

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 October 2015



Review of Home to School Transport Policy

Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive, and Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director of Children & Adult Services

Purpose of Report

1. To inform members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee of proposed Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings associated with Home to School Transport Policy proposals.

Background

2. At its meeting on 16 September the Cabinet considered a report setting out proposals to generate MTFP savings associated with the Home to School Transport Policy and agree to commence a consultation on the proposals before reporting back to Cabinet for final consideration.
3. A copy of the Cabinet report is attached to this report at Appendix 2.

Overview and Scrutiny Considerations

4. As part of the stakeholder consultation and engagement associated with policy changes of this nature, Overview and Scrutiny Committees are often invited to consider proposals and comment on them as part of this process.
5. Key considerations that Overview and Scrutiny may wish to consider include:-
 - Medium Term Financial Plan implications arising from the proposals including details of potential savings realised from the proposed changes;
 - Consultation and Engagement proposals including what is being consulted upon, who are to be consulted and the consultation dates.

We are consulting on three proposals which would remove the automatic entitlement to free home to school transport for students; who move house during exam year 10 and 11, Post 16 students who have no access to public transport and Post 16 pupils who cannot travel independently due to a medical condition and or disability. The proposals would retain a hardship fund to support those who are in financial need or have exceptional circumstances.

The consultation period will last between 30th September to 11th November 2015 and we will consult with young people, parents, Head teachers, College Principals, Parent Support Groups, and Disability Groups amongst others.

- Equality Impact Assessment issues identified in respect of the proposals.
6. The Strategic Manager, School Places and Admissions, Children and Adult Services will be in attendance and will provide members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a short powerpoint presentation to appraise members of the key considerations as mentioned above. Also in attendance will be a representative from Partnerships and Engagement team, ACE.

Recommendation

7. The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the information presented in this report and to comment on the proposals as part of the consultation in respect of Home to School Transport Policy.

Background Papers

- Cabinet Report - Review of Home to School Transport Policy – 16 September 2015

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – See attached Cabinet report

Staffing - See attached Cabinet report

Risk - See attached Cabinet report

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - See attached Cabinet report

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - See attached Cabinet report

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - See attached Cabinet report

Legal Implications - See attached Cabinet report