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Travel assistance for young people with an education health and care plan / statement of special educational needs

Age group: 16 -25

September 2016



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#### 1. Introduction

This policy explains Surrey County Council's arrangements for providing travel assistance for young people aged 16-25 years who have a statement of special educational needs (SSEN) or an education, health and care plan (EHCP).

Many young people with a SSEN or EHCP are able to walk to their education provider or travel independently using public transport. However, we recognise that some young people will require more support. This policy explains when assistance can be provided and the different types of travel arrangements available, including the option for a parental travel allowance which may offer greater flexibility for young people who qualify and their families.

A young person's individual needs will determine the support they are given and evidence will be taken from a range of professionals and from parents / carers.

We will ensure that young people are assessed on an individual basis and that any decision about travel assistance is based on individual needs

# Qualifying for SEND travel assistance

#### 2.1 To be considered under this policy a young person must.

- a. be resident in Surrey County, and
- b. continue to hold a EHCP/SSEN, and
- c. be under 25 years of age on 31st August of the academic year prior to when they start their course, and
- d. be attending a qualifying education provider (see section 3.1), and
- e. be attending the nearest appropriate education provider unless agreed otherwise and stipulated within the EHCP or SSEN, and
- f. be attending a full-time, non-advanced, publicly funded course of at least one academic year's duration (a full time student is one enrolled on a programme of at least 540 study hours), and
- g. not be in receipt of help towards their travel costs from any other source (with the exception of Surrey's Student Fare Card), and
- h. be attending an education provider that is more than three miles walking distance from their home, unless the young person's disability impacts on their ability to walk this distance or to walk the route safely (see section 2.4), or if the walking route is deemed unsafe (see section 3.4).

There is a separate policy for children and young people under 16 years old with special educational needs and disabilities

http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/ data/assets/pdf file/0011/64973/Transport Policy 4-16 FINAL 2016-17 V1.pdf

#### 2.2 General principles

- a. We will consider applications for travel assistance to an education provider for a young person in receipt of a SSEN or an EHCP.
- b. We accept responsibility for travel arrangements between the young person's main residence and the nearest appropriate education provider. Where a young person has more than one address, travel assistance to the education provider will be based on the residence where the young person habitually resides.
- c. When deciding whether to offer travel assistance we will consider factors including statutory walking distances; whether the young person is in receipt of the 16 to 19 vulnerable bursary; whether the young person's family is in receipt of the maximum working tax credit and/or meets the eligibility criteria for free school meals; and recommendations from appropriate medical professionals in relation to the young person's special educational needs or disabilities. We will ensure that young people are assessed on an individual basis and any decision about travel assistance will be based on individual needs (see sections 2.3 and 2.4 for details).
- d. We appreciate that many families prefer to make their own arrangements to get their voung person to the education provider rather than requesting a taxi and we have an offer to enable this to happen (See section 4.4).
- e. We also encourage parents and carers to work with the local authority to enable their young person with special educational needs or disabilities to travel independently if and when appropriate.
- f. An application for transport assistance should be made annually.

Many young people who have a SSEN or EHCP are able to travel independently using public transport. Those that can are expected to take advantage of existing schemes as follows:

- Surrey Student Fare Card reduced rate travel to the education provider for young people aged 16-18. For more information and to apply online go to www.surreycc.gov.uk/studentfarecards
- **Disabled person's bus pass** travel anywhere in Surrey, at any time, for free. If you have difficulty travelling you could be entitled to travel with a companion. Please go to www.surreycc.gov.uk/freebuspass for information on eligibility and how to apply.

We recognise, however, that some young people with specific needs will require more support, often for an agreed period of time. Some young people with special educational needs and disabilities may not be able to walk or travel by public transport to their education provider because of their particular needs or lack of accessibility.

#### 2.3 Surrey County Council will provide travel assistance as set out below.

NB: Please refer to section 2.4 for information about how individual needs will be considered.

#### Non-residential education providers

We will provide travel assistance where a young person attends their nearest appropriate qualifying education provider when this provider is more than three miles walking distance from the young person's home, and provided the young person fulfils all other criteria as outlined in sections 2.1 and 2.2 above, unless the young person's disability impacts on their ability to walk this distance or to walk the route safely (see section 2.4), or if the walking route is deemed unsafe (see section 3.4).

