

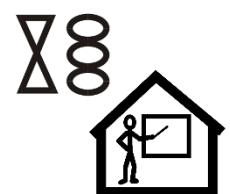
Post-16 SEND Travel Assistance Policy Consultation



This easy read tells you about our post-16 SEND travel assistance policy consultation.



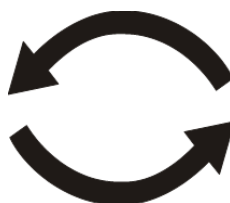
SEND travel assistance is help given by the council to people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities to help them get to school.



In this easy read, **school** means anywhere someone goes to learn, including school, sixth form, college, or a different place of learning.



Consultation means asking people what they think and listening to what they say before deciding what to do next.

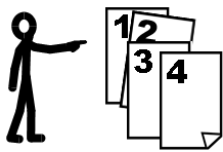


We want to know what you think about our ideas for changing SEND travel assistance.

How and when can I get involved?



If you are a young person, parent or carer, we want to know what you think and what changes would mean for you.



We have 4 different ideas for the future. These are called our **options**. You can read these options and tell us what you think.



You can tell us what you think between 20 October and 14 December 2026.

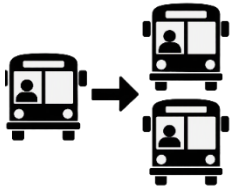


[On our travel assistance consultation webpage](#) from 20 October, we will have an online link, a survey you can print, and an easy read version.



We will listen to everyone's opinions before we decide what happens next.

Why are we changing post-16 travel assistance?



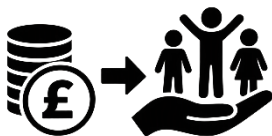
Almost twice as many people want council-organised transport now compared with 5 years ago.



We expect even more people will want council organised SEND transport in the future.



It is costing too much money, and the council cannot afford it.



We need to think about how we can keep meeting everyone's needs with the money we have.



Even with the changes, the cost of SEND transport for the council is likely to go up by at least £2 million over the next 2 years.

Does the council have to give free transport to young people aged 16 to 25 with SEND?



When someone is aged 16 to 18, the council does not have to give them free transport to get to school.



People can ask the council for help, but we do not have to give free travel assistance.



Some people can get free transport to school because of part of a law called the Education Act 1996.



If people can have this transport, the law says it must be free.



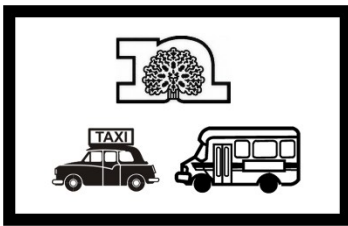
Because of this law, we are not saying that learners aged 19 to 25 should pay towards their transport.

What is travel assistance like now?



At the moment, someone with travel assistance might have:

Council-organised transport



This could be a taxi, minibus or specialist vehicle organised by the council.



This costs the council an average of £11,000 per student each year.

Direct Travel Assistance Payment (DTAP)



This is money given directly to a young person or their parent or carer to arrange travel.



This costs the council on average around £2,500 per student each year.

Parent or carer mileage

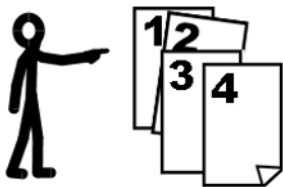


This is money given to a parent or carer that must only be used for the cost of fuel for journeys to and from school.



This is less money than a DTAP and costs the council about £1,250 per student each year.

Our options for the future



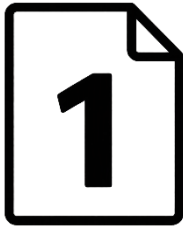
We are deciding between 4 options for the future.



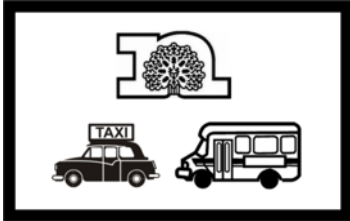
In all 4 options, people aged 16-18 using council-organised transport would pay £795 every year towards their transport costs.



The £795 payment would start from September 2027.



