

FE Link policy and current cohort summary

'FE Link' or link transport is offered to 16-19 year olds who live in remote rural areas in the county which have no public transport, and takes the form of a free taxi service to the start of the nearest suitable public transport journey to college.

The Council has made this provision to compensate for the lack of good public transport in a very small number of remote residences in the county. Students receiving link transport have to pay for their ongoing journey.

As of April 2015, there are only 3 travellers on 2 taxis with an actual annual cost to the HTST budget of £4.4k, each being transported between 3 and 5 miles from their homes to either a train station or a bus stop. The offer is outlined in the 2015/16 post-16 Transport Statement as: *'Link transport: Some students (those living in the most rural locations) may be assisted to get to their nearest bus pick up point or railway station provided they attend the nearest appropriate provision. Contact the Admissions and Transport Team within the Children's Services Department at County Hall for more details.'*

These college students cannot share minibuses with younger school age students as they have to leave earlier, return later and are usually travelling in a different direction to the local secondary school – therefore per head this provision is relatively costly.

It is recognised that a very small number of future potential recipients may be impacted by a reduction in their post-16 transport support as a double

The details for each current recipient is set out below:

| Year group | Area of residence | College | Approx Annual Cost |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 12 | Netherfield | Bexhill | £1,400 |
| 13 | Netherfield | Bexhill | £2,800 |
| 14 | Wilmington | Sussex Downs Eastbourne | £200 |