



Surrey County Council  
Woodhatch Place  
11 Cockshot Hill

10 March 2025

## Home to School Post 16 Statement

### Overview

Surrey County Council is consulting with young people of sixth form age, their parents, and other stakeholders on the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement before it is finalised.

The Post-16 Transport Policy Statement outlines the support available through the Council, schools, colleges, and transport operators to assist young people of sixth form age and adult learners aged 19+ with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan in getting to school and college. It includes information about:

- The Council's home-to-school/college transport policy for learners with an EHC plan;
- Contributions and concessions;
- Contact details for schools and colleges.

### Why your views matter

The purpose of this consultation is an opportunity for your voice to be heard and help us in shaping this policy. We are seeking feedback from young people, parents/carers, schools and other interested parties.

While the core elements of the Council's support policy for young people remain consistent, we are proposing the introduction of procedural updates to ensure continued eligibility and effectiveness. These updates would include adjustments to travel costs for the 2025/26 academic year and revised contact details.

Please read the draft policy statement in the **'related'** section below before completing the online survey.

## Closing date

The consultation starts on Monday 10 March 2025 and runs for a period of **28 working days** until 23:59 on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**.

## Privacy statement

Any personal information you choose to provide will be kept confidential and used in accordance with our [privacy notice](#).

## Accessibility

You can find our accessibility policy [here](#). Alternative versions of the survey can be found in the related documents section at the bottom of this page. If you require the survey in a different format, language or in hard copy (including a stamped addressed envelope to return the survey), please contact Surrey County Council as follows:

- Telephone: 0300 200 1004 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays)
- Textphone (via Relay UK): 18001 0300 200 1004
- Text (SMS): 07860 053 465
- British Sign Language: [Sign Language Video Relay Service](#)
- Email: [contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk)

## Proposed Changes:

- 1. Opening Page:**
  - a. Current Statement:** "Local authorities do not have to provide free or subsidised post-16 travel support but do have a duty to review, prepare and publish an annual transport policy by the 31st of May each year."
  - b. Proposed Change:** This paragraph has been moved to the beginning of the statement, whereas it was previously located in the third paragraph.
- 2. Assessment of Eligibility:**
  - a. Additional Text:** "If there is a family member or carer who is willing and able to transport the student and if not, why it would not be possible or reasonable for them to do so. Circumstances such as a parent/carer's work schedule or having multiple children attending different schools are generally not considered sufficient reasons for a parent/carer being unable to facilitate their young person's journey."
  - b. Rationale:** This addition helps clarify the criteria for evaluating applications, specifically whether the need for travel assistance has been demonstrated.
- 3. Post-16 Travel Assistance Policy Sub header:**
  - a. Current Sub header:** "Post-16 travel assistance policy"
  - b. Proposed Change:** Reworded to "What Support can Surrey County Council offer"
  - c. Rationale:** To provide clearer information about the support available.
- 4. Annual Reapplication Requirement:**
  - a. Current Statement:** "Where travel assistance has been demonstrated as necessary, the Council will offer support to children and young people to travel to their

- educational placement. If entitled, travel assistance may be in place until the end of a course, in which case an application will not be required for each year of study."
- b. **Proposed Change:** "Where travel assistance is demonstrated as necessary, the Council will provide support to children and young people for their educational placement. If eligible, this assistance will be available for the academic year, and all pupils must reapply annually."
  - c. **Rationale:** To ensure that eligibility is reassessed annually as the policy is published annually, reflecting any changes in personal circumstances.
5. **Eligibility Criteria:**
- a. **Current Statement:** "If the Council agrees that a student is eligible for assistance,"
  - b. **Proposed Change:** "If the Council is satisfied that a child/young person would be prevented from accessing education without support, the authority..."
  - c. **Rationale:** To emphasise the necessity of demonstrating the need for support.
6. **Concessionary Seats:**
- a. **Additional Bullet Point:** "Applying for a concessionary seat on an existing service"
  - b. **Rationale:** To provide an additional option for travel assistance.
7. **Contracted Travel Assistance:**
- a. **Current Statement:** "Only in exceptional circumstances connected to an individual's learning difficulties and/or disabilities and where no alternative mode of travel is available, will taxi travel be considered."
  - b. **Proposed Change:** " If there are exceptional circumstances where the above options cannot be utilised to facilitate attendance, families can make representations to the Council via the travel assistance appeal process"
  - c. **Rationale:** To clarify the conditions under which contracted travel assistance is provided and ensure that it is clear all forms of contracted assistance will be considered.
8. **Financial Contribution:**
- a. **Current Statement:** "Where it is agreed that travel assistance is required, we will ask students aged 16-19 or their parents/carers to contribute towards the transport costs. For the academic year 2024/2025 the contribution will be as follows:"
  - b. **Proposed Change:** "Where it has been demonstrated that a child/young person would be prevented from accessing education without support, and the authority agrees to provide a contracted service in the form of a taxi or minibus, we will ask students aged 16-19 or their parents/carers to contribute towards the transport costs. For the academic year 2025/2026 the contribution will be as follows:"
  - c. **Rationale:** To ensure that contributions are based on demonstrated need.
9. **Payment Dates:**
- a. **Additional Information:** "Payment Dates are: 31 July 2025 for Autumn term, 30 November 2025 for Spring term, 28 February 2026 for Summer term"
  - b. **Rationale:** To provide clear payment deadlines.
10. **16 to 19 Bursary Fund:**
- a. **Additional Information:** "Parents/carers are advised to liaise with the educational setting to apply for a bursary on behalf of the pupil."
  - b. **Rationale:** To guide parents/carers on how to apply for additional financial support.
11. **Transport Standards:**
- a. **New Subheading:** "Transport standards"

- b. **Rationale:** To distinguish information regarding the provision of transport for part-time hours.

**12. Provision of Transport for Part-Time Hours:**

- a. **Current Statement:** "When travel assistance is provided, it will only be provided at the start and end of the school/college day. For example, in a Further Education college setting, a shuttle bus service may be used, rather than individual taxi services. Pupils may have to wait for either the next shuttle bus or until the end of the school/college day to access homeward travel."
- b. **Proposed change:** When contracted travel assistance is provided, it will only be provided at the start and end of the school/college day. Pupils may have to seek alternative travel arrangements such as public transport or wait until the end of the school/college day to access homeward travel.
- c. **Rationale:** To clarify the conditions under which transport assistance is provided.

**13. Post-16 Independent Travel Allowance (ITA):**

- a. **Current Statement:** "A Post-16 Independent Travel Allowance (Post-16 ITA) in the form of mileage reimbursement may be offered to parents/carers of all pupils who are entitled to travel assistance and aged 16 to 19 where this offers best value for money to the county council."
- b. **Proposed Change:** "A Post-16 Independent Travel Allowance (Post-16 ITA) in the form of mileage reimbursement may be provided to parents/carers of pupils who have demonstrated a need for assistance aged 16 to 19 where this offers best value for money to the county council."
- c. **Rationale:** To ensure that the allowance is based on demonstrated need.