

Cabinet – 30 April 2014

Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2014/15

Portfolio:	Councillor R. Andrew – Children's Services
Service:	Walsall Children's Services Assisted Transport Service
Wards:	All
Key decision:	Yes
Forward plan:	Yes

1. Summary

- 1.2 The Council is required to publish an updated Post-16 Transport Policy Statement by 31 May 2014.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2014/15 to enable the council to fulfil its duty under the 1996 Education Act to publish such a statement by 31 May each year.

3. Report detail

- 3.1 The Council is required to publish an updated Post-16 Transport Policy Statement by 31 May each year. This is a statutory duty under the 1996 Education Act. There are only minor changes to last years' policy, e.g. bus pass price changes
- 3.2 The intended outcomes are to ensure the policy is fit for purpose, incorporates current rates and enables the Council to ensure that transport arrangements are in place and signpost arrangements for financial assistance to facilitate young people's participation in education or training.
- 3.3 The main priorities are to support vulnerable young people, to encourage independent travel, to reduce wastage and to promote sustainable travel.
- 3.4 The policy affects Post-16 pupils from the Borough of Walsall attending education or training. The detailed information within the statement has been checked to ensure that current rates for all transport services are included.

Raising the Participation Age requires young people to remain in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 and this may have a marginal impact on budgets and will be kept under review.

4. Council priorities

The Policy contributes towards the priorities of sustainability and educational attainment set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy “the Walsall Plan”:

- Improving learning and life chances for children and young people - Local authorities have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the authority considers necessary to make to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.
- The legislation recognises that a local response to transport arrangements is important in enabling young people’s participation in education and training. A local approach allows local circumstances to be taken into account. The legislation therefore gives local authorities the discretion to determine what transport and financial support is necessary to facilitate young people’s attendance.
- Local authorities need to satisfy themselves that they have made the transport arrangements or arrangements for financial assistance necessary to facilitate young people’s participation in education or training.
- The transport policy statement should be clear and provide sufficient detail about the transport arrangements and support provided to inform young people in making their post-16 choices.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 Local authorities have a duty under the Education Act 1996 to publish a transport policy statement each year setting out how they will support 16-18 year olds, either through transport arrangements or financial assistance with transport, to access education and training. Statutory Guidance requires this to be published by May 31st each year.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 Raising the Participation Age may have a marginal impact on budgets and this will be kept under review.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 Local authorities have a duty under the Education Act 1996 to publish a transport policy statement each year setting out how they will support 16-18 year olds, either through transport arrangements or financial assistance with transport, to access education and training. Statutory Guidance requires this to be published by 31 May each year.

8. Property implications

There are no property implications as a direct result of this report.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

- 9.1 The Council has a statutory duty to promote health and wellbeing and this policy statement will support this.
- It will enable all children and young people to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives by signposting access to concessionary transport for young people
 - The main priorities are to support vulnerable young people, to encourage independent travel, to reduce wastage and to promote sustainable travel.
 - There is no negative impact on protected groups. The policy supports vulnerable young people in education or training post 16

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1 There are no direct staffing implications as a direct result of this report.

11. Equality implications

- 11.1 This policy assists children in having the right to access education regardless of the ethnicity, culture or religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties or disabilities, gender or ability. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out to ensure that the policy addresses the needs of all groups.

12. Consultation

- 12.1 Schools including governing bodies and young people, through schools and Integrated Young Peoples Support Services, have been consulted and further consultation will take place annually as part of the required review process to update and publish a Transport Statement on an annual basis.

Background papers

None

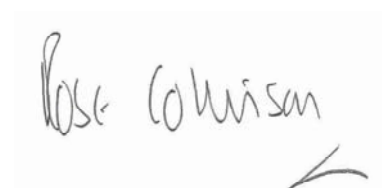
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Signatures



Signed:
Rose Collinson
Executive Director
22 April 2014



Signed:
Councillor R Andrew
Portfolio holder
22 April 2014

Appendix 1
Post 16 Transport Policy Statement

Transport policy statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over.

Department Responsible: Walsall Children's Services Commissioning Team

1. Policy Statement 2014/15

Walsall Council will support young people to access Post- 16 education according to the policy set out below. The main priorities are to support vulnerable young people, to encourage independent travel, to reduce wastage and to promote sustainable travel. Students who wish to apply for assistance may obtain concessions through the local authority or via Centro or National Express West Midlands and their education provider. Through on-going social and independence training, very few young people who continue their education beyond 16 years of age will require assistance with transport. Where transport assistance is provided by Walsall Council SEN transport, it will continue until the end of the academic year in which a young person reaches the age of 19 years, or until they finish their course of study, providing they are attending the nearest appropriate school/college/training provider, the course is full time and they began their course on or before their 19th birthday.

