

## Consultation on Proposals to Change Southwark Travel Assistance Policy 2020 (Children of compulsory school age and Young People aged up to 25 years old)

Southwark Council has ambitious plans to prepare all its children and young people for adulthood by recognising, supporting and enabling their pathways to independence, from every, and any, starting point, including the ability to travel independently. In London, we are lucky to be supported in this goal by Transport for London ([TfL](#)) with a free and discounted public transport system for all children and young people in education or training in London.

Our commitment to supporting our children and young people to flourish in leading independent lives is seeking to become aligned to our response to the [Climate Change Emergency](#), and the decisions we have made relating to policy changes below have been informed by both the intention to become a carbon neutral borough by 2030 and by our goal to encourage independence in our children and young people.

In most circumstances, the council expects the majority of young people to make their own arrangements to travel to and from their place of learning independently and either walk or use free or concessionary services provided by TfL to do so. In cases where this is not possible for a child or young person, due to their specific needs/circumstances, an application can be made in line with Southwark's Travel Assistance policy.

We are proposing some changes to Southwark's Travel Assistance Policy for young people aged 0-25. We would like to hear from young people, their parents/carers and the staff and organisations who work with them to ensure the policy is clear on who may be eligible for support, and the type of travel assistance support the Council is able to provide.

### **Existing Policy**

In 2014, the maximum age limit for Local Authorities to care for people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) was raised from 19 years old to 25 years old. In response to this change, in 2015, Southwark Council developed a single travel policy for eligible children of compulsory school age, and those that are in full time education who are 16-19 years old (or up to 25 for those with special educational needs).

The policy describes arrangements for those in need of assistance with travelling from home to school or a place of learning; the eligibility criteria; how parents/ carers/ young people may apply; how decisions are made; the types of travel arrangements available; and how parents/ carers/ young people may appeal against decisions they are unhappy with.

### **Change Proposals**

Southwark Council is proposing to make changes to its Travel Assistance Policy for young people aged between 0 and 25 years old to ensure that it is up to date, is in line with guidance from the Department for Education, and is clear and transparent to service users and/ or their parents and carers.

## **Reason for the Proposed Changes**

These changes respond to the updated guidance provided by the Department for Education: The 5-16 year old DfE guidance is still under consultation, however, the post-16 guidance is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-transport-to-education-and-training>

## **Consultation**

In order to make sure that our changes are clear, we are opening a period of consultation to enable those people who might be affected by these changes to have their say.

Detailed below is:

1. A summary of the key changes we are proposing to make to Southwark's Travel Assistance Policy and some questions to find out what you think about those changes.
2. Information telling you how you can have your say on these proposed changes and the timeline for doing that.

Please note that a free text box for general comments on the proposed policy is available at the end of the consultation.

**Privacy statement:** Southwark Council uses your personal data to record your response to the consultation. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 requires us to do this. The council does not require your permission to process your data and failure to tell us your information may mean that we are unable to process your response. Your personal information will only be used by our Children's and Adult Services team, and will be destroyed after four years.

If you are concerned about how the council uses your personal data or would like to enquire about the personal information we hold on you, please contact us via [dpo@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:dpo@southwark.gov.uk) or on 020 7525 5000. More information about your rights is available on our website, or via the Information Commissioner ([www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)).

1. Summary of proposed changes

<b>Children aged 0- 5 years old</b>			
<b>Duty on Local Authority</b>	<b>Current Travel Assistance Policy (page 5)</b>	<b>Revised Travel Assistance Policy (page 7)</b>	<b>Question(s)</b>
<p>There is no duty on the Local Authority to provide travel assistance.</p> <p>This service is discretionary.</p>	<p>Assistance provided to children with SEN, who have long term medical needs or disability and who are unable to walk to nursery school and/or are placed by the Council in provision over 2 miles away from home.</p>	<p>Assistance only provided to children with the most severe needs and who need a specialist vehicle, for example, a vehicle that can accommodate them travelling in a wheelchair, to get to their provision and have no other form of transport available to them.</p>	<p><b>Are the circumstances under which the Local Authority would consider providing travel assistance to a child aged under 5 years old clear from the example given?</b></p> <p><b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If you ticked “No”, please write your reasons below:</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
<b>Children aged 5- 16 years old</b>			
<b>Duty on Local Authority</b>	<b>Current Travel Assistance Policy (pages 6-7)</b>	<b>Revised Travel Assistance Policy (pages 8-9)</b>	<b>Question(s)</b>
<p>There is a duty on the Local Authority to provide assistance to eligible children as set out in law. You can find these criteria, which have not</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance provided to eligible children (as set out in law)</li> <li>Types of assistance available: contracted vehicles, direct payments,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any new applications for Travel Assistance for the next academic year, must be submitted to the Local Authority by final Friday of June in the academic year before the September when the child is due to start (back at) school.</li> </ul>	<p>There is no proposed change to the provision outlined by the current Travel Assistance Policy, however, there is additional information provided about the application, assessment and review process.</p>