#### Young people in residential educational provision

Where young people are placed at a residential education provider, Surrey County Council will normally provide one return journey at the start and end of the placement timeframe e.g. 52 weeks; termly, or as otherwise agreed in the young person's EHCP/SSEN. Any requests for travel assistance outside of the placement timeframe will be considered but must be made in advance and will be considered on a case by case basis by the Area Special Needs Manager / Post 16 Area Lead / Transition and advice may be sought from the residential education provider

#### Young people aged 19-25 with social care needs

For those young people aged 19-25 who are eligible for a social care package and in need of travel assistance in order to access their education provider, Surrey County Council's transition team may provide support to access appropriate transport, wherever possible and appropriate.

For more information, families are advised to speak to their allocated worker or alternatively contact the duty officer on 01276 800270.

## 2.4 We will ensure that young people are assessed on an individual basis and any decision about travel assistance will be based on individual needs.

A young person's individual needs will determine the support they are given and evidence will be taken from a range of professionals and from parents or carers.

vidence of a young person's disability and/or learning difficulty and why it would cause them to require additional support, must be provided from a relevant consultant.

Where relevant, a risk assessment will be carried out before the young person begins travelling to make sure that the transport provided meets their needs. This will include a detailed breakdown of the young person's needs, explaining how they will be kept safe while travelling, and will include whether an escort will be required and any medical protocols that may be needed.

We are **not** normally able to take the following factors into account as criteria for awarding travel assistance to an education provider:

- a. parents'/carers' work or other commitments
- b. attendance by siblings at other schools/colleges
- c. a work experience placement
- d. an address other than the home address, including childminders
- e. a journey from one educational establishment to another
- f. ad hoc visits to other education providers
- g. short break provision/respite care please discuss with your social worker
- h. out of hours clubs (e.g. breakfast, after school activity)
- link courses
- j. any educational provision planned over weekends or bank holidays
- k. collection from the education provider due to illness
- I. parental attendance at meetings
- m. part-time timetables or to meet examination timetables

However, please note that we will consider each young person and their family's circumstances individually before making a decision. Please refer to section 3.7 on 'Exceptional Needs' for further information.

## 3. Further information about qualifying for travel assistance

## 3.1 Qualifying education providers

To be eligible for travel assistance under this policy, young people must be attending a qualifying education provider. The qualifying education provider must be educationally appropriate to the age, ability and aptitude of the young person, and any special educational needs that the young person may have, as outlined in the young person's SSEN/EHCP. Qualifying educational providers may be one of:

- a publicly funded school (including an academy)
- a publicly funded further education institution
- a local authority maintained or assisted institution providing further education
- an establishment in direct receipt of government funding, for example independent specialist providers for learners with learning difficulties and /or disabilities
- a learning provider that is funded by the local authority to deliver accredited programmes of learning which lead to a positive outcome (this could include colleges, charities and private learning providers)

## 3.2 Nearest appropriate education provider

When determining which qualifying education provider is the nearest appropriate to the home address, distances will be measured by the shortest straight line distance between home and education provider.

Where a parent/carer/young person expresses a preference for an education provider further away than that which is considered to be the nearest appropriate provider and this is agreed within the EHCP, transport assistance will not normally be offered to that education provider unless otherwise stated.

#### 3.2 Measuring the distance for transport between home and education provider

When establishing whether the nearest appropriate education provider is within statutory walking distance, the distance between home and the education provider will be measured by the shortest available safe walking route following recognised public footpaths. Where the school is not within statutory walking distance, the distance for travel assistance will be measured by the shortest available road route. Statutory walking distance is 3 miles for children and young people over 8 years old.

Assistance will not normally be awarded if a house move results in statutory walking distance being exceeded. However, special considerations may be given as a result of an enforced council move. Evidence of an enforced permanent or temporary council move must be provided.

#### 3.4 Route safety

Iny queries regarding the safety of a route will be assessed by a Community Travel Advisor from the Safer Travel Team in line with Surrey County Council's Risk Assessment Procedure at Highway Sites.

Factors to be taken into consideration include the age and ability of the young person, the width of the roads, the existence of pavements, visibility, the speed and volume of traffic, the existence or otherwise of lighting and the condition of the route at different times of the year. Each case will be considered on its own merits on consideration of all the risks and the existence of any one negative factor will not automatically deem the route to be unsafe.

If measures are subsequently introduced which make a route safe which was previously assessed as unsafe then the shortest walking distance will be reassessed for any affected young people and transport may be withdrawn if the walking distance falls below the distance threshold appropriate to the age and ability of the young person.

