

Local Authority Transport Policy Statement

Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

Name of Local Authority: Shropshire Council

Department Responsible: Children's Services

1. Summary of Policy Statement and Main Objectives (this section should give an overview/statement of intent of what the Local Authority's transport policy is and what the subsequent desired outcomes are).

(Please see attached guidance notes which contain the Policy Statement & Main Objectives)

2. Please provide details of all concessionary fares, discounts, subsidies, passes or travel cards available for learners aged 16-18 and who provides them. Please provide details of any costs to the learner.

Shropshire Council provide travel passes for entitled students who normally reside in Shropshire and who meet the Post/16 transport assistance criteria. The agreed level of charges have changed, following consultation, for the 2019/20 academic year. The main charge remains the same which is £875. Families may also contribute for a termly pass. For families on defined benefits, a contribution towards the cost of the transport assistance will now be £280 for each entitled student.

The 16-19 Bursary Scheme provides financial support for learners aged 16-19 to access education or training. Schools and colleges are responsible for awarding bursaries and the amount paid. They can also apply to the Learner Support Service for additional funding for vulnerable students.

Details of the Bursary scheme are available on the Direct Gov website at: www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

3. What times during the day can learners use their travel pass or obtain Concessionary fares?

Travel passes to school or sixth form/college are normally issued for one returnable journey a day. This would be to travel into college up until 12 noon and return home after 12 noon. However many bus transport operators including Arriva Trains Wales now offer unlimited travel on their network and students may wish to contact their local operators to find out what options are available to them.

4. Please confirm that support will continue to be made available to learners who reach 19 whilst continuing on a course.

Where the student becomes 19 years of age during their course, transport assistance will cease at the end of the academic year in which the 19th birthday falls.

5. How will learners be assessed to see if they are eligible for support?

e.g. means-testing or must they be on benefits?

Applications will be considered within the terms of the Post/16 entitlement criteria and where this is met, assistance will be offered by issuing travel passes which can be used on appropriate public transport networks and/or college buses. This is subject to the Post/16 contribution being received or proof of benefit & the appropriate payment (see below)

Where families are in receipt of the following defined benefits listed below and the student qualifies for Post/16 transport assistance, a contribution of £280.00 will be required:

Income Based Job Seekers Allowance

Income Support

Free School Meals

Child Tax Credit with annual income, as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs, of less than £16,190 on 1st September 2019 or subsequently on the date of application.

If you are not happy with the decision about your entitlement to help with Post/16 transport, complaints should be addressed in the first instance to the Senior Entitlement Officer, Transport Commissioning Group, Abbey Foregate, Shropshire Council SY2 6ND whereby the application will then be reviewed.

The complainant would need to submit a statement as to why they believe the Council is failing to exercise their duty not to provide Post/16 transport assistance under sections 509AA to 509AD of the Education Act 1996. Each appeal is considered on its individual merits and is not intended to set a precedent for similar cases.

Every effort will be made to resolve complaints at Stage 1.

If the complaint is not resolved at Stage 1 then the complainant can refer the matter to a Stage 2 Transport Panel review.

Finally should this matter still remain unresolved, an appeal can be made to the Local Government Ombudsman.

This appeals process is in line with guidance from the Department for Education.

Once the appeals procedure has been exhausted, that decision is final and other than communication of the decision and the reason behind it, no further correspondence will be entered into, unless the appellant produces further evidence to be considered.

6. What help do you provide for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including those over 19 or learners facing other difficulties in Following their courses?

Should an applicant have a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan then you will need to complete an alternative application form so that the Authority can better assess the needs of the applicant. Once a placement at an educational facility has been secured an application will need to be assessed by the Specialist Travel Team.

Please take a look at our 'How to apply' page or contact us on 01743 253049 or email special.transport.team@shropshire.gov.uk should you have any queries or require further assistance

Following consultation there is now a contribution scheme for the 2019/20 academic year for pupils of discretionary age (0-4 and 16-19). The main charge is £875 per year. For families on defined benefits (please see below), a contribution towards the cost of the transport assistance will be £280 for the academic year.

Where families are in receipt of the following defined benefits listed below and the student qualifies for assistance, a contribution of £280 will be required:

Income Based Job Seekers Allowance

Income Support

Free School Meals

Child Tax Credit with annual income, as assessed by HM Revenue &

Customs, of less than £16,190 on 1st September 2019 or subsequently on the date of application.

Transport is currently provided bespoke to the applicant's individual needs and the Authority will provide one returnable journey a day.

All applicants are assessed to make sure they meet the Post/16 transport assistance criteria.

Learners aged 19 or over

Whilst the Council actively encourages young adults to participate in education and training, to progress their pathway to employment and maximise their independence; it is expected that the vast majority of adult learners will make their own travel arrangements and meet the cost of those arrangements.

However, in exceptional circumstances the council may conclude that it is necessary to make arrangements for the provision of transport.

To discuss this further please contact us on 01743 253049 or email special.transport.team@shropshire.gov.uk

7. Do you provide mobility/independence training for learners who face Difficulty with transport?

A number of schools and colleges provide travel training and support to students; schools can be contacted directly for details of their provision. Students with a statement or ECHP can be assessed for Travel Training and this will be provided by the Local Authority.

8. When should learners start to apply for transport support?

Application forms are now currently available from Shropshire Council & Shropshire Colleges. For Shropshire students wishing to apply over the telephone, this can be done by contacting Shropshire Council's Customer Service Centre on 0345 678 9008. **Applications can also be made online at www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport/available-support/post-16/**

We would advise students who wish to apply for Post/16 transport assistance to complete an application form as early as possible to avoid any delay as this is our busiest time of the year.

Should your application be successful, we would also recommend students make a contribution asap. In most cases, this should ensure passes will be available to use at the beginning of the new term.

9. What help can learners apply for if they need to travel to a course that is beyond your Local Authority area?

Transport assistance is provided to students who undertake vocational courses outside the Local Authority area where this is the nearest college

offering the course available (subject to the distance criteria).

10. What help is available for learners who attend a further education institution which is beyond daily travelling distance and they need to stay away?

No assistance is currently provided for students who live beyond the daily travelling distance and need to stay away. However, if the student has previously held a statement of special needs, any exceptional requests for transport assistance may be considered on an individual basis.

11. Please provide information about all points of contact for learners seeking transport support, e.g. Local Authority/college, bus company contact. Please include any websites and e-mail addresses.

Passenger Transport Commissioning Group (Shropshire Council)
www.shropshire.gov.uk
Shropshire Colleges inc. the following websites:

Web: www.shrewsbury.ac.uk

Email: studentservices@shrewsbury.ac.uk

Web: www.nsc.ac.uk

Email: info@nsc.ac.uk

Web: www.ssfc.ac.uk

Email: reception@ssfc.ac.uk

Web: www.ludlow-college.ac.uk

Email: enquiries@hlcollege.ac.uk

Transport Operators

Arriva Midlands: www.arrivabus.co.uk

Minsterley Motors: www.minsterleymotors.co.uk

Lakeside Coaches: www.lakesidecoaches.co.uk

Tanat Valley Coaches: www.tanat.co.uk

Boultons of Shropshire: www.boultonsofshropshire.co.uk

Bennetts Travel: www.bennettstravelcranberryltd.co.uk

Celtic: www.celtic-travel.co.uk

R&B Travel: No website, contact telephone: 01584 8908770

Diamond: www.diamondbuses.com