

NCC-040701-9 Home school/send transport info

Dear Requester,

Further to your request for information under the freedom of information act please see below. Please accept our apologies for the delay and not meeting the agreed deadline.

We trust this now resolves your enquiry, however should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

Nottinghamshire County Council regularly publishes previous FOIR,s and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see link) <http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or email complaints@nottscc.gov.uk .

Kind Regards

Complaints and Information Team
Nottinghamshire County Council
County Hall

To whom it may concern,

Sense is a national disability charity that supports people with complex disabilities to be understood, connected and valued. Our flexible and personalised services empower people to communicate and express themselves – be it through speech or sign, touch or movement, gesture or sound, art or dance. Together, we connect differently and campaign passionately for the right to lead connected and fulfilled lives.

Sense would like to request the following information and/or data under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 concerning home to school transport provision in your local authority.

This Freedom of Information request is being sent out to all top tier local authorities.

1. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how many children aged 5-16 in Nottinghamshire have received free statutory home to school transport? And, of these, how many children have received this provision on the eligibility of SEND? Please provide total figures for each academic year including the current academic year. **Figures are not routinely saved but for:**

2017 – 5,000 mainstream – 1,000 SEND age 5-16

2018 – 5,200 mainstream – 1,300 SEND age 5-16

2019 – 5,200 mainstream – 1,600 SEND age 5-16

2. Do you routinely record educational absences due to a lack of home to school transport provision for children aged 5-16 eligible for this provision on the basis of SEND? If so, please provide the data on this for each academic year since 2009/2010 including the current year to date. **Not recorded**
3. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how much funding has Nottinghamshire spent providing home to school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND? Please provide total figures for each academic year.

2019 / 20	£7,500,000
2018 / 19	£7,146,174
2017 / 18	£6,578,466
2016 / 17	£6,010,810
2015 / 16	£5,604,869
2014 / 15	£5,039,063
2013 / 14	£4,707,923
2012 / 13	£4,096,388

4. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how many children, aged 5-16, requiring specialist support from a chaperone on their home to school journey have received this support? Please give your answer as a percentage of total children eligible for chaperone support on the basis of SEND. **95%**
5. What quality assurance processes do you have in place to ensure that home to school transport provision, including but not limited to training of the chaperone and driver, type of vehicle, length of journey and needs of other children on

board, for children aged 5-16 on the basis of SEND is appropriate to meet each individual child's needs?

Transport Planning

All applications are assessed for eligibility and also requirements of the individual travelling. We assess information provided to us from health care professions, education specialists, schools and parents/carers. Where there is an EHCP or medical care plan this will be looked at also. Transport is planned within travel time parameters where possible, and the most appropriate route to minimise the travelling time. The DPS we use contracted transport dictates the quality of the vehicles we require which includes age of vehicle. The type of vehicle requested is assessed by the planner using all the information available to meet the needs of those travelling, this will include fixings, car seats, harnesses, buckle safes etc

Escort/driver training

All escorts and drivers are required to have an enhanced DBS and emergency first aid as a minimum requirement. This documentation is checked by our contracts team before staff are able to work on the runs.

Where on assessment of the information additional training is required this will be included in the tender specification and again the company awarded the contract will need produce the appropriate documentation of training before the contract commences. Sometimes familiarisation training will also be required before the contract starts and the contracts team will again have sight of the signoff documentation.

Travellers Needs

As stated previously, in the planning process we will take into account all the information given to us to try and ensure that the transport provided meets the individual's needs. Sometimes we will need to change or amend transport as we get to know the individual needs and behaviours of the travellers. We aim to minimise changes through the planning process but cannot always anticipate the problems that can occur.

6. What is your planning process, including timescales, for ensuring the provision of home to school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND, and what data sources do you use to support this process?

We aim to process most applications for SEND transport in 20 working days. At the beginning of the academic year this can take longer if parents/carers are late applying. Where a child requires medical intervention on transport the process can take longer while staff are trained for the individual's needs. Other aspects of the planning process are detailed in section 5.