Walsall Council has developed an Active Sustainable and Road Safety programme (A*Stars) which encourages modal shift and increased road safety awareness. As part of this programme schools will be encouraged to adopt an action plan to capture initiatives throughout the academic year. Specific initiatives are also available for secondary schools including Drive 2 Arrive for pre and new young drivers and the use of mobile phones whilst crossing the road. There is also further advance cycle training available. Further initiatives covering post 16 students at secondary schools will be available as part of the 2014/15 A*Stars programme. This information will be published on the A*Stars website: www.astarswalsall.co.uk

This policy statement will be updated in 2015 to reflect changes which apply for the academic year 2015/16.

2. Support available:

- **discounts, subsidies, passes or travel cards available for learners aged 16–18.**
- **times during the day learners can use their pass or obtain concessionary fares**

In the West Midlands there is an extensive public transport system and for less than daily attendance there is the Ring and Ride facility which may be particularly suitable for students with disabilities.

Integrated Young Peoples Support Services (Prospects Information Advice and Guidance)

IYPSS (Prospects IAG) has internet access available in the Station Street drop- in centre for young people to use to search for transport links; support can be provided to access the websites.

In cases of severe financial hardship IYPSS (Prospects IAG) may provide young people with bus tokens to access the Connexions Centre, training and education providers and employers for the purpose of attending interviews.

During a young person's final year at school, the IYPSS will carry out an assessment **(Learning Difficulty Assessment)** of each young person who has a "Statement of Special

Educational Need" and for those students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities who will need additional support when they go on to further education or training. This assessment is used to produce a "Learner Support Plan" known in Walsall as the Moving Forward Plan (Section 139A) which outlines the support that a young person will require to access that provision and should include any transport support needed.

Further details can be obtained on the following website:

<http://www.connexionswalsall.co.uk/>

Address : Walsall Connexions Centre: 30 Station Street, Walsall WS2 9JZ

Telephone: 01922 636333 or on Facebook: search Connexions Walsall

Government Funded 16 to 19 Bursary Fund

Young people who need some financial support to help them stay in education or training after 16 can apply to their school, college or training provider for the 16 -19 Bursary Fund.

Those most in need will be eligible for a bursary of £1200* a year. This includes young people in care, care leavers, young people receiving income support or universal credit and disabled young people receiving both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance. Young people eligible for income support will include some teenage parents, young people estranged from their families and those whose parents have died.

Other students facing financial difficulties may also be able to claim a bursary to help with the costs of transport, food, equipment or other course related costs. You have to apply directly to your school, college or training provider for a bursary. In most cases they decide on the amount you could receive, when it is paid and what conditions they might attach.

For advice speak to student support services or your tutor, or go to:

www.direct.gov/16-19bursary

**£1200 maximum bursary is correct at March 2014, but may be subject to change by the Education Funding Agency.*

Non-employed Apprenticeship students

The learning provider is responsible for ensuring that non-employed apprentices have reasonable expenses met in full where they are needed to overcome barriers to learning. These may include the costs of travelling to or from the place of learning or work placement. Please contact your learning provider for more information.

Care to Learn (C2L)

Can help pay for childcare and travel costs for learners aged 19 and under at the start of their course, your learning provider should be able to help with applications. Further details are available at www.gov.uk/care-to-learn

Students with Special Educational Needs

If the Council undertakes to provide transport for a student with specific learning difficulties or disabilities there is no cost to the student.

BUSFORUS

BUSFORUS.co.uk is a mobile website providing detailed information on all UK bus services and is specifically targeted at young people. The site is also accessible by Smartphone and tablet devices, uses interactive maps and GPS technologies to match users to their nearest bus stops, operators, timetables and services.

Public Transport Assistance (Centro)

All prices quoted are correct March 2014

Swift is the new, smart way to travel on Public Transport in the West Midlands. It provides cashless travel across the Network West Midlands area. You select how, when or where you

pay for your travel so whether you want to load it with Pay-As-You-Go credit or a season ticket you just keep topping up the same card. There is a new 16-18 Photocard online application process. It costs £10.00 for the whole academic year and entitles you to buy:

- Child cash fares for travel to and from your school or college only.
- Child season tickets, valid for one week, four weeks or a term which can be used at anytime, seven days a week
- Monthly child Direct Debit tickets - the best value option.

