

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Introduction

This EqIA is for:

Under-16 Home to School and Post-16 Transport Policy 2015 - 2016

Details are set out:

As below

Officers undertaking the assessment:

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Assessment approved by:

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The Public Sector Equality Duty which is set out in the Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The purpose of carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment is to assess the impact of a change to services or policy on people with protected characteristics and to demonstrate that the Council has considered the aims of the Equality Duty.

Part A: Impact, consultation and proposed mitigation

1 What are the potential impacts of proposal? *Has any initial consultation informed the identification of impacts?*

The Home to School Policy applies to all pupils of statutory school age in Nottinghamshire. The Post-16 Transport Policy applies to post-16 students up to the age of 19, resident in Nottinghamshire, attending a full time course of further education. The Policy also applies to post-16 students up to the age of 25 with special transport needs (in certain circumstances as articulated in the policy) who are resident in Nottinghamshire and attending a full time course of further education.

The Under-16 Home to School Transport Policy sets out the County Council's provision of school transport services and travel assistance for pupils aged 4-16. It sets out the criteria for eligibility for travel assistance, how parents/carers may apply, how decisions are made, the type of assistance that may be available and how parents/carers may appeal against decisions they are unhappy with.

The Under-16 Home to School Transport Policy is reviewed annually and the County Council is required to consult on any proposed changes. This policy comes into force at the start of an academic year in September.

The Post-16 Transport Policy consists of a travel scheme which aims to enable all post-16 students to access education. The scheme is available to all Nottinghamshire County residents that meet the

qualifying criteria. Where the County Council determines that student has a special transport need this will be provided for.

The Post-16 Transport Policy is reviewed annually, the County Council is required to consult on any proposed changes and publish the revised policy by May 31st prior to the Policy being implemented in the September of that year.

Under-16 Home to School Transport Policy

The proposed amendments to the Policy are clarifications of current practice. It is not expected that these will be adversely detrimental to the education of children within Nottinghamshire.

Post-16 Transport Policy

The proposed amendments to the Policy are clarifications of current practice. It is not expected that these will be adversely detrimental to the education of children within Nottinghamshire.

The County Council proposes to make the following amendments for the 2015/16 academic year:

Home to School Under-16 Transport Policy

1. Section 4.5 Single parents/carers and dual parental homes

Where a pupil's parents live at different addresses it is proposed to make it clear which address will be regarded as the pupil's home address for the purposes of determining transport eligibility.

The following sentence will be added to this section:

'This will normally be the address where the child spends three or more school nights (Sunday – Thursday).'

This sentence is consistent with the definition of home address given in the Council's 'Admissions to schools - guide for parents 2015-2016' booklet.

2. Section 5.2.2 Medical Grounds

A minor change is proposed in respect of pupils applying for transport due to a temporary incapacity. Pupils will be required to include in their application an estimate of how long the temporary incapacity is likely to last.

3. Section 3.3 Behaviour and Attendance Service – Learning Centres

This paragraph has changed to reflect the organisational changes to the Behaviour and Attendance Service. The paragraph now refers to all pupils who are not on a school roll whose education is the responsibility of the County Council and their eligibility and entitlements to travel assistance.

4. Appendix A Special Educational Needs and Disability Travel Policy

- a. The introduction of personal budgets will mean that an eligible pupil's travel entitlement will not necessarily mean they will receive transport provided by the council. To reflect the more creative ways a pupil's entitlement to assistance with travel to school might be delivered, the term 'special transport' has been replaced with 'travel assistance'.
- b. There are a number of grammatical changes to emphasise that transport entitlement for students with special educational needs and/or disability is considered in accordance with the Home to School Transport Policy. The appendix has also been updated to include references to Education, Health and Care Plans rather than Statements.

- c. A paragraph has been added to emphasise that transport is not normally provided to and from the home address. Other than in exceptional circumstances a student would be expected to meet the transport at a designated and safe pick-up point.

The following will be added to Appendix A:

“Where special transport is provided this will normally be to and from a designated collection/drop off point located within one mile of the home address.

A pick up and/or drop off at home will only be provided in exceptional circumstances; additional medical information may be required to support the request.”

- d. The paragraph concerning the Council’s programme of independent travel training has been expanded to clarify that students who successfully complete the programme would be expected to travel independently and would not be entitled to special transport from the Council.

The following sentence will be added to this section:

“Pupils/students who have successfully completed the ITT programme will be enabled to make this journey to school independently. Special transport will not be provided for these pupils/students unless their circumstances change significantly.”

Post-16 Transport Policy 2014/2015 Academic Year

1. Students with Special Transport Needs – what type of assistance is available?

The introduction of personal budgets will mean that an eligible student’s travel entitlement will not necessarily mean they will receive transport provided by the council. To reflect the more creative ways a student’s entitlement to assistance with transport might be delivered, we therefore propose to describe a student’s entitlement as a ‘*travel solution*’.

2. Students with Special Transport Needs – what type of assistance is available?

A paragraph has been added to emphasise that transport is not normally provided to and from the home address. Other than in exceptional circumstances a student would be expected to meet the transport at a designated and safe pick-up point.

The following sentence will be added to this section:

‘Where special transport is provided this will normally be to and from a designated collection/drop off point located within one mile of the home address. A pick up and/or drop off at home will only be provided in exceptional circumstances; additional medical information may be required to support the request.’

3. Students with Special Transport Needs – what type of assistance is available?

The paragraph concerning the Council’s programme of independent travel training has been expanded to clarify that students who successfully complete the programme would be expected to travel independently and would not be entitled to special transport from the Council.

The following sentence will be added to this section:

‘Students who have successfully completed the ITT programme will be enabled to make their journey to school/college independently. Special transport will not be provided for these students unless their circumstances have changed significantly.’

There will be no reduction in the quality of service or the assistance available to entitled students.

- (i)
 - Nottinghamshire County Council’s Legal section has been consulted with on the amendments proposed.
 - Data is collated each year on the take up of the scheme by the Transport and Travel Services Group.
- (ii)
 - The Under-16 Home to School Transport and Post-16 Transport Policies are reviewed annually, the County Council are required to consult on any proposed changes and publish the revised policy by May 31st prior to the Policy being implemented in the September of that year
 - Prior to public consultation, internal stakeholders have been consulted with on the changes to the policies, these include: Legal, SEND Policy and Provision, Transport and Travel Services.

2 Protected Characteristics: Is there a potential positive or negative impact based on:

Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Pregnancy & maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Race <small>including origin, colour or nationality</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Religion	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Sexual orientation <small>including gay, lesbian or bisexual</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact

3 Where there are potential negative impacts for protected characteristics these should be detailed including consideration of the equality duty, proposals for how they could be mitigated (where possible) and meaningfully consulted on:

How do the potential impacts affect people with protected characteristics <i>What is the scale of the impact?</i>	How might negative impact be mitigated or explain why it is not possible	How will we consult
		<p>Public consultation will include consultation using the Internet and Wired (Schools) and direct contact with the further education sector.</p> <p>Initial internal consultation via email and team meetings.</p>

		Public Consultation 13/2/2015 To 22/3/2015 CYPS Committee 20/04/2015 Policy Committee 20/05/2015 Publish agreed Policy 31/05/2015
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Part B: Feedback and further mitigation

4 Summary of consultation feedback and further amendments to proposal / mitigation

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Completed EqIAs should be sent to equalities@nottsc.gov.uk and will be published on the Council's website.