#### 3.5 Changes in circumstances during the relevant academic year

Once eligibility has been confirmed, young people will be assumed to be eligible for the remainder of the academic year (September to July). It is the parents'/carers'/young person's responsibility to inform their SEND case worker if a young person has a change of circumstances at any time that might affect their eligibility for travel assistance, such as a change of address, course, institution, or the young person leaving the education provider. The SEND case worker must be notified immediately in writing. The young person's eligibility will be reassessed where there is still a need for travel assistance.

Assistance with travel in these circumstances will normally only be agreed for the minimum time required to complete the course. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, Surrey County Council would not expect to assist with repeat years. However, an application form must be completed for each year of the course and support will not be renewed automatically.

#### 3.6 Moving out of Surrey

If a young person moves out of the administrative area of Surrey County Council, they will have their transport assistance withdrawn. Responsibility for travel will rest with the local authority in whose area the young person now lives.

## 3.7 Exceptional needs

Where parents/carers/young people consider that exceptional needs apply to their application for travel assistance, they are asked to complete a Home to School/ Education Provider Transport – Exceptional Needs form (available from the SEND Case Worker).

Exceptional needs might include, *but are not limited to*, health needs/disability/circumstances affecting the young person's sibling(s) or other close family members who are dependent upon the young person's parents/carers; exceptional financial difficulties, other factors that are likely to significantly impact on the parents'/carers' ability to meet their responsibilities in connection with transporting the young person to an education provider. Surrey County Council may require appropriate verification of any information which is materially relevant to its decision.

If travel assistance is agreed based on exceptional needs, the decision will be reviewed termly or at other intervals as specified by Surrey County Council. Parents/carers/young people will be expected to provide updated benefits or other information if requested, and if this is not provided, Surrey County Council reserves the right to withdraw the travel assistance.

#### 3.8 Medical conditions - young person or parent/carer

- a. Travel assistance may be provided within statutory walking distances if written evidence from an appropriate medical professional, e.g. hospital consultant is received which states that the young person is unable to walk safely to the education provider due to their special educational needs or disability.
- b. Travel assistance may be provided within statutory walking distances where written evidence from an appropriate consultant confirms that the young person requires accompaniment to their education provider due to their special educational needs or disability, *and* written evidence from GP confirms that their parent is unable to accompany the young person to the education provider due to the parent's disability or pre existing medical condition
- c. Final decisions on whether to grant travel assistance in relation to medical conditions as above remains with Surrey County Council.

Travel assistance provided on medical grounds will be reviewed regularly. Temporary medical conditions will be reviewed every half term, dependent on medical advice. Decisions relating to longer-term medical conditions will be reviewed annually.

**3.9** No reimbursement of travel costs incurred prior to an application will be made.

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## I. Type of travel provision offered

- 4.1 When assessing the type of travel provision to be offered we will take into account:
  - a. the age and maturity of the young person
  - b. the young person's disability and/or their special educational needs
  - c. ability and aptitude of the young person
  - d. suitability of the type of provision for the young person's needs
  - e. the length of the journey
  - f. nature of the possible routes from home to education provider, particularly in relation to safety
  - g. whether the young person is able to safely walk the distance involved
  - h. whether the young person needs to be accompanied and whether it is possible for the young person to be accompanied (taking into account factors such as parental disability)

When deciding whether to offer a parental travel allowance as set out in section 4.4 below, we will take into account the suitability and availability of existing transport provision.

#### 4.2 Contract coach or other contract vehicle

Where a young person is unable to travel on public transport as a result of their disability or condition, or where they are unable to use a Student Fare Care or Disabled Persons Bus Pass, they will be expected to make a contribution towards their travel costs. The contribution rate was capped at £3.66 per day for the academic year 2015-16. This contribution will be reviewed annually and adjusted on 1 September in line with the March Retail Price Index (RPI) or Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is the lower.

Travel assistance will only be agreed for costs incurred at the start and end of the education provider day. Where existing transport provision is available at the start and end of the education provider day, additional journeys will not be provided at alternative times to cater for young people's individual timetables.

If there is a seat on a contract coach or other contract vehicle travelling to the education provider and the young person takes up this place the parents/young person will normally be invoiced termly in advance (2015-16 rate is £231.80 per term, equivalent to £3.66 a day). More frequent invoice arrangements will be considered in cases of hardship.