Child Term tickets and Direct Debit tickets can be bought and used without a valid 16-18 Photocard during **August and September**.

16-18 Photocard Bus, Metro and Train

The 16-18 photocard allows students in full time education to purchase child rate fares, child season tickets and monthly child direct debit tickets. To apply for the photocard you need to apply online at www.networkwestmidlands.co.uk

You are eligible for a 16-18 photocard if you are:

- 16 or over, but under 18 years of age on September 1 of the current academic year.
- In full-time education, completing a minimum of 12 hours per week and do not receive any payment associated with this course.
- Live in a household where Council tax is payable to either: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton Council.

You can get your 16-18 photocard by obtaining a Unique Validation Code (UVC) leaflet from your school or college in September and apply on-line. Without this UVC code you will not be able to apply for your 16-18 Photocard.

All bus passes below allow unlimited travel on all Network West Midlands buses.

Network Bus Options

One Week - £9.20
Four Week - £31.00
Regional Term Pass - £94.50

Network Bus and Metro options

One Week – £12.60
Four Week - £41.75
Regional Term Pass - £112.50

Network Bus , Metro and Train options – These allow travel on all five zones

One Week - £34.50
Four Week - £50.50
Term Network - £128.00

Monthly Direct Debit

Bus and Metro all zones - £32.00
Bus , Metro and Train - £34.50
Regional Bus only - £26.00

Regional bus passes are valid for one term only. If you require travel for the whole academic year you will need to purchase the ticket three times throughout the year. More information about the above tickets and the interactive zones map can be found on www.networkwestmidlands.co.uk and search for 16-18 photocard.

Student Black Country Fare saver

The fare saver is valid on all West Midland buses in the Black Country area. It is valid all day, seven days a week and is available to students who are not entitled to a 16-18 photocard but are still in full time education. One term - £122.00

The network student ticket

You can buy a student ticket if you're over 18 and in full-time education.
Or 16-18 and in full time education and not eligible for the West Midlands 16-18 Photocard
Tickets are valid for one term and can be used as many times as you like.
If you're travelling from outside the West Midlands you can pay a supplement to cover any additional rail travel.


Students can travel with two types of ticket

All Buses Plus Rail Zones 1 and 2

For all buses* in the Network West Midlands area plus rail zones 1 and 2 - £195.00

All Buses Plus all Rail Zones and the Metro

For all buses* in the Network West Midlands area plus all rail zones and Metro travel -£242.00

*Accepted on bus services of operators carrying the  bus accepted sign.

Save up to £14.00 a month on a child bus, train or Metro travel pass if you pay by direct debit.

You will need: proof you're in full time education & 2 passport photos (or a jpg passport style photo if you wish to buy online)

- Buy online now at <http://nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/>
- Buy at one of the [Travel Card & Information Shops](#)
- Also available from selected National Express West Midlands Travel Card Agents

16-18 Photocard and NX West Midlands Scholar's Ticket

Scholar's tickets are not available for retail sale but may be provided for those students with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities from the LA, and are only valid on Travel West Midlands services. Valid Monday to Friday term time only and journeys to/from the school or college only. From start of daytime services to before 0930 and from 1530 to before 1800 and, if in connection with the school or college curriculum, any time up to 2215.

Centro – WMPTE Free Travel Pass

Centro organizes travel concessions for visually impaired and people with certain eligible disabilities. It is available to all age groups 5 upwards providing they are a permanent resident in the West Midlands. A free permit is provided for use on bus, rail and Midland Metro services valid at the following times:

Mondays to Fridays 0930hrs to 2300

Weekends and Bank Holidays anytime. There are also 'add-on' tickets that can be purchased to allow pre 0930 weekday travel.

The Black Country fare saver, the term network passes and the regional travel card are also available to students 18 and over in full time education (minimum of 12 hours).

3. Support available to learners who reach 19 whilst continuing on a course

Where transport or bus pass is provided by Walsall Council, it will continue until the end of the school year in which a young person reaches the age of 19 years, or until they finish their course of study providing they are attending the nearest appropriate school/college, the course is full time and they began their course on or before their 19th birthday. Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities who have a section 139a assessment (Moving Forward Plan) and who start on a course before their 19th birthday will continue to receive transport support or help with independent travel until they are 24 or until that course ends; whichever is the sooner.

