

To Parents or Carers of all Cheshire East School Children

Children & Families Services School Consultations Dalton House Middlewich Cheshire CW10 0HU 0300 123 5012 stp@cheshireeast.gov.uk

DATE: 25 March 2011 OUR REF: Consultations YOUR REF:

Please Contact: 0300 123 5012

Dear Parent or Carer

School Transport and School Term Dates - Have Your Say

Cheshire East Council wants the best for you and your family and is working hard to provide services that meet your needs. This means always looking for the best way to use our limited resources to provide services.

<u>School Transport</u> - Like all councils, we have to make difficult decisions about what services we can keep and which, sadly, we can no longer afford. Much of what we do is statutory, i.e., there is a law that tells us that we must do it. This means that when we need to cut our costs, we have to look at those areas that are non-statutory, i.e. where we provide services because we feel they make a difference to our local communities. One of these areas is school transport. Some of this we must provide by law and we will continue to do so, but for other discretionary areas, we are looking at making changes to the services we provide.

<u>School Term Dates</u> - Cheshire East Council is also looking at making changes to school term dates. We are responsible for setting these dates for most schools, but can only recommend them for Foundation, Aided and Academy schools. The proposed changes aim to standardise and align our school term dates across both primary and secondary schools and with other local areas, including Cheshire West and Chester, Wirral, Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley, St Helens, Warrington and Halton.

<u>Have your say</u> - We know that these changes will affect many families within Cheshire East and we need to know, before we make any decisions, what the impact will be. Full details of both consultations and an online questionnaire are available at: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools

You can also feed back to us direct at one of the following drop-in sessions. You can attend at any point during the session and Council staff will be on hand to answer questions and record feedback on both consultations.

Date	Times	Venue
Tuesday 5 th April 2011	2-4pm 5-8pm	Assembly Room, Macclesfield Town Hall Macclesfield, SK10 1DP
Thursday 7 th April 2011	2-4pm 5-8pm	Alexandra Suite, Crewe Alexandra Football Club, Gresty Road, Crewe CW2 6EB
Wednesday 13 th April 2011	2-4pm 5-8pm	Creche Room/Hall, Middlewich Community Church, 34-36 Brooks Lane Middlewich, CW10 0JG
Thursday 14 th April 2011	4-7pm	Main Hall, New Life Church, Danesford Community Centre, West Road, Congleton, CW12 4EY

The consultation period ends on the 20th May 2011 and we expect that a final decision will be made by the Council during June 2011. We look forward to receiving your comments. If you have any queries about this letter please contact the Council on 0300 123 5012.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Butcher

Director of Children and Families