

Appendix A

Post-19 Travel Assistance Draft Policy – Consultation Responses

- 1) The Parish Council considered the proposed policy at its meeting on 1 October 2019.

The Council resolved to support the proposed policy.

- 2) ..Parish Council is very supportive of the proposed post-19 travel assistance policy.
- 3) The consultation does not proactively consider the needs of this age category in rural areas. Public transport is very limited or non-existent in rural areas, and this presents significant limitations for young people in this age group when they are trying to access training and employment.
- 4) There have been a number of students who have not attended college at the start of term due to confusion amongst parents regarding the new travel arrangements for post 19 students. Parents have reported that they were not communicated with effectively and were not fully aware of the process around arranging travel for their children to college. This is obviously then increasing pressure on parents whose children, due to their special educational needs, cannot travel independently to college and also affecting attendance. Young people are therefore missing out on vital education. It is vital that parents/carers are communicated with effectively and that a clear, simple and easy to follow process is in place so parents/carers can ensure that their young person has transport to college in place.

Families which include young people with SEN are less well off than families with non SEN children due to the financial demands that having a child with SEN puts on families. This is in terms of one parent/carers not being able to work as they need to be available to care for their young person. There is also an increased rate of single parent families with SEN children due to the strain that having a child with complex needs puts on relationships. Changing the policy puts increased pressure and financial burden on these already over burdened families.

- 5) Had your link sent to me stating I can give my opinion on how I and other families have been affected by your lack of humanity towards disabled people. Yes my 19 year old is on high rate for everything. Yes I have a mobility car. No, I have no family or friends to help with anything. No I do not go out to work because I care with all my heart for my daughter. I'm up all night when I have to be, I'm home for her, bath, dress and keep the home safe and clean for her. You expect me and families like mine to afford and have the energy to drive nearly 4 hours a day to take and collect our young adults. You show no empathy for the safety of the carer or young adult. Your a total disgrace. That's my opinion. For the mental harm and stress you caused you should be offers of settlements for all the time lost from college and much needed education to all families your caused upset to.

- 6) ..Town Council considered Shropshire Council's consultation on the proposed introduction of a post 19 transport policy at its meeting on 26.9.19 and wish to submit the following comments

It is the Town Council's opinion that all to post 19 SEND Students should receive assistance with travel costs and not just those faced with exceptional circumstances. In addition to this the Town Council continues to be concerned about the impact that the cost of transport for post 16 students travelling to school and colleges in Shropshire is having on young people in the county and urges Shropshire Council to reconsider its stance on these unfair charges on young people and their families.

If you require any clarification on the comments submitted, please do not hesitate to contact me.

- 7) I have been asked by my members to question why Transport is not provided to meet a learner's individual timetable, including before and after college clubs, extra-curricular activities, exams or work experience/placements.

Members feel that this is unreasonable and could be detrimental to the learners overall achievements.

- 8) The Parish Council considered the proposed policy at its meeting on 11 September 2019.

The Council resolved to support the proposed policy.