Alternatively a taxi may be provided to take the young person from home to the education provider and the young person will be invoiced for their contribution termly in advance (2015-16 rate is £231.80 per term, equivalent to £3.66 a day).

#### 4.3 Young people unable to use a Student Fare Card or disabled person's bus pass

As for all young people, where a young person is able to travel independently on public transport but is unable to use the Student Fare Card or disabled persons bus pass to get to the education provider, they will be expected to make a contribution towards their travel costs.

If the young person travels on alternative public transport routes the amount to be reimbursed will be the equivalent cost to travelling by the lowest equivalent public transport rate, less the specified

contribution (2015-16 is contribution rate £3.66 a day). Costs will be reimbursed at the end of each term upon receipt of a claim form accompanied by receipts for tickets purchased and confirmation of attendance at the education provider.

#### 4.4 Parental travel allowance

Where a young person is unable to travel using public transport and is considered eligible for travel assistance, we encourage parents/carers to opt to transport their young person personally if this is the most cost effective method of procuring travel. The travel allowance may offer flexibility for parents/young people, e.g. journeys may be made via other destinations on the way to/from the education provider; however, only journeys between home and the education provider by the shortest available route by road will be reimbursed.

Parents/carers/young people receiving a travel allowance will be expected to make a contribution towards their travel costs (2016-17 rate £3.66 a day). A travel allowance will be offered based on the young person's home to education provider journey, less the parent/carer/young person's contribution.

If a travel allowance is the preferred option, the young person's SEND case worker can advise parents of the annual sum and the process for claiming. Surrey County Council also provides a 'Guide for Parents' which explains this information.

If a travel allowance is agreed, we will implement the following procedure:

- a. Re-imbursement can only be authorised where it is the most cost effective method of providing travel assistance. Surrey County Council reserves the right to cease this arrangement at any time if we are able to procure the transport at a lower cost.
- b. Any claim for reimbursement is subject to the young person meeting qualifying criteria, and continuing to meet qualifying criteria. This particularly applies when a young person changes education provider or their main residence changes such as if the family moves house.
- c. Parents/carers/young people will be reimbursed based on the journey between home and the education provider on each day they are required to attend unless the young person is in residential accommodation, in which case reimbursement will be in line with the young person's EHCP or SSEN. A digital mapping system is used to measure the shortest available route by road to the education provider.
- d. Reimbursement will be paid in equal monthly instalments from October to July of the relevant academic year.
- e. Payments will made as long as the young person's attendance is above 80% per term. Attendance will be monitored, and payments adjusted in subsequent months if attendance falls below this level.
- f. Parents/carers (or the young person if using their own vehicle) are responsible for ensuring that their current motor insurance is appropriate for this use.
- g. If parents/carers/young people are temporarily unable to provide transport due to unavailability of appropriate transport, alternative arrangements must be made by the parent/carer/young person as Surrey County Council would be unable to provide transport at short notice for short periods of time.
- h. If the young person's/parents'/carers' transport becomes permanently unavailable, a new application for alternative travel assistance will need to be made via the young person's SEND case worker.

## 5. Additional Support

It is recognised that those young people who fall within one of the following categories might need additional assistance with travel costs:

- a. Young people who are in receipt of the 16 to 19 vulnerable student bursary (for young people in care; care leavers; those Income Support/ Universal Credit and disabled young people that receive Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or a Personal Independence Payment).
- b. Young people whose families are in receipt of the maximum Working Tax Credit or who meet the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals. Free School Meal eligibility relates to families in receipt of one of the following benefits:
  - Income Support
  - Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance (IBJSA)
  - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
  - Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
  - Financial support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
  - Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
  - Universal Credit

#### 5.1 Vulnerable student bursary holder

Where a young person is in receipt of a vulnerable student bursary they can apply for reimbursement of part of their travel costs to their education provider where their fares amount to more than £2.64 a day. Agreed reimbursement of costs in excess of £2.64 a day when using a Student Fare Card as appropriate will be made at the end of each term on receipt of a claim form accompanied by receipts for tickets purchased (using a Surrey Student Fare Card as appropriate) and confirmation of attendance at the education provider. Young people who travel on contract coaches or other contract vehicles will normally be invoiced termly in advance (£167.20 per term, equivalent to £2.64 a day). More frequent invoice arrangements will be considered in cases of hardship.