Option 1: Contribution only



Learners aged 16 to 25 with SEND could still get council-organised transport.



From September 2027, people in year 12 and 13 (aged 16-18) would pay £795 towards their organised transport.



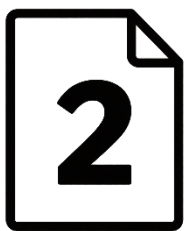
£795 is the same amount of money paid by pupils who have council bus passes for mainstream school transport.



Families with household income of less than £7,400 a year would not have to pay.



This option would save the council about £0.4 million.



Option 2:

Year 12 enhanced assessment from 2027 plus contributions



People who already get organised transport would get the same transport as they do now, until they finish their post-16 education.



But from September 2027, people starting year 12 would only be able to have organised transport in exceptional circumstances.



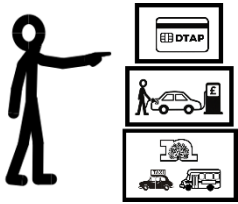
If someone said they had exceptional circumstances they would do an **enhanced assessment** as part of their application for travel assistance.



This means an assessment that is longer and more detailed.



If someone said they wanted a DTAP or parent/carer mileage, they would not need to do an enhanced assessment.



On someone's application, they would say what sort of travel assistance they wanted.



If the council decides the person does not have exceptional circumstances, they would be offered a Direct Travel Assistance Payment (DTAP).



People would pay £795 a year towards their organised transport.



This option would save the council about £1.5 million.

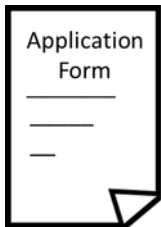


Option 3:

All post 16 enhanced assessment from 2028 plus contributions



From September 2028, learners aged 16-25 could only have organised transport in exceptional circumstances.



Everyone already in or starting post 16 education would need to apply for travel assistance.



If someone wanted to apply for organised transport, they would need to show they had exceptional circumstances.



If someone said they had exceptional circumstances they would need to do an enhanced assessment as part of their application for travel assistance.



This means it is an assessment that is longer and more detailed.



If someone applied for a DTAP or parent/carer mileage, they would not need to do an enhanced assessment.



On someone's application, they would say what sort of travel assistance they wanted.



If the council says the person does not have exceptional circumstances, they would be offered a Direct Travel Assistance Payment (DTAP).



From September 2027, people in year 12 and 13 (aged 16-18) would pay £795 a year towards their organised transport.



This option would save the council £2.3 million a year.

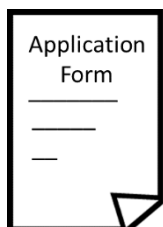


Option 4:

All post-16 enhanced assessment from 2027 plus contributions



From September 2027, people aged 16-25 would only be able to have organised transport in exceptional circumstances.



Everyone already in or going into post-16 education would need to apply for travel assistance.



If someone wanted to apply for organised transport, they would need to show they had exceptional circumstances.



If someone said they had exceptional circumstances they would need to do an enhanced assessment as part of their application for travel assistance.



This means an assessment that is longer and more detailed.



If someone applied for a DTAP or parent/carer mileage, they would not need to do an enhanced assessment.



On someone's application, they would say what sort of travel assistance they wanted.



If the council says the person does not have exceptional circumstances, they would be offered a Direct Travel Assistance Payment (DTAP).



From September 2027, people in year 12 and 13 (aged 16-18) would pay £795 a year towards their organised transport.



This option would save the council about £3.1 million a year.

When would the changes happen?



Costs

For all options, people would pay £795 towards their organised transport from September 2027.



Enhanced Assessments



In option 2, enhanced assessments would start in September 2027, only for people starting year 12.



In option 4, enhanced assessments would start in September 2027 for all post-16 learners.



In option 3, enhanced assessments would start in September 2028 for all post-16 learners.

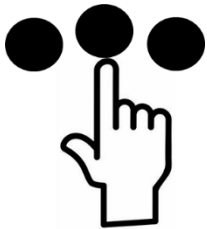
What is a Direct Travel Assistance Payment (DTAP)?



