Appendix 3

Introduce of a policy on direct payments, which will provide Mileage related and only agreed when it has been assessed as the lowest cost

Section B-10, Draft policy makes no specific reference to a school at which a cared for child is

Removal of discretionary travel assistance for children with a disability

Section 12, To remove discretionary temporary residential eligibility.

Rewording in the policy to make clear the need for general exclusion in order to deal with persistent misbehaviour on school transport. The Council publishes a code

Criteria for SEND includes two specific travel-related mobility eligibilities: a) severely restricted independent mobility, and b) lack of awareness of common danger and age appropriate independence skills. Sub-sections are included in bullet point format to provide clarity about these criteria.

The new DRAFT policy makes it very clear that most children with SEND will not require travel assistance. Local authorities are required to make transport arrangements for all children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school because of their mobility problems or because of associated health and safety issues related to their special educational needs (SEND) or disability. Eligibility, for such children should be assessed on an individual basis to identify their particular transport requirements.

The current policy states that temporary medical conditions may require free travel due to accident, planned surgery or illness. To remove discretionary temporary medical condition eligibility.

Permanently excluded children receive free travel to the nearest suitable school, which includes a pupil referral unit provided the normal eligibility criteria are met.

To retain this arrangement and to include temporary exclusions, in accordance with statutory requirements. Rewarded to ensure clarity about the need for normal criteria of distance, unavailable routes, and extended rights for low income families.

Children with parents with a disability may be eligible to receive travel assistance. Children with parents with a disability will no longer be eligible for travel assistance on their basis of medical needs, but will retain eligibility, as appropriate, on distance, unavailable walking route, or extended rights under SEND criteria.

Criteria for SEND includes two specific travel-related mobility eligibilities: a) severely restricted independent mobility, and b) lack of awareness of common danger and age appropriate independence skills. Sub-sections are included in bullet point format to provide clarity about these criteria.

The current policy states that the school at which a cared for child is placed by the Council will be deemed the qualifying school for transport purposes. A child will be provided with travel assistance if the child attends a 'qualifying school'.

Cared for children will continue to be eligible to receive free travel under normal criteria of age-related distance, SEND, unavailable walking route, or extended rights (low income) criteria to the catchment or nearest suitable school.

Removal of discretionary travel for parents with a disability

Penalty states at Section 11 that the school at which a cared for child is placed by the Council will be deemed the qualifying school for transport purposes. A child will be provided with travel assistance if the child attends a 'qualifying school'.

Penalty states at Section 11 that the school at which a cared for child is placed by the Council will be deemed the qualifying school for transport purposes. A child will be provided with travel assistance if the child attends a 'qualifying school'.

Introduce a policy on direct payments, which will provide clarity and consistency of entitlement and implementation process

Reworked in light of new policy and current policy as at LA’s discretion.

One of the key changes introduced by the new DfE guidance to the council's draft policy is to ensure clarity of process and entitlement and consistency of application. Direct payments can be made for any child eligible to receive travel assistance under the Council’s policy if parents wish to accept the offer of reimbursement of reasonable travel costs, e.g. a mileage payment to parents / carers who are willing to transport their child to school in their own vehicle. Parents are under no obligation to accept the offer of reimbursement of travel costs and should contact the Council or visit the website for further information.

The Council may decide to impose a temporary ban or withdraw travel assistance, as it considers appropriate, in the case of any child whose behaviour during the journey to or from school is not of an acceptable standard. In addition, schools can impose a number of sanctions ranging from detention to exclusion in order to deal with persistent misbehaviour on school transport. The Council publishes a code of behaviour for children, which can be found on the website. This code will be sent to children at the time that travel arrangements are confirmed.