<p>changed, on pp. 8, 12 and 13 of the revised Travel Assistance Policy</p>	<p>Independent Travel Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible children will be assessed for Independent Travel Training from Year 6 onwards, unless this is not appropriate because of their needs.</li> <li>• All children will have their travel needs reviewed at year 9, and in most cases will be expected to progress to independent travel.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Does the wording of this section make clear when new applications for travel assistance for the next academic year must be made to the Local Authority by?</b></p> <p>Yes                  No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                  <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If you ticked “No”, please write your reasons below:</b></p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p><b>Does the wording of this section make clear the point from which any eligible children will be assessed for Independent Travel Training?</b></p> <p>Yes                  No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                  <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If you ticked “No”, please write your reasons below:</b></p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p><b>Does the wording of this section make clear in which circumstance assessment for Independent Travel Training from year 6 will not take place?</b></p> <p>Yes                  No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                  <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If you ticked “No”, please write your reasons below:</b></p> <p><input type="text"/></p>
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			<p><b>Does the wording of this section make clear the point at which all children will have their travel needs reviewed?</b></p> <p>Yes                      No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                      <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If you ticked "No", please write your reasons below:</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
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**Young People aged between 16 and 18 years old**

<b>Duty on Local Authority</b>	<b>Current Travel Assistance Policy (pages 11-12)</b>	<b>Revised Travel Assistance Policy (page 12)</b>	<b>Question(s)</b>
<p>There is a duty on the Local Authority to consider what is necessary to facilitate the attendance in education and training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility assessment criteria is the same as for children aged 5-16 years old.</li> <li>• Young people remaining at the same school for sixth form are not required to re-apply for assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new application must be submitted by the final Friday of June for all young people transitioning from year 11 to year 12 (or equivalent in FE college or training provider)</li> <li>• Assistance will be provided only in exceptional circumstances</li> <li>• All eligible young people will be assessed for Independent Travel Training, and, if this is appropriate, it will be the Council's only offer.</li> </ul>	<p>At national and local level, there has been recognition of the need to clarify the Travel Assistance Provision available in order to balance funding levels.</p> <p>The Local Authority has taken into consideration national guidance to make clearer what can and cannot be provided to ensure we continue to support those with the greatest need.</p> <p><b>Does the wording of this section make clear the stage at which point all young people must submit a new application for travel assistance?</b></p> <p>Yes                      No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                      <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If you ticked "No", please write your reasons below:</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If cost effective for the Council, eligible young people for whom Independent Travel Training is not appropriate, will be offered a direct payment to enable attendance at education and/ or training.</li> <li>• A place on/ in a contracted vehicle will only be offered to an eligible young person if it is the most cost effective option for the Council and/ or it is the only means of meeting the needs of the young person.</li> <li>• If our offer is not accepted, the parent/carer can pay for a place in council contracted vehicle</li> <li>• If a place of learning or training is named in section I of a young person's Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP), and the young person or their family have indicated (either in the</li> </ul>	<p><b>Does the wording of this section make clear that assistance will only be provided in exceptional circumstances?</b></p> <p>Yes                      No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                      <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If you ticked "No", please write your reasons below:</b></p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p><b>Does the wording of this section make clear that all young people will be assessed for Independent Travel Training and that, if appropriate, it will be the Council's only offer?</b></p> <p>Yes                      No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                      <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If you ticked "No", please write your reasons below:</b></p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p><b>Does the wording of this section make clear in which circumstances direct payments to enable attendance at education and/ or training will be made?</b></p> <p>Yes                      No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                      <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If you ticked "No", please write your reasons below:</b></p> <p><input type="text"/></p>
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		<p>plan or in any SEN tribunal proceedings) that they will provide travel assistance to the young person to enable them to attend, the Council may consider this when assessing an application for travel assistance and it may be taken as grounds for refusing an application.</p>	<p><b>Does the wording of this section make clear on which grounds a place on/ in a contracted vehicle will be offered to an eligible young person?</b></p> <p>Yes                      No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                      <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If you ticked “No”, please write your reasons below:</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 100%;"></div> <p><b>Does the wording of this section make clear the additional grounds under which an application for travel assistance may be refused?</b></p> <p>Yes                      No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                      <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If you ticked “No”, please write your reasons below:</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px; width: 100%;"></div>
<b>Duty on Local Authority</b>	<b>Current Travel Assistance Policy (page 12)</b>	<b>Revised Travel Assistance Policy (page 12)</b>	<b>Question(s)</b>
<p>The <a href="#">statutory guidance</a> explains that the Education Act, 1996, gives Local Authorities the flexibility to contribute to, fund or charge for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While this is not currently in operation, Southwark Council does reserve the right to introduce a process for asking those aged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whilst this is not currently in operation, Southwark Council is exploring ways in which a charging mechanism could be put in place for those aged between 16 to 18, and their parents.</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Authority is planning to develop a charging system for 16-18 year olds who do not require, because of their needs, a specialised vehicle to attend their place of education or training.</p> <p><b>Do you think the Local Authority should apply a charge to all users in this 16-18 year old category, who do not require, because of their needs, a specialised vehicle?</b></p>

