

## Post-16 travel assistance: Survey of other local authority practice

Web-based and networking research on post-16 transport offers resulted in comprehensive information for all 26 other county councils for SEND students, and information on availability of Low Income Families (LIF) transport funding for 13 local authorities. The information predominantly came from their webpages, but was also frequently hidden away in policy documents and is often relatively difficult to find for families or professionals.

The following issues were investigated:

1. **Whether or not the LA catered specifically for LIF students**
2. **Public transport offer in neighbouring counties**

### 1. Specific support for LIF students

Local Authority	Provision
Cheshire	LIF provision withdrawn Sep 14 but will consider hardship cases
Cornwall	No special provision for LIF - subsidised travel for all who qualify
Derbyshire	No special provision for LIF - concessionary bus fare for all
Devon	Post-16 travel scheme with 50% reduction in charge for LIF
E Sussex	Hired transport for 10 students, free bus passes for 380 students (value £570)
Essex	LIF students are asked to contribute £450 for transport (half the average cost of transport provision in Essex)
Herefordshire	Charge toward transport which removes almost all financial benefit for LIF
Kent	Kent Student Travel card for all – if LIF cannot afford it they can apply for help, but general offer withdrawn in 2012
Leicestershire	Yes – similar to our current provision
Norfolk	No special provision for LIF - post-16 travel scheme for all
Suffolk	No special provision for LIF - discretionary pass available for all at £510
Wiltshire	No special provision for LIF - subsidised transport scheme for all at £446
Warwickshire	No special LIF support. If suitable council or public transport does not operate near to a student, an annual travel allowance of £110 (or £220 if the student is from a low-income family) is available
W Sussex	None – was removed in 2011, although was timely as coincided with the replacement of the EMA scheme with 16-19 bursaries held by schools / colleges

## 2. Subsidised Public Transport in neighbouring county councils

Provision of subsidised post 16 bus travel arrangements is relatively widespread. Links to neighbouring shires schemes are provided below. However, these schemes require considerable investment. The Surrey scheme is understood to cost their Children's Services budget in region of £700K pa.

<http://new.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/buses-and-trains/bus-tickets-passes-and-travel-discounts/student-fare-card-scheme>

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/transport-and-highways-policies/changes-to-travel-passes-for-young-people>

<http://www.yourspacesussex.co.uk/default.aspx?page=510>

### East Sussex Subsidised Public Transport

#### Bus Travel

Young people in East Sussex up to the age of 19 years are able to purchase a weekly Freedom ticket (subject to obtaining either a 3-iD or Choice ID card) which offers potential savings and includes travel at weekends. The current cost is £15 per week and this will increase to £16 per week from April 2015 (currently 78 post-16 LIF students receive a free Freedom Pass awarded by ESCC). The scheme is not subsidised by East Sussex County Council. Freedom tickets can only be purchased on a weekly basis from the bus driver. There would be an overhead cost to providing termly tickets and bus operators would be more reluctant to participate due to issues of allocating income fairly and cash-flow.

Some East Sussex students use Brighton & Hove Bus Company routes and can buy an annual travel card for £290 (currently 58 post-16 LIF students receive a free B&H pass through ESCC).

#### Train Travel

In partnership with Brighton and Hove and West Sussex, ESCC provide a £15k subsidy made to Southern Rail, so that they can offer discounted rail travel between home and school or college for 16-19 year old students.