#### 5.2 Low income families

Where a young person's family is in receipt of one of the benefits listed above, support will be provided if the young person's fares amount to more than £3.66 a day when using a Student Fare Card as appropriate. Agreed reimbursement of costs in excess of £3.66 a day will be made at the end of each term on receipt of a claim form accompanied by receipts for tickets purchased (using a Surrey Student Fare Card as appropriate) and confirmation of attendance at the education provider. Young people who travel on contract coaches or other contract vehicles will normally be invoiced termly in advance (£231.80 per term, equivalent to £3.66 a day). More frequent invoice arrangements will be considered in cases of hardship.

#### 5.3 Bursaries from education providers

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In addition to the above, education providers may offer their own bursary schemes or other assistance. Parents/carers/young people should contact education providers directly to discuss their situation.

## 6. Travel arrangements

## 6.1 Independent travel

Education providers are expected to provide the necessary support to develop the young person's ability to access and use independent travel. This will be related to their preparation for adulthood. Progress in this aspect will be reviewed as part of the annual review for the young person's SSEN/EHCP. An independent travel training scheme is to be developed in 2016/17.

Education providers will be also expected to work with the young person in line with the risk assessment prior to any changes being made to arrangements. Any requests for solo transport or other changes must be supported by a risk assessment.

#### 6.2 Provision of escorts

An escort is not routinely provided. However, an escort may be provided for the route or for the individual young person where a young person has significant health or behavioural requirements identified through a risk assessment.

## 6.3 Journey times

Home to education provider transport will be arranged so as to be as non-stressful as possible. Wherever possible, and subject to individual needs, the journey time will be 75 minutes, complying with best practice guidelines. In some circumstances it may be necessary to increase these timeframes where specialist placements are concerned. Journeys to and from education providers outside of Surrey's borders, or for those young people placed some distance from their home may also, by definition, exceed the usual maximum journey times.

#### 6.4 Pick-up and drop off points

Where appropriate, parents/carers may be expected to take the young person to/from a pick up/drop off point.

#### 6.5 Review of travel arrangements

We reserve the right to review the travel arrangements in circumstances where either:

- a. the young person or their parents/carers repeatedly fail to inform the Transport Coordination Centre and the young person's transport provider that the transport is not required as a result of the young person's illness before it arrives at the home address, or
- b. a young person suddenly decides not to travel in transport which has arrived on any given day (without any prior notice having been given to the transport company), where the refusal is not related to their SEND.
- c. there is a situation where the behaviours of a child / young person / parent /carer pose a safeguarding risk given the Council's duty of care to the drivers, escorts and operators, as well as the passengers in their care.

it is necessary to withdraw the travel arrangements for a period, parents/carers will become responsible for the young person's travel arrangements.

#### 6.6 Additional journeys

Transport providers are allowed to make agreed journeys from the young person's home (defined as their usual place of residence during term time) to the education provider and from the education provider to home only. No additional journeys can be made under the terms of the 16-25 SEND travel assistance policy. Surrey County Council will not make any payments to transport providers for any additional journeys, and additional journeys must be invoiced directly to the education provider or parent/carer/young person, depending on who arranged the journey.

Any additional journeys which are deemed to be home to education provider transport must be authorised by the area special educational needs manager (if the young person attends a school) or the SEND post-16 area lead (if the young person attends a college/training provider) in advance of the journey taking place. Surrey County Council will not guarantee payment to transport providers for any additional unauthorised journeys.

Where a young person is based full-time at an education provider but visits another education provider for inclusion purposes, the education provider where the young person is usually based will be responsible for arrangements and paying for transport. If the Surrey County Council transport provider is used, the transport provider will invoice the education provider directly for any such changes.

#### 6.7 Extreme weather

On rare occasions, severe weather may impact on Surrey County Council's ability to provide transport safely. In such circumstances, the safety and wellbeing of young people and transport providers remains our key priority. Where severe weather results in the requirement to cancel transportation, the Transport Co-ordination Centre/transport provider will always notify parents/carers at the earliest opportunity, to avoid unnecessary disruption.

If transport is cancelled due to extreme weather, the following is applicable:

- a. Where a route is cancelled and a parent/carer takes the decision to transport their young person themselves, the parent/carer remains responsible for the return journey or any subsequent costs should a return journey not be possible.
- b. If a young person is unable to attend the education provider due to severe weather, the parent/carer remains responsible for their young person.