A DTAP is a payment given to families by the council each school term.



The council puts the money on to a prepaid card that is like a debit card.



A DTAP gives people choice and flexibility about their transport.



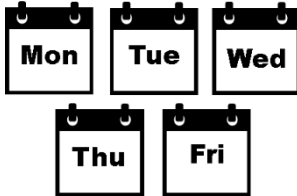
The money must be used for getting to and from school, and can be spent on things like fuel, public transport or taxis.



People can look online at how much money they have left and see what they spent the money on and when they spent it.



The council can also look at the account to check the money is being used properly.



The amount of money someone gets depends on how many days they are expected to go to school.



The amount of money needed for the journeys is worked out and put on the card before the journeys happen.



A family with a young person in full-time education would get an average of £3,000 a year from September 2027.

How could I use a DTAP?



A DTAP could be used to:



- Drive the learner to school.



- Ask family or friends to help.



- Buy bus or train tickets.



- Book a taxi or private hire vehicle.



- Share travel with other families.



- Combine DTAPs with other families to pay for shared transport.



- Pay for transport offered by school.

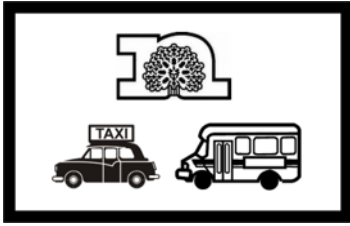


- Pay childcare costs (such as breakfast clubs) for other children in the family so parents or carers can take their child with SEND to school.



- Pay running and maintenance costs for a vehicle used to get to school.

Will a DTAP work for everyone?



A DTAP will not be right for everyone. Some people will still need organised transport. We will not stop all organised transport for post-16 learners.



Under options 2, 3 and 4, organised transport will only be offered in exceptional circumstances.



A DTAP would be offered instead unless an assessment shows someone has exceptional circumstances.



In all the options, if people aged 16-18 (school years 12 and 13) are offered organised transport they will be asked to pay towards the cost.

What are exceptional circumstances?

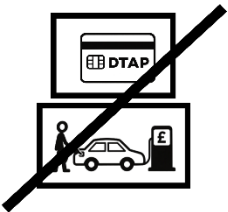


There is not 1 single thing that means someone has exceptional circumstances.

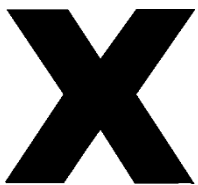


Someone's assessment must show all of the following:

- They are eligible for (allowed to have) post-16 SEND travel assistance.



- Because of things like their SEND, medical needs, the journey or how things are for their family, a DTAP or parent or carer mileage would not work for them.

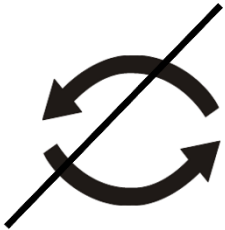


- There is no other reasonable way for them to travel to school.



- Without extra help from the council, they would not be able to get to school.

Will someone who has organised transport already still be able to have it?



In option 2, things would stay the same for people who already have organised transport until they finish their post-16 education.

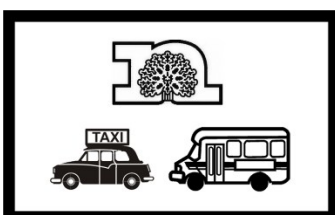


In options 3 and 4, everyone would need to show exceptional circumstances through an assessment to keep getting organised transport.



If someone wanted to apply for organised transport, they would have to do the enhanced assessment to show they have exceptional circumstances.

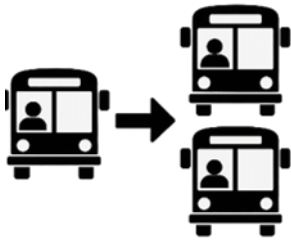
Why are families being asked to pay money towards organised transport?



At the moment, council-organised transport is the most common form of post-16 SEND travel assistance.



It costs the council more than £7 million a year and an average of £11,000 per learner.



The number of people who want organised transport has almost doubled over the last 5 years, and, in the future, we expect even more people will want organised transport.



