

Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project/proposal EMCS05 T19 EIA Home to School Transport (HtST)
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Department Childrens Services
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Description of Service / Policy

Current transport arrangements support mainstream and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities children. Excluded children, social care children and some limited exceptions to policy are also supported with time limited free transport.

There is a statutory duty to transport for free, 8+ year old children that live more than 3 miles away and for all under 8s living 2 miles away from their nearest school. There is also enhanced entitlement for children eligible for free school meals or that need to travel on an unsafe route.

Non-statutory transport is also provided for some non-statutory school age children. Children attending education centres also access the travel service.

Geographical impact* All Hampshire

Description of proposed change

The intention is to undertake consultation with stakeholders on removing all discretionary elements of the current policy, which includes the service for children under five and post 16 students; providing for Year R children only when they reach statutory school age; and enforcing the increase from 2 to 3 miles on the 8th birthday. Transport provided to pupils attending education centres would be limited to those entitled under legislation. Also transport provided by way of an exception to policy may incur a charge. Other proposals would focus on more efficient service delivery and reducing exception to policy provision.

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

No specific consultation has been carried out on this proposal, however, the County Council carried out a major public consultation exercise over the Summer 2017 on a range of options for finding further budget savings including increasing council tax, using reserves and making changes to the way in which services are delivered, which may mean reducing or withdrawing certain services. The outcome of this consultation will be presented to Cabinet in October 2017.

When decisions are made to pursue the options, further specific consultation will be carried out with stakeholders on the detailed options where required.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Statutory considerations	Impact
Age	Medium

Impact	Some children in the education system, currently entitled under discretionary policy elements would, in future, not receive a free home to school transport service based on their ages, under 4, under 5, those having their 8th birthday and Post 16.
Mitigation	A robust service to consider the exceptional circumstances of any case will look at each case to decide if it merits support as an exception to policy.
Disability Impact	Medium Some children, currently entitled under discretionary policy elements would, in future, not receive a free home to school transport service.
Mitigation	A robust service to consider the exceptional circumstances of any case will look at each case to decide if it merits support as an exception to policy.
Sexual Orientation	Neutral
Race	Neutral
Religion and Belief	Neutral
Gender Reassignment	Neutral
Gender	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral

Other policy considerations

Poverty Impact	Low There is enhanced support for children in receipt of Free School Meals. However, for those families with an income just above that threshold the exceptional consideration would need to take account of their ability to pay for any exceptional transport service.
Rurality	Neutral

Additional Information