## 7. Appeals procedure

Where the decision has been made that a young person is not eligible for travel assistance, or where a change in transport arrangements has been made and notified, or where transport has not been agreed on exceptional grounds, parents/carers/young people may ask for the decision to be reconsidered to include any exceptional circumstances they wish to put forward. A form will be provided for this purpose and supplementary evidence may be requested.

The SEND case worker for the young person is responsible for collating the appeal case, in conjunction with the parents/carers/young person, at all stages of the appeal process.

Any decision resulting from an appeal will include the details for further appeal. All decisions will be notified in writing, no more than 5 working days after being made.

#### 7.1 Stage 1 – Review by an area special needs manager (ASNM) or Post-16 Area Lead (PAL)

- a. The first stage of the appeal process is in writing to the relevant ASNM for schools or Post-16 area lead for other education providers. The written request should detail why the parent/carer/young person believes the decision should be reviewed and give details of any personal and/or family circumstances they believe should be considered when the decision is reviewed.
- b. An applicant has 20 working days from receipt of the local authority's travel assistance decision to make a written request asking for a review of the Stage 1 decision.

## 7.2 Stage 2 – SEN panel

If the decision remains unchanged, the parents/carers/young person can progress their appeal to Stage 2 of the process.

A panel of professionals from the SEN service and partner agencies considers Stage 2 appeals.

The panel will consider the points of the case, alongside the decisions made at Stage 1.

#### 7.3 Stage 3 – review by an independent appeal panel

If the decision remains unchanged, the parents/carers/young person can progress their appeal to Stage 3 of the process.

A panel of elected members considers Stage 3 appeals.

Within 40 working days of receipt of the applicant's request, an independent appeal panel considers representations from both the parent and officers involved in the case and gives a detailed written notification of the outcome (within 5 working days), setting out:

- the nature of the decision reached;
- what factors were considered;
- the rationale for the decision reached; and
- information about the parent/carer/young person's right to put the matter to the Local Government Ombudsman

The independent appeal panel members should be independent of the original decision making process (but are not required to be independent of the local authority) and should be suitably experienced (at the discretion of the local authority).

#### 7.4 Local Government Ombudsman

Parents can contact the Local Government Ombudsman at any time; however, the Local Government Ombudsman will normally expect them to have completed all stages of the Council's complaints procedure before considering their complaint. Further advice is available on www.lgo.org.uk or on the Local Government Ombudsman advice line on 0300 061 0614.

This is the final stage in the appeals process.

## 8. Other guidance which underpins this policy document?

Surrey County Council must have regard to the latest statutory guidance when carrying out its responsibilities in relation to transport arrangements for children and young people. This includes:

Post-16 transport to education and training: statutory guidance for local authorities February 2014 <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/277016/Post-16\_Transport\_Guidance.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/277016/Post-16\_Transport\_Guidance.pdf</a>

Home to school travel and transport guidance: statutory guidance for local authorities July 2014 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/445407/Home\_to\_Sc hool\_Travel\_and\_Transport\_Guidance.pdf

This is statutory guidance from the Department for Education. A local authority must have regard to it when exercising its functions relating to the participation of young people in education or training.

Participation of young people in education, employment or training https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/349300/Participation\_of\_Young\_People\_Statutory\_Guidance.pdf

Surrey County Council has an existing mainstream policy that sets out the transport support that is available for students aged 16 to 19 not holding a current SSEN or EHCP who live in Surrey and who attend a qualifying education provider.

Home to School / College Transport Policy for Surrey students of sixth form age – 2015 / 2016 May 2015 http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0010/4213/Transport-Policy-and-form-Post-16-15-16-V2.pdf

## . Review of this policy

The education travel assistance policy for young people aged 16-25 with an EHCP/SSEN will be reviewed annually and consulted upon in accordance with statutory guidance should changes be considered.

(Local authorities should set out in their transport policy statements how and when they propose to consult young people and their parents to inform the development of their statements in the following year - do we want to be more specific here?)

The Guidance for Post 16 also set out in paragraph 15 the following Section 509A B (1) of the Education Act 1996 imposes a requirement that the transport policy statement should set out the extent to which the arrangements specified in the statement include arrangements for facilitating the attendance at schools and learning providers of young people with learning difficulties and /or disabilities. Arrangements for this group of young people must therefore be set out specifically in the statement. As this relates to Statements of SEN and EHCPs is this in the mainstream policy or should there be a reference in this policy??