The council does not have enough money to pay for all the things that people want.



The cost of £795 per year is the same as the cost of a council bus pass for pupils using mainstream school buses from September 2027.



People paying for mainstream school bus passes pay 66% of the total cost.



We are asking people to pay 7% of the cost of their SEND transport.

What if I cannot afford to pay?



Families who get less money than £7400 a year will not have to pay.



This is the same amount of money that is called 'low income' for under 16 travel assistance, and free school meals.

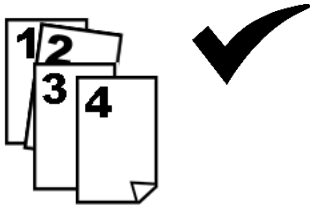


People could pay each term instead of annually, meaning this money could be paid in 3 smaller amounts over the year instead of 1 bigger amount.

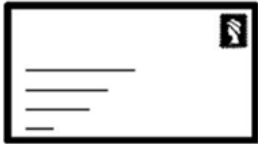
Will I need to reapply for travel assistance each year?



Yes. From September 2027, all post-16 learners with SEND who want travel assistance to get to school will need to reapply each year.

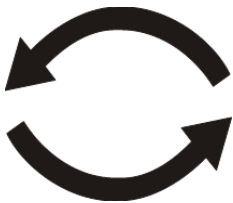


This is the case for all 4 options.



We will write to you in good time every year to tell you how and when to reapply.

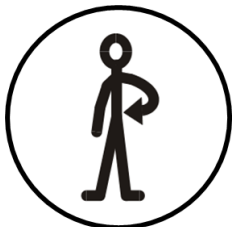
Why will I have to reapply each year?



Someone's travel needs and life can change during post-16 education.



Applying every year will mean:



- The council can look at everyone's individual needs each year and see if things have changed.



- The council can make sure the £795 has been paid before transport is organised.

National changes to concessionary bus travel



From 1 April 2027, people in England will be able to use their concessionary bus pass for free at any time.

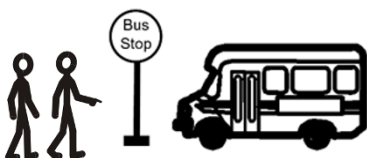


This means people will be able to use public transport for more journeys, but it will not be right for everyone.



We will still look at everyone's individual needs like accessibility, journey times, changes, safety and support needed on the journey.

Independent Travel Training



Independent Travel Training helps young people learn how to travel safely and confidently on public transport.



Lots of schools already do Independent Travel Training.



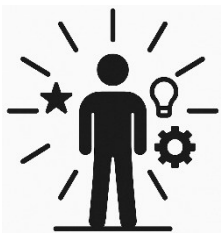
Independent Travel Training can help people become more independent, get to school and get ready for adult life.



We would like to help more people in Nottinghamshire do Independent Travel Training.



We will work with schools and families to find out who might find Independent Travel Training useful.



Independent Travel Training is not right for everyone, but it can give people more choice, flexibility and skills.

What if I need to get in touch?



Our Customer Service Centre can answer most of your questions and help with information and form filling.



There are several ways to contact them, including:



Web: [Use our online contact form](#)



Telephone: 0300 500 80 80



Relay UK

Text Relay: 18001 0115 977 4050

People who have hearing or speech difficulties and prefer to communicate via text can use the Text Relay service through the [Relay UK app](#).



SignVideo

Sign Video

People who use British Sign Language to communicate can use [the SignVideo app](#) to speak with us.



Phone 0300 500 80 80 if you need the information in a different language or format.

Links in this document

Travel Assistance Consultation webpage

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/travel-to-schools/post-16-send-travel-assistance-policy-consultation

Nottinghamshire County Council – contact us form

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contactform

Relay UK app

relayuk.bt.com/how-to-use-relay-uk/download-app.html

SignVideo app

signvideo.co.uk/download

For the standard web page version of this information, go to:

[Post-16 SEND travel assistance policy consultation | Nottinghamshire County Council](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/travel-to-schools/post-16-send-travel-assistance-policy-consultation)

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