

Consultation with post-16 colleges and providers

Meetings with school sixth forms and colleges occurred on 19 May and 8 July to raise awareness and discuss potential impact and mitigation. They were also invited to individual meetings and to respond via email. The following table captures the main issues and responses.

1. Post-16 transport support for 16-19 year old from low income families

ESCC proposal / possible mitigation	Response / findings
<p>1. Withdrawal of all direct ESCC support for 16-19 year old students from low income families, in tandem with mitigating impact on the most vulnerable low income students via the allocation of a Hardship Fund, to the value of 25% of the total amount of support given to all East Sussex students in 2014/15.</p>	<p>There was some concern from small sixth forms with very small numbers of students supported in 2014/15. A number of the larger FE colleges suggested that they should be able to support their students in other ways, but would also find the Hardship Fund helpful in meeting demand.</p>
<p>2. ESCC have assumed increased use of 16-19 bursaries from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) Student Bursary Support Service, which are claimed via the provider. The bursaries offer support to young people in one of the defined vulnerable groups (those who do not have access to parental support and those receiving certain benefits in their own right). It also enables institutions to make discretionary awards to those young people they assess as facing the greatest financial barriers to participation.</p> <p>A yearly bursary of up to £1,200 is available to young people in one of the four defined vulnerable groups, which includes: young people in care, care leavers, those on Income Support or receiving Universal Credit in place of Income Support, disabled young people (in receipt of both ESA and DLA or PIP).</p>	<p>The Discretionary element of the bursary is minimal and will not usually cover all costs as the standard funding rate is £298. Guidance states that for most institutions, the discretionary bursary allocation for 2015 / 2016 has been calculated on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of students that received £30 a week EMA in the 2009 / 2010, as a percentage of the 2010 / 2011 funded student numbers • this percentage has been applied to each institution's 2015 / 2016 allocated student numbers and multiplied by the 2015 / 2016 standard funding rate of £298 <p>For example: if the percentage is 40%, and there are 500 allocated student numbers in an institution, that would mean an allocation of 200 x £298. The discretionary bursary is paid in 2 parts; e.g. two-thirds in August 2015 and a third in April 2016.</p>

ESCC proposal / possible mitigation	Response / findings
<p>3. The full list of providers and allocations is shown for information in Table 1. (Of the 31 organisations with students receiving ESCC LIF travel support in 2014/15, 22 had 3 or fewer of these students. £27k of free support was given to 71 students at 9 providers located outside East Sussex. The 'top 5' had a share of 80% of the beneficiary students and 83% of the total budget). The 5 providers which had significantly higher numbers and costs for eligible students in 2014/15 are (in order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sussex Downs College • Plumpton College • Sussex Coast College • Bexhill College • DV8 Bexhill / Brighton <p>ESCC proposed that the Hardship Fund be shared between these 5 providers based on a share proportionate to previous demand. Table 2 contains a summary of the number of students at each of the 5 providers receiving ESCC travel support as a percentage of the 16-19 student population. Table 3 shows the most recently available comparison of the number of 16-19 year olds eligible for FSM in the previous 6 years as a percentage of the 16-19 student population.</p>	<p>Response from the FE Colleges was reasonably positive, with initial concerns regarding Plumpton, and with the small vocational provider DV8 stating that 'institutions such as ours, where the proportion of vulnerable students is high, should receive a higher percentage of the overall fund'.</p> <p>The initial model with the available amount for the Hardship Fund (£30k in 2016/17 and £60k in 2017/18) allocated to the 'top 5' East Sussex providers, based on a share proportionate to previous demand is shown in Table 4.</p>
<p>4. The Authority was aware that Plumpton College was likely to be disproportionately impacted by the changes due to their location and transport infrastructure, compounded by the nature of their cohort and the proportion of their students receiving ESCC travel support. 14.5% of their students aged 16-19 were receiving travel support in 2014/15, compared with 9.9% for Sussex Coast and 2.3% for Sussex Downs College. Tables 2 and 3 demonstrate that although Sussex Coast and Sussex Downs have large numbers of young people from low income families, the majority of these live in the local community. The College responded in mid-September with the concerns included in Appendix 6.</p>	<p>The information available regarding the unique circumstances of Plumpton College and DV8 and their student intake, together with the detailed response from Plumpton, have prompted the promotion of a revised model. This model provides weighting to compensate for a higher level of risk as a result of the changes, by doubling the original Hardship Fund allocation for both Plumpton College and DV8.</p> <p>This would result in the share for each provider shown in Table 5, with Plumpton receiving £27k (against 2014/15 funding of £46k in 2014/15). The allocations for the remaining 3 FE colleges would be reduced as needed in proportion with their original share of the fund available.</p>

ESCC proposal / possible mitigation	Response / findings
5. Although a very small number of individuals (5, with an average cost of £1,015 per year) we also need to consider if or how we will support those currently being offered organised transport rather than bus or train passes or travel grants.	CSD to monitor potential impact on low income students with exceptionally difficult journeys to college.
6. CET suggested that some colleges may wish to consider pairing up to look into the potential of sharing some of their transport provision, as there may be some economy in doing so.	The following pairs have been contacted with the suggestion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plumpton / Sussex Downs (Lewes), • Bexhill and Sussex Coast College (and possibly DV8)

ESCC proposal / possible mitigation	Response / findings
FE Link Transport	
Proposed cessation of FE Link transport for a very small number of 16-19 year olds (non-means tested)	No comment was made by colleges on this proposal.