The current policy states: 11. Behaviour on transport

The Council may decide to impose a temporary ban or withdraw travel assistance, as it considers appropriate, in the case of any child whose behaviour during the journey to or from school is not of an acceptable standard. In addition, schools can impose a number of sanctions ranging from detention to exclusion in order to deal with persistent misbehaviour on school transport. The Council publishes a code of behaviour for children, which can be found on the website. This code will be sent to children at the time that travel arrangements are confirmed.

The current policy states: 17. Behaviour on transport

The Council may decide to impose a temporary ban or withdraw travel assistance, as it considers appropriate, in the case of any child whose behaviour during the journey to or from school is not of an acceptable standard. In addition, schools can impose a number of sanctions ranging from detention to exclusion in order to deal with persistent misbehaviour on school transport. The Council publishes a code of behaviour for children, which can be found on the website. This code will be sent to children at the time that travel arrangements are confirmed.
Appendix 3

10. Introduce a policy to clearly define the complaints and appeals process.

Appendix 2 to the current policy is a flowchart to illustrate the appeals and review process.

Section E, page 25

New policy document produced N. and includes information for interested parties about the justification for appeal, the procedure at appeal hearings, timescales involved to ensure clarity of process and consistency of application.

11. Change the age range for eligible Post 16 students with SEND?

This has been amended to state that to be eligible to apply for travel assistance, the student must be:

• aged 16-19 with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP); or
• a continuing learner aged 19-25 with an EHCP.

Current Home to School Transport Policy states that support may be provided for post 16 continuing learners that qualified for travel assistance are 16. The provision is, at least, up to the age of 21 and for maximum of three years for children with SEND who continue their education.

Section E-2, page 19 (also referred to in Section C-4, page 13)

Entitlement to travel assistance has been extended to ensure that continuing learners with SEND are supported with travel for the duration of their course/programme of study where it has been deemed necessary to provide this (subject to regular review). Once the particular course/programme of study has ended, so will the entitlement to travel assistance. Travel assistance will not be available for all continuing learners with SEND, only those for whom it has been accepted (and verified with supporting evidence) that travel is necessary to facilitate learning on the basis of ensuring travel arrangements are adequate to enable these young people to participate. Any agreed travel assistance will be reviewed regularly to ensure any change in circumstances does not remove eligibility.

Post 16 Transport Policy Statement, Section 3.

12. Proposal that students with SEND should be offered Independent travel training (ITT) where the LA has deemed this to be appropriate, taking into account their particular special needs?

Current Post 16 Transport Policy Statement states that, wherever possible, independent travel training (ITT) should be promoted to encourage independence rather than dependence. Secondary aged pupils who have been assessed as requiring travel assistance because of their special needs will receive support for independence and mobility training as part of their school curriculum. This has the aim of reducing their reliance on individual transport, in preparation for adult life. Plans to encourage independent travel must be put in place by the school and parents/carers, working in partnership to mutually agreed targets. Progress will be evidenced at each subsequent annual review. This step is regarded as a positive achievement towards the child’s progress in becoming an independent traveller.

Section D(4), page 17

To offer Independent travel training (ITT) for SEND students applying for travel assistance, as deemed appropriate by the LA taking into account the specific needs of the student to ensure suitability.

Post 16 Transport Policy Statement, Section 3.2

SEND Travel Policy Para 7

The draft Post 16 Transport Policy Statement states: Where the Local Authority deems it to be appropriate, students who have not accessed public transport previously will be required to undertake independent Travel Training (ITT). The Local Authority will take into account the learner’s individual needs in making its assessment. If a student is identified as ready to undertake ITT, refusal to participate may affect any future applications for travel assistance. The draft policy also states: For Post 16 students that have not already completed Independent Travel Training (ITT), an assessment of the suitability to receive ITT will be undertaken at the time eligibility for travel assistance is agreed. Where ITT is considered appropriate, temporary travel assistance will be agreed in the first instance with a review date being set to reassess eligibility for travel assistance on completion of the training. The draft SEND policy offers independent travel training to support children and young people to travel independently to school, support transition to adulthood and provide wider social benefits.