

Title of proposed EIA *	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Travel Assistance Policy for 0-25 year olds in Education</div> <p>Please provide the title of your policy or service area.</p>
Reference No	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">EQUA190</div> <p>Please do not amend. A reference number will automatically be applied once the form is saved.</p>
EA is in support of *	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Amended Policy ▼</div>
Review Frequency *	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Annually ▼</div> <p>Please select how regularly you plan to review the assessment.</p>
Date of first review *	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">31/05/2020 📅</div> <p>Based on the review frequency, please enter the date when your first review will take place.</p>
Directorate *	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Children and young people ▼</div>
Division	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Children with SEND and Vulnerable groups</div>
Service Area	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Travel Assist</div> <p>Please add if applicable</p>
Responsible Officer(s) *	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Jennifer Langan x </div> <p>This is the person responsible for completing, submitting and reviewing the assessment.</p>
Quality Control Officer(s) *	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Simon J Field x </div> <p>This is the person responsible for checking the quality of the assessment.</p>
Accountable Officer(s) *	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Anne Ainsworth x </div> <p>This is the person responsible for making the final decision on the EIA and the policy, plan, procedure etc.</p>
Purpose of proposal *	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Update on Consultation Response and introduction of new policy</div>
Data sources	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation Results <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant reports/strategies <input type="checkbox"/> Statistