

Place Scrutiny Committee

3 March 2017

Home to School Transport

Purpose of Report: Summary Report

The Group considered the revised Draft Home to School Transport Policy and noted that it addressed both the needs of the Authority and gave assurance to parents and carers.

The Group were pleased that historic anomalies would be removed and that clear catchment areas would be defined, whilst noting that transition arrangements would be put in place to minimise any disruption to an individual's education. There are no requirements to transport a pupil to a faith school - if this were to be implemented there would be a corresponding requirement to transport pupils to non-faith schools. Religion is deemed to be a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 and the Group have suggested that a legal opinion should be sought to ensure that indirect discrimination does not take place.

The Policy has been reviewed in light of the Learning Welsh Travel Measure but the Group noted that there was positive discrimination regarding Welsh medium education. The Active Travel Act includes Safe Routes to Schools and the Group suggested that assessments of suitability of footpaths and bridleways should be by an appropriate professional, rather than a specified individual.

The Group had no opposition in principle to revising the distance learners accessing Post 16 or Nursery education have to travel to a pick up point, but suggest that alternatives should be costed to ensure that all information is available prior to any decisions being taken.

The definition of a 'full time' course needed further clarity to ensure that young carers were not discriminated against.

The Group debated the revision whereby a pupil moving house could still access transport from an existing pick up point. There was an opinion that this was overly generous but it was noted that no additional costs would be incurred.

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Sources/background papers: Revised Home to School Transport Policy,
Guide for Contractors and Their Staff for Using Social Media Responsibly

Group Members: County Councillors V Evans, H Lewis, G Price. Chair and Vice Chair