### POST 16 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabinet Date</th>
<th>10 June 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children and Young People and Strategic Commissioning</td>
<td>Cllr Paul McLain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Decision</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tbody>
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| Background Documents | Building Better Lives Policy  
Post 16 SEN home to school transport policy and statement  
SEN Code of Practice (2015)  
SEN Strategy |
| Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents | [http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/buildingbetterlives](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/buildingbetterlives)  
[http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=51310&p=0](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=51310&p=0)  
| Main Consultees    | Parent / Carers of Children with SEND  
Young People with SEND  
Special School Heads (GASSH)  
Secondary Headteachers (GASH)  
School Governors (GGA)  
Schools Forum  
College Principals  
Independent Sector Providers  
Local user led organisations  
Elected Members  
Staff including Social Care, Health, Building Better Lives and SEN teams  
Transport providers |
| Planned Dates      | Cabinet decision to consult: 10th June 2015  
If agreed, implementation will be phased for new learners transferring to post 16 education from September 2017 |
| Divisional Councillor | All |
| Officers                              | Linda Uren  
Commissioning Director: Children and Families (and DCS)  
01452 328471  
Linda.uren@gloucestershire.gov.uk  
Charlotte Jones, Senior Manager, Access to Learning  
01452 425529  
charlotte.jones@gloucestershire.gov.uk |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purpose of Report</td>
<td>To seek approval to consult on a proposal to revise the post 16 Home to School travel assistance policy for children and young people with SEND to enable the council to adopt a personalised approach to providing subsidised, travel support for individual students and bring the policy in line with the principles of the new SEND Education, Health and Care plans and Building Better Lives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>To authorise the Commissioning Director, Children &amp; Families (&amp; DCS) to undertake a formal consultation on the proposal to revise the post 16 Home to School travel assistance policy for children and young people with SEND.</td>
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<td>Reasons for recommendations</td>
<td>To align the process for travel assistance for young people with SEND with the council’s Building Better Lives Policy and the new SEND Framework in order to improve outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Implications</td>
<td>The consultation will be carried out within existing resources</td>
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1. Background

1.1 The Education Act 1996 gives local authorities the discretion to determine what transport and financial support is necessary to facilitate attendance of learners of sixth form age in education.

1.2 The council’s current Post 16 SEN Home to School Transport Policy provides subsidised support to those young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities who are studying on a full-time basis at their nearest school or college which can meet their educational needs (and is over the 3 mile walking distance). This covers learners who are:

- Completing a non specialist course (to 19 years old);
- Completing a specialist course (to 21 years old);
- Completing a course funded by the commissioning authority using the high needs top-up funding available for the individual student (to 25 years old)

Parents are asked to make a contribution towards their transport costs (currently £456) with the council providing a subsidy for the remaining amount.

1.3 A total of 590 young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities receive post 16 education. Of these, 42% (246) receive subsidised transport assistance through this policy.

1.4 Currently, decisions about transport are taken separately to those about educational placements

1.5 A new national SEND Framework was introduced in 2014. This is gradually replacing SEN Statements with Education, Health and Social Care Plans (EHCP) which will now apply to learners over 16 (previously different arrangements were in place for young people over 16). These are based on a new approach which aims to address the needs of young people and their families in an integrated and holistic way through working closely with young people and their families on outcome focused solutions. It provides a greater emphasis on personalisation and opportunities for individual budgets.

1.6 Through its Building Better Lives Policy, the council has made a commitment to early intervention and ensuring that people with a disability get the support and assistance they need to realise their potential, improve their lives and engage fully in their own community where their value and contributions can be recognised. To achieve this, education needs to equip children with additional needs from an early age to maximise independence, choice and control with a continued focus on whole life outcomes and education support services need to provide opportunities to enable this.

2. Proposed Policy Revision and Consultation

2.1 To revise the post 16 Home to School travel assistance policy for children and young people by integrating consideration of subsidised travel support with discussions about educational and other needs of individual student, as part of the EHCP process. This would allow the wider needs of the young person and family to be taken into consideration.
In practice this would mean one conversation with a young person and their family about their education options and what health and social care support is needed, including travel arrangements. Rather than a discussion about education, then health needs, then care needs and then, separately, transport needs. This could, for example, make better use of personal assistants across the week or could mean that a total package is possible nearer to home by using all the resources available.