other transport solutions where it wishes.	between 16 to 25, and their parents, for a reasonable contribution towards transport costs.		<p>Yes                  No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                  <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Do you think there should be a means-testing process to assess who should be charged?</b></p> <p>Yes                  No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                  <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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**Young People/ Adults aged between 19 and 25 years old**

<b>Duty on Local Authority</b>	<b>Current Travel Assistance Policy (pages 11-12)</b>	<b>Revised Travel Assistance Policy (page 13)</b>	<b>Question(s)</b>
There is a duty on the Local Authority to make such arrangements for the provision of transport as it considers necessary for the purpose of facilitating attendance at a local authority maintained or assisted Further Education provision, or a residential/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility assessment criteria were the same as for children aged 5-16 years old.</li> <li>• Young adults remaining at the same provision post 16 are not required to re-apply for assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new application will have to be submitted when the young adult turns 19 and starts a new course, or changes course or provision, and thereafter whenever they change course.</li> <li>• Assistance from the council will only be provided to young adults with the most severe needs and who need a specialist vehicle but who do not already have one available to them, for example, a vehicle that can accommodate them</li> </ul>	<p><b>Does the wording of this section make clear when a new application for travel assistance must be submitted?</b></p> <p>Yes                  No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                  <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If you ticked “No”, please write your reasons below:</b></p> <div data-bbox="1205 954 2000 1010" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 35px; width: 100%;"></div> <p><b>Does the wording of this section make clear that travel assistance from the Council will only be provided to young people with the most severe needs and who need a specialist vehicle to get to their education/ training provision and have no other form of transport (a motability vehicle is considered to be a form of transport) to get them there?</b></p> <p>Yes                  No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>                  <input type="checkbox"/></p>



boarding provision set out in the Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) that was arranged by the Local Authority, and which is outside of the Further and Higher Education sector.		travelling in a wheelchair, to get to their provision and have no other form of transport available to them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once a young person is aged 18 or over, the council does not have a duty to consider whether there is anyone available to accompany the young person to their provision.</li> </ul>	<b>If you ticked "No", please write your reasons below:</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>
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**Please write any other comments you may have on the proposed changes in this box:**

**Information about you.** We would like to collect information about which group you belong to so that we can ensure that we have received feedback from all groups affected or potentially affected by the proposed changes. Please indicate below which group you belong to.

