



Questionnaire

**Consultation on home-to-school
transport for all children**

Introduction

The Council currently funds home-to-school transport in certain circumstances. We are considering changing our home-to-school transport policy and would like to hear the public's views and ideas first.

Anyone who lives, works or studies in Kirklees is welcome to respond to this consultation, but it will be most relevant to the parents and carers of children / young people who are at school-age.

We expect this consultation will help us meet our Public Sector Equality Duty. You can find out more about this www.kirklees.gov.uk/equalityassessments

Other ways to get involved:

1. Complete the online questionnaire at:
www.kirklees.gov.uk/schooltransportsurvey

2. Attend a drop in session at:

Dewsbury Customer Service Centre
The Walsh Building, Town Hall Way,
Dewsbury WF12 8EE
20th September 2017
10am – noon

The Huddersfield Customer Service Centre
Civic Centre 3, Market Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2YZ
21st September 2017
2pm – 4pm

If you have any questions about this consultation, would like an easy-read version of the questionnaire or need help completing it, please call [01484 416607](tel:01484416607).

What happens next:

When we have completed the consultation the results will be available at www.kirklees.gov.uk/involve Results will be shared with Kirklees councillors to help them make decisions on the future of these services in December 2017.

This section asks for some details about you. Your answers will help us understand your circumstances and who you are thinking of when answering questions on our proposals in the next section. This information will help us to understand any differences in views between groups. Your responses are completely confidential and will not be used to identify you as an individual.

Are you completing this questionnaire... (Please tick all those that apply)

- ☐ as someone who **lives in Kirklees**
- ☐ as a **young person** (up to 16 years old) - **without** special educational needs or disability
- ☐ as a **young person** (up to 16 years old) - **with** special educational needs or disability
- ☐ as a **parent or carer** of a child (up to 16 years old) - **without** special educational needs or disability
- ☐ as a **parent or carer** of a child (up to 16 years old) - **with** special educational needs or disability
- ☐ as a **parent or carer** with a disability who is unable to take your child (up to 16 years old) to school
- ☐ as a teacher/headteacher/school governor / other education professional
- ☐ as a **Kirklees Council employee**
- ☐ in another capacity (please specify):

Yes

No

Do you or a family member receive free transport from home to school?

☐☐

What is your postcode? This will help us see if results vary in different areas.

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Home-to-school transport

We currently provide free travel arrangements for some children and young people to get to and from school. Some of these children are not deemed eligible or entitled to this transport support - the Council is not required by law to provide it.

This means that:

- We are spending more money than we have
- There is a potential for a lack of fairness
- It is not always clear to families what they are entitled to

You can find out more about our current policy by visiting the Council's School Transport webpage: www.gov.uk/free-school-transport

We are proposing to usually provide free home-to-school travel arrangements only where the law says we must. This would mean we fund free travel arrangements for children of compulsory school age, who are permanently residing within the Local Authority of Kirklees, and attending their nearest suitable school as defined by Kirklees Council, as follows:

- Children up to 8 years old who live more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school
- Children older than 8, who live more than 3 miles from their nearest suitable school
- Children who have no safe walking route to their nearest suitable school, regardless of the distance
- Children who are deemed eligible because of their special educational needs, disability or mobility, regardless of distance
- Some children in low income families

What we mean by low income families:

If you get the maximum Working Tax Credit or your children are entitled to free school meals, they'll get free travel arrangements if they're:

- Aged 8 to 11 and the nearest suitable school is at least 2 miles away
- Aged 11 to 16 and the school's 2 to 6 miles away - as long as there aren't 3 or more suitable schools nearer to home
- Aged 11 to 16 and the school's 2 to 15 miles away - if it's their nearest school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief

Further information on eligibility can be found on the Government's Free School Transport:

www.gov.uk/free-school-transport

or the full statutory guidance from the Department for Education:

www.gov.uk (search for "*Home to school travel and transport guidance*")

We will consider using our discretionary powers on a case-by-case basis to provide free or partially funded travel arrangements in exceptional circumstances.

This will mean that some children who currently receive free travel arrangements may no longer be deemed eligible for funding for that travel support.

If, following this consultation, we decide to make this change, it will start to take effect from September 2018. There may be a phased approach for some children who currently receive free travel arrangements.

We would like to understand what transport support you find most and least valuable so we can adjust our services accordingly. The following questions explore your support and how valuable you find it.

What transport support provided by Kirklees Council have you or a family member used to travel to/from school? (Please tick all those that apply)

- ☐ N/A
- ☐ Seat/space in a taxi or minibus
- ☐ Bus/train pass for use on public transport
- ☐ Boarding card for use on dedicated buses contracted by the Council (certain schools only)
- ☐ Funding to make your own travel arrangements at the equivalent cost of a bus/train pass or boarding card
- ☐ Independent Travel Training
- ☐ Mileage payment
- ☐ Other (please enter below)

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How valuable do you find each type of support you receive from the Council?

	N/A (I don't receive this service)	Not valuable	Partially valuable	Valuable	Very valuable	Extremely valuable
A Seat/space in taxi/minibus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus/train pass for Public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boarding card for contracted bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funding to make your own travel arrangements at the equivalent cost of a bus/train pass or boarding card	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Independent Travel Training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mileage payment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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If you find any of your support from the Council only partially valuable or not valuable, please tell us why below.

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If you find any of your support from the Council as valuable, very valuable or extremely valuable please tell us why below.

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Are you (or someone in your family) eligible to receive transport support from the Council?
For example: Getting to / from school by walking, cycling, public transport, or using your personal car/vehicle

☐ **I am eligible** (or someone in my family is eligible) to receive transport support from the Council, but I make my own transport arrangements *(please provide details below)*

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☐ **I am eligible** (or someone in my family is eligible) to receive transport support from the Council, and I already receive or have previously received transport support from the Council

☐ **I am not eligible** (and no-one in my family is eligible) to receive transport support from the Council

Your ideas

The Council wants to help people to be as independent as possible. We have less money with which to do this, but we are firmly committed to helping people live better lives.

Please use this space to tell us about any ideas you have which could help us do this achieve our objectives.

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Thank you for taking the time to share your views.

We are also consulting on three other services which may affect you and our family:

- **Short break** opportunities for parents and carers of children with additional and complex needs
- **Access to childcare and learning support** for 0-4 year olds with special educational needs or disabilities, and for school-age children with special educational needs or disabilities in out-of-school childcare
- **Transport** for children, young people and adults to support them in accessing Social Care within their communities, e.g. someone with a disability who goes to a day centre, or a disabled child on a Short Break

You can find out more about this consultation -

Online: www.kirklees.gov.uk/supporttransportdisability

Telephone: 01484 416607

Please return this questionnaire by 22 October 2017 to:

FREEPOST

Kirklees Council, Divisional Management Team