Table 1: List of all providers with 16-19 year old students receiving ESCC transport support (LIF) in 2014/15 academic year - presented on next page as landscape format

Table 2: 'Top 5' providers and proportion of their cohort receiving LIF travel support

Provider	Number of 16-19 year old students receiving ESCC travel support 2014/15	Total number of 16-19 year old students on roll	Number receiving support as a percentage
Sussex Downs College	81	3586	2.3%
Plumpton College	81	557	14.5%
Sussex Coast College	145	1465	9.9%
Bexhill College	50	1723	2.9%
DV8 Bexhill / Brighton	13	41	31.7%

Table 3: 'Top 5' providers and proportion of their cohort eligible for FSM in previous 6 years

Provider	Number of 16-19 year old students eligible for FSMever6* 2012/13	Total number of 16-19 year old students on roll	Number eligible for FSM as a percentage
Sussex Downs College	653	3658	17.9%
Plumpton College	77	423	18.2%
Sussex Coast College	486	1568	31.0%
Bexhill College	263	1723	15.3%
DV8 Bexhill / Brighton	15	33	45.5%

Table 4: 'Top 5' providers and proportionate share of the Hardship Fund

Provider	Total number of students	Total cost 2014/15	Proportion of total share	Year 1 HF allocation	Year 2 HF allocation
Sussex Downs College	149	£81,840	40.2%	£12,069	£24,138
Plumpton College	81	£46,058	22.6%	£6,792	£13,584
Sussex Coast College	77	£38,814	19.1%	£5,724	£11,448
Bexhill College	50	£30,400	14.9%	£4,483	£8,966
DV8 Bexhill / Brighton	13	£6,322	3.1%	£932	£1,865
Grand Total	370	£203,434	100.0%	£30,000	£60,000

Table 5: 'Top 5' providers and weighted share of the Hardship Fund

Provider	Total number of students	Total cost 2014/15	Weighted Proportion of total share	Year 1 HF allocation	Year 2 HF allocation
Sussex Downs College	149	£81,840	26.3%	£7,884	£15,768
Plumpton College	81	£46,058	45.3%	£13,584	£27,168
Sussex Coast College	77	£38,814	12.5%	£3,739	£7,478
Bexhill College	50	£30,400	9.8%	£2,928	£5,857
DV8 Bexhill / Brighton	13	£6,322	6.2%	£1,865	£3,729
Grand Total	370	£203,434	100.0%	£30,000	£60,000

Table 1: List of all providers with 16-19 year old students receiving ESCC transport support (LIF) in 2014/15 academic year

Provider	Bus tickets		Travel grants			Totals			
	Freedom Pass (£608)	B&H Bus ID (£290)	Band 1 (£300)	Band 2 (£450)	Band 3 (£600)	Total no.of students	Total cost 2014/15	As % of total budget	25% hardship fund Y2
ARK 6th Form at The Ridge	1	0	0	0	0	1	£608	0.25%	£152
Bennett Memorial Diocesan Sch	1	0	0	1	0	2	£1,058	0.43%	£265
Bexhill College	50	0	0	0	0	50	£30,400	12.47%	£7,600
BHASVIC	0	5	0	0	0	5	£1,450	0.60%	£363
BIMM	0	1	0	0	2	3	£1,490	0.61%	£373
Brighton Academy	0	0	0	0	1	1	£600	0.25%	£150
Cardinal Newman	0	3	0	0	0	3	£870	0.36%	£218
City College	0	36	1	1	0	38	£11,190	4.59%	£2,798
CSC H Heath	0	0	1	0	0	1	£300	0.12%	£75
DV8 Bexhill / Brighton	4	1	3	2	3	13	£6,322	2.59%	£1,581
EBNE Borough FC	0	0	0	0	1	1	£600	0.25%	£150
Hailsham Community College AT	1	0	0	0	0	1	£608	0.25%	£152
Heathfield Community College	3	0	0	0	0	3	£1,824	0.75%	£456
Homewood Sixth Form	1	0	0	0	0	1	£608	0.25%	£152
Northbrook College	0	0	0	0	2	2	£1,200	0.49%	£300
Norton Knatchbull	0	0	0	1	0	1	£450	0.18%	£113
Plumpton College	1	0	7	3	70	81	£46,058	18.90%	£11,515
Ringmer Community College	2	0	0	0	1	3	£1,816	0.75%	£454
Rye Studio School	2	0	0	0	1	3	£1,816	0.75%	£454
Sackville	0	0	1	0	0	1	£300	0.12%	£75
Shoreham Academy	0	0	0	0	1	1	£600	0.25%	£150
St Pauls	0	0	1	0	0	1	£300	0.12%	£75
Sussex Coast College	33	0	24	3	17	77	£38,814	15.93%	£9,704
Sussex Downs College	75	6	11	20	37	149	£81,840	33.58%	£20,460
The Judd	0	0	0	1	0	1	£450	0.18%	£113
Tonbridge Grammar	0	0	1	0	0	1	£300	0.12%	£75
Uckfield Community College	3	0	0	0	0	3	£1,824	0.75%	£456
Uplands Community College	1	0	0	0	0	1	£608	0.25%	£152
Varndean College	0	6	1	0	0	7	£2,040	0.84%	£510
West Kent College	0	0	0	1	10	11	£6,450	2.65%	£1,613
Not recorded	0	0	0	2	1	3	£1,500	0.62%	£375
Grand Total	178	58	51	35	147	469	£244,294	100.25%	£61,074

