike for mainstream students.

> Lastly, I would like to say that the criteria for 'low income' as deemed by the Authority, is flawed..

> Families with disabled children usually have lower incomes, but in any case higher expenditure.

> To create a balance between work and care is almost impossible for families with very severely disabled children, such as my own. As such, earning potential is reduced..

> In conclusion, my concern is that there will be families who may, on paper, not qualify for travel costs to be paid but nonetheless do not have any disposable income, and those young people will be denied the right to access further education, which is a right for all.

> I look forward to receiving your responses to questions raised, which I may then share with the members of ESPACC.

> Many thanks

> Regard

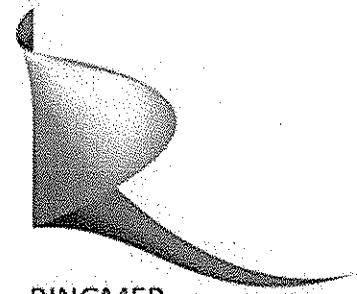
> [REDACTED]

>

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>

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Principal: Ms K Stonier, BA (Hons) NQPH

11 September 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) has asked me to bring to your attention three consultations they have launched that may affect transport provisions for some of our students. ESCC has a statutory responsibility to provide home to school transport to our students. The details of the consultations are as follows:

1. Have your say about the future support for transport from home to educational establishments for students with special needs attending further education

The ESCC currently provides free transport from home to their educational establishment for students aged 16 – 21 who require this support due to their SEN or disability. Students without SEN or a disability are means tested, and transport (or payment of grants where there is no existing transport) is only provided for qualifying students from low income families. The proposal is that free transport from home to educational establishment should be provided for post 16 students with SEN who are from low income families, and to charge a contribution of £370 per student per year towards the cost of transport for all other post 16 students with SEN. Implementation is proposed to start from September 2014.

2. Have your say about future transport grants for 16 – 19 year olds travelling to school or college

The ESCC is reviewing the transport grants for 16 – 19 year olds. This support is currently only provided for students where bus travel is not available. The proposed changes are as minimal as possible in order to limit the negative impact on eligible recipients. This review is necessary to ensure that low income families continue to be supported with transport provision, but that it is done in a way that is sustainable in the future and compatible with reduced resources. The ESCC understands that this is going to be an unpopular proposal and a difficult change but the current provision is unsustainable under the current budget.

The eligibility criteria that sets out which low income families receive help with transport costs from the ESCC for the 2014/15 academic year will remain the same under the new proposal, but the amounts paid to qualifying students will be reduced. However, the ESCC state that no student would have their grant reduced by more than £24 per year.

3. Have your say on transport provision for children in areas that are served by more than one school (shared areas)

The ESCC is reviewing the current transport provision for shared area schools, which is currently not applied in line with the Home to School Transport policy. The current arrangement is that, if a student in a shared area lives over 3 miles from the school, they provide transport to either school in their shared area. This goes over and above what the Transport policy states should be provided. The proposal from September 2014 is that the

ESCC will only provide transport to the nearest school, as stated in their policy. Pupils who are currently in receipt of transport to a shared areas school that is further away will continue to receive the provision. This proposed change will make transport provision more equitable with those students who do not live in shared areas and who have only been receiving

assistance to their nearest school. This proposed change has been advertised in the Schools Admissions Booklet for next year so that parents / carers and pupils are aware this may happen when making their school place applications.

ESCC is keen for as many people as possible to contribute their views. The consultations are published on the East Sussex County Council website and if people have any further questions they can contact the Information for Families team, by telephone on 0345 60 80 192. The helpline is open Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Fridays 8.30am to 4.30pm or by email on informationforfamilies@eastsussex.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Ms K Stonier
Principal

Achieving, Caring, Contributing



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Katie Neal

Subject: FW: School Transport to Glyne Gap school MARSHALL KJR 9.9.13

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 September 2013 17:57
To: CS Information For Families
Subject: [PUBLIC] School Transport to Glyne Gap school - Sent from website feedback form

This email has been sent to you automatically via the website by a member of the public. You are the first person to read it. Please process and respond accordingly.

If you are not the right person to deal with the enquiry, please forward to the correct team as soon as possible.

If you do not know who to redirect this email to, please contact the Web Team.

Thank you.

FROM: [REDACTED]

MESSAGE:

Its strange that you are now doing this in regard to school Transport is this because you are being taken to court over the present arrangements? I am not allowing my son [REDACTED] to use empress coaches or Home Jame's because in 2007 he used Empress coaches temporary they did not know anything about my son they did not know he was in a wheelchair plus he had a fit because of the way they Treated him he was so stressed out by it all thats the reason why I am not sending him to school with these people. You have not consulted us at all through this present arrangements. So I will see you in court to get this present arrangement changed back to prior August 2013. You don't give a dam about disabled children all you think about is saving money and putting pressure on people to accept these arrangements. I have proof of this as well which will be mentioned in the up and coming court case in the county court.

We get told we can get a budget allowance for travel costs by one person and by someone else we cant so I don't believe anything you lot say as you contradict yourselves.

I say Let the people who really know what best for the disabled children decide and that's us parents not schools who will agree you because they work for you.

Please respond by email to [REDACTED]

Katie Neal

Subject: FW: [PUBLIC] Proposed school transport changes - Sent from website feedback form

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 September 2013 16:06
To: CS Information For Families
Subject: [PUBLIC] Proposed school transport changes - Sent from website feedback form

This email has been sent to you automatically via the website by a member of the public. You are the first person to read it. Please process and respond accordingly.

If you are not the right person to deal with the enquiry, please forward to the correct team as soon as possible.

If you do not know who to redirect this email to, please contact the Web Team.

Thank you.

FROM: [REDACTED]

MESSAGE:

It is essential that East Sussex continues to fund the School Transport Service for the post 16 - 19 students with SEN as there are so many cuts and changes already that this would only add to the stress of parents. As a parent of 2 children with special needs I have to continually fight for everything and this would be yet another battle. Why do parents that need the most help seem to get the least?

Please respond by email to [REDACTED]

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and titles of the members of the committee.

2. The second part of the document is a list of names and titles of the members of the committee.

3. The third part of the document is a list of names and titles of the members of the committee.

4. The fourth part of the document is a list of names and titles of the members of the committee.