

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL POST 19 YEARS EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRAVEL ASSISTANCE POLICY

Introduction:

This policy sets out Shropshire Council's statutory responsibility in respect of travel assistance for learners, specifically in relation to the duty set out in section 508F of the Education Act 1996.

(Please note: If a learner is under 19 years old on 1st September 2019, the post 16 to 18 policy will apply until the end of the 2019/20 course year).

Policy:

Whilst the Council actively encourages young adults to participate in education and training, in order 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 pursuant to Section 508F of the Education Act 1996. If the Council concludes that such arrangements are necessary, the transport will be provided free of charge.

In considering whether it is necessary for the Council to make arrangements for the provision of transport, the Council will have regard to, amongst other things, the matters set out in Section 508F(6) Education Act 1996, which includes the age of the adult and the nature of the route or alternative routes, which the adult could reasonably be expected to take.

In relation to adults who have an EHC Plan, the council will also have regard to what the Council is required to do under section 15ZA(1) of the Education Act 1996.

Where the Council has determined that it is not necessary to provide assistance under s508F of the Education Act, it may nevertheless, be appropriate to assess an individual who may be eligible for social care needs under the Care Act 2014. Any travel assistance identified within that process may be subject to a contribution.

When might it be necessary for the Council to provide travel assistance?

In determining whether it is necessary for the Council to provide assistance with transport, the Council will also consider on an individual basis why it is necessary for the Council and not the learner or family to make suitable travel arrangements.

To assess this, we need to know:

1. That the learner resides in Shropshire
2. Whether the institution attended is the nearest appropriate educational establishment offering a suitable course, on a full-time basis (i.e. a minimum of 16 hours of guided learning across at least three days a week)
3. Whether the learner has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
4. What other arrangements have been considered or tried and why they are not suitable;
5. What funding is available for transport from the institution that the learner is attending; there is an expectation that the learner has actively applied for that funding;
6. What other funds the learner can access; there is an expectation that the learner has actively applied for that funding;
7. If there is a family member/carer who is able to transport the learner and why it would not be a reasonable arrangement to make;
8. If the learner is in receipt of higher rate mobility component of the Personal Independence Payment, this would be considered as a means of securing independent travel assistance. If there are any exceptional factors limiting its' use applicants will need to provide details of them;
9. If there is a Motability vehicle it is expected under the terms of use that the learner will directly benefit from its use. If a decision has been made not to use the Motability vehicle to enable the learner to attend their post 19 education placement, the learner will normally be expected to make their own appropriate alternative arrangements. If this is not possible applicants will need to provide details to explain why.
10. Whether the learner has a journey to the educational or training institution that cannot be undertaken on public transport due to the availability of public transport services or because of the learner's special needs and/or disabilities

Where it is considered that travel assistance is necessary it will be arranged in the most cost-effective way and will focus on support that will aim for or enable the learner to travel as independently as possible.

Transport is not provided to meet a learner's individual timetable, including before and after college clubs, extra-curricular activities, exams or work experience/placements.