4. Learners will be assessed to see if they are eligible for support

For pupils who had a statement of special education needs at the age of 16, Walsall Children's Services Special Needs Team will assess the transport needs of a student continuing in full time education.

SEN/Disability transport - Council provides either taxi or bus pass, depending on the student's ability to use public transport. Students considered are those for whom a statement of SEN was maintained prior to age 16 and for attendance at an approved institution. The decision on the student's ability to use public transport is made jointly with the parents and college, school or training provider concerned.

16-19 Bursary Fund – Students most in need will be eligible to receive a bursary of £1200 a year. This group includes:

- People in care
- Care leavers
- People claiming income support or universal credit
- Disabled young people who receive Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance

Schools, colleges and training providers are able to award smaller bursaries to any student who faces genuine financial barriers staying on in education and training to help with transport, books, food and equipment.

5. What help is available for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including those over 19 or learners facing other difficulties in following their courses?

Walsall Council provides free bus passes for 16 to 19 year old pupils with a statement of educational needs who meet the eligibility criteria attending maintained schools. These are intended to enable the students to complete their courses and to develop independence skills. Learners with LDD who have a section 139a assessment (Moving Forward Plan) and who start on a course before their 19th birthday will continue to receive transport support or help with independent travel until they are 24 or until that course ends; whichever is the sooner.

6. Mobility/independence training for learners who face difficulty with transport.

Walsall Special Schools and colleges provide independence training for their students as appropriate to their individual needs.

<p>7. When should learners start to apply for transport support?</p> <p>16-19 Bursary – you should discuss this with your learning provider in the term leading up to the start of your course.</p> <p>Public Transport Assistance – Applications for 16-18 Photocard are only available from your new school or college, you will not be able to apply for one until you enrol. Term tickets can normally be purchased in September and can be used without a Photocard until 30th September.</p> <p>Pupils with a statement of special educational needs do not need to apply for transport support themselves, as when they receive their statement Walsall Children's Services Special Needs Team decide whether transport provision is required and if appropriate issue a request to the Planning, Admissions and Transport team. Transport requirements are reassessed as appropriate during transition planning.</p>
<p>8. What help can learners apply for if they need to travel to a course that is beyond your LA area?</p> <p>In all cases the LA will only consider transport support if the learner is undertaking a qualification that could not be provided at a nearer establishment: regardless of modules. Concessions detailed in this policy apply to journeys within the West Midlands boundary area and no further assistance is offered.</p> <p>The LA will provide appropriate assistance for those students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities who are attending a course outside the Walsall area if this is the nearest appropriate learning provider that can provide the qualification.</p> <p>Students who need to travel to a course outside the borough of Walsall should contact Walsall Children's Services.</p>
<p>9. What help is available for learners who attend a further education institution which is beyond daily travelling distance and they need to stay away?</p> <p>Some pupils with a statement of special educational needs attend out of borough educational provision. The needs of these pupils are assessed by the Special Needs Team to determine the level of support required which is then funded by Walsall Children's Services.</p>
<p>10. Please provide information about all points of contact for learners seeking transport support, e.g. LA/college, bus company contact. Please include any websites and e-mail addresses.</p> <p>If you have a complaint or wish to lodge an appeal against a decision relating to transport then in the first instance you should follow your Learning Provider's complaints/appeals procedure.</p> <p>If your transport has been provided by the Local Authority you should write to:</p> <p>The Transport Manager Walsall Children's Services Civic Centre Darwall Street Walsall WS1 1TP Telephone: 01922 650367</p> <p>Your complaint will be investigated by a reviewing officer and you will be notified of the outcome. The notification will include details of how to lodge an appeal though the Council should you wish to do so.</p>

Further Useful Contacts

<http://www.connexionswalsall.co.uk/> or www.Prospects.co.uk
Walsall Connexions Centre: 30 Station Street, Walsall WS2 9JZ
Telephone: 01922 636333 or on Facebook: search Connexions Walsall

UCASProgress.com for course and provider information including schools, colleges and training providers

Centro
16 Summer Lane
Birmingham
B19 3SD
Telephone: 0845 303 6760
www.networkwestmidlands.com

Travel West Midlands
Telephone: 0121 254 7272
Email: travelcare@travelwm.co.uk
www.travelwm.co.uk

BUSFORUS.co.uk