2.2 This revision would not change the eligibility criteria for assistance but would provide a collaborative and flexible approach to travel arrangements, including personal travel budgets where appropriate.

2.3 A consultation will be carried out between 22 June and 31 July 2015. Key consultees will include: parents and carers of young people with learning disabilities and/or disabilities, young people themselves, Special School headteachers and governors, College Principals, Independent Specialist providers, local User-Led organisations, elected members, staff across education, health and social care.

Consultation will take place through face to face meetings with parents and carers and User-Led groups, discussion with the Young People’s Reference Group for Building Better Lives and with school council members from Special Schools. Drop in sessions will be held as well as on-line promotion and feedback opportunities on-line and hard copy.

2.4 It is anticipated that, following the consultation, the Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Strategic Commissioning will consider the findings and if appropriate take a decision to implement the proposed revised policy either with, or without, slight amendment. If agreed, the revised policy will be phased in from September 2017 for new learners transferring to post 16 education. The council will engage fully with young people and their families as part of transition discussions during Key Stage 4.

3. Options

3.1 Option 1: To consult on the proposed revised policy in order to adopt a personalised approach to providing subsidised, travel support for individual students, bringing the policy in line with the principles of the new SEND Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans and Building Better Lives Policy.

3.2 Option 2: To maintain the current process and policy.

4. Equalities considerations

4.1 The initial Due Regard Statement anticipates that there will be positive impact on some groups and no group will be adversely affected by the proposed policy revision. During the consultation we will check our understanding of the impact on protected groups and update the Due Regard Statement in the light of consultation feedback.

4.2 Steps will be taken to support consultees with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to access, and contribute to, the consultation.
5. Officer Advice:

5.1 Option 1; once consultation has taken place, and assuming a decision to proceed with the proposed revised policy, it will enable the council to implement the principles of the Building Better Lives Policy, support the integrated, personalised approach of the new SEND framework and achieve better outcomes for young people with SEND post 16. Maintaining the current policy does not facilitate this integrated, personalised approach - nevertheless it is a tried and trusted set of arrangements. The consultation process will not only test views about the principle of adopting a more personalised approach including travel needs it will also facilitate a discussion about how such a policy might be implemented and the implications. If agreed, the decision to implement for 2017 will facilitate early promotion and engagement with young people in Year 10 from September 2015 as students begin to consider post 16 options.

6. Performance Management/Follow-up

6.1 Once analysed, consultation feedback will be used to inform the decision about whether to implement this proposed revised policy and approach.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Report Title</strong></th>
<th>Post 16 SEND Home to School Transport Policy Consultation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statutory Authority</strong></td>
<td>Section 508A and 508D Education Act 1996</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Relevant County Council policy</strong></td>
<td>Post 16 Home to School Transport Policy &amp; Statement</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Resource Implications</strong></td>
<td>Consultation will be carried out from existing resources</td>
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<td><strong>Sustainability checklist:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Partnerships</strong></td>
<td>Consultation will be held with all key partners and stakeholders</td>
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<td><strong>Decision Making and Involvement</strong></td>
<td>Adopting a personalised approach will allow young people and their families to take control of decisions affecting them so they will be involved in co-production.</td>
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<td><strong>Economy and Employment</strong></td>
<td>No impact for the consultation.</td>
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<td><strong>Caring for people</strong></td>
<td>Consultation will be held with parents and carers.</td>
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<td><strong>Social Value</strong></td>
<td>No impact for the consultation.</td>
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<td><strong>Built Environment</strong></td>
<td>No impact for the consultation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Environment’ including Ecology (Biodiversity)</strong></td>
<td>No impact for the consultation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education and Information</strong></td>
<td>Consultation will be held with education providers.</td>
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| **Tackling Climate Change** | Carbon Emissions Implications? Neutral  
Vulnerable to climate change? No |
| **Due Regard Statement** | Has a Due Regard Statement been completed? Yes  
Yes - considerations included in main body of report  
Alternatively a hard copy is available for inspection from Jo Moore, Democratic Services Unit, email: jo.moore@gloucestshire.gov.uk.

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<tr>
<th>Human rights Implications</th>
<th>None identified</th>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation Arrangements</td>
<td>The consultation will run from 22 June to the 31 July 2015 with all identified key stakeholders.</td>
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