

Analysis of the SEND cohorts

These summaries are for the cohort of SEND students travelling in ESCC-funded transport in December 2014; they represent a snapshot of our provision. Tables of information prepared as analysis of the cohort have not been included in this appendix due to data protection issues – but we have analysed the current cohort by home town and destination, distance travelled and specific needs.

Year 12 – Year 14 (16-19 year olds) – these have a different profile to the older students

The average annual cost per head for transport of the 145 Y12-Year 14 students currently supported is £7,453. There are 3 residential placements with distances of 176, 183 and 184 miles. Of the remaining 142 students, the average distance to their placement is 10.9 miles (range 0.2 -47 miles, median 9.5 miles, only 26 have a journey of 5 miles or less).

24 of these students live less than 3 miles from their placement, with travel support still granted due to the severity of their needs.

The 2014/15 cohort have been categorised according to their primary presenting special needs or disabilities relating to travel to their placement as this may be helpful in consideration of how the Authority can or cannot reduce costs for transport. A total of 52% of this group have Autism Spectrum as their key SEND – although it should be noted that this basic label covers a very wide range of need.

Many of the young people with SEND in Year 12-14 are suitable for Independent Travel Training (ITT) and an increasing number are being referred to our commissioned service, which now has funding until August 2016. The Council are able to offer temporary transport on condition that the family cooperate with an assessment for and provision of ITT should this be appropriate.

Year 15 and Year 16 (19-21 year olds)

The average annual cost per head for transport of the 40 Y12-Year 14 students currently supported is £7,269. This cohort are transported to a range of FE providers and Independent Specialist Providers (ISPs) which have been specified as being the most suitable institution to meet their needs.

There are two residential placements with distances of 144 and 62 miles. Of the remaining 38 students, the average distance to their placement is 11.1 miles (range 1.4 -38.3 miles, median 11.7 miles, only 11 have a journey of 5 miles or less).

The vast majority of this cohort (36 of 40) are currently on Level 1 (or below) foundation courses due to their learning disabilities, eg Supported Education, Personal Progress. A small number have received some ITT and this has either not worked as they were not deemed safe, or they still require transport part-way, eg to the bus stop.

Post-16 students with non-standard timetables and additional costs

A number of students at FE colleges (12 students attending SDC Eastbourne and Lewes, Sussex Coast and K College) have non-standard timetables, which means that a number of additional taxi runs need to be laid on. Some of these differences in timing are only a matter of 15-30 minutes, with about half being under 90 minutes. The total estimated saving should the Authority insist that only start and end of day travel is provided has been estimated at £32,000 per year. Part of mitigation for this is continuing negotiation with the FE colleges to encourage standardised timetables.