Parent/carer

Child/ young person

Headteacher/ SENCO

Social Services

Local Authority

Other. If 'other', please specify:.....

Governing Body of school/ place of further education

**About you.** If you would like to be informed about the outcome of this consultation, please complete your contact details below.

Please note that this information will only be used to inform you of the outcome of the consultation and will be removed from our records after this. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, please tick the box below.

*Name:*

*Address/email address:*

*I would prefer to remain anonymous, if published:*

**How did you hear about this consultation?**

Southwark's *Local Offer*

Southwark's Travel Assistance Team

A school/ place of further education

Word of mouth

A parents' group

A transport contractor

(e.g. Southwark Independent Voice)

Other. If 'other', please specify:.....

**What did you think of this consultation?**

Please tell us what you thought of this consultation by ticking the boxes below:

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
I found the consultation information clear and easy to understand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I found the consultation easy to find on Southwark Council's website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I had enough information about the consultation topic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Is there anything you would like us to improve or do differently for future consultations? If so, please use this space to tell us.**

## EQUALITY MONITORING FORM

### Introduction

The standard introductory text that is supplied below should be included to introduce questions and provide assurance on data protection.

### About You

To make sure we are providing fair services to all of Southwark's diverse communities, it is important that we ask you a few questions about yourself. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you did. The information will be used to help us plan services that meet the needs of all its users (*please edit this sentence for what you propose to use the information for*). Your responses will be kept confidential and any information published will be made anonymous. The information will be used in a statistical format only.

Age: Are You...			
<input type="checkbox"/> Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 55-64	<input type="checkbox"/> 85-94
<input type="checkbox"/> 16-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 35-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 65-74	<input type="checkbox"/> 95+
<input type="checkbox"/> 18-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 45-54	<input type="checkbox"/> 75-84	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
Disability			
Are you disabled ?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
Please tick a box or boxes below which best describes your disability			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Hearing / Vision</b> (e.g. deaf, partially deaf or hard of hearing; blind or partial sight.)		

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Physical / Mobility</b> (e.g. wheelchair user, arthritis, multiple sclerosis etc)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Mental health</b> (lasting more than a year. e.g. severe depression, schizophrenia etc)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Learning disability</b> (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia etc)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Long-term illness or health condition</b> , e.g. Cancer, HIV, Diabetes, Chronic Heart disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Chronic Asthma		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Prefer not to say</b>		
If you wish to specify your disability, please do so here:			
<b>What is your ethnic background ?</b> Please pick one section below and tick one box.			
<b>White or White British</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> British <input type="checkbox"/> English	<input type="checkbox"/> Scottish <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish <input type="checkbox"/> Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller <input type="checkbox"/> Other European
<input type="checkbox"/> Other White (please specify if you wish):			
<b>Black or Black British</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Black British <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Nigerian <input type="checkbox"/> Ghanaian	<input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Leonean <input type="checkbox"/> Somali	<input type="checkbox"/> Other African
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Black (please specify if you wish):			
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>			

<input type="checkbox"/> Asian British	<input type="checkbox"/> Bengali	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian (please specify if you wish):			
<b>Mixed Background</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African	<input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other mixed background (please specify if you wish):			
<b>Other Ethnic background</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Arab	<input type="checkbox"/> Latin American (please specify if you wish):		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic background (please specify if you wish):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
<b>Preferred language ( only to be asked where relevant )</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> English	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify if you wish):		
<b>Religion or belief</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian	<input type="checkbox"/> Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> No religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Sikh	<input type="checkbox"/> Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/> Other religion or belief (please specify if you wish):			
<b>Marriage or civil partnership status ( only to be asked where strictly relevant )</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Married	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered in a civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify if you wish .....		
<b>Sex</b>			

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
<b>Gender Re-Assignment and Gender Identity</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Is your Gender Identity the same as the sex you were assigned at birth ? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify if you wish .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	
<b>Pregnancy or Maternity ( only to be asked where strictly relevant )</b>		
Are you currently pregnant and / or on maternity leave?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/straight <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian/Gay woman	<input type="checkbox"/> Gay man <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-sexual	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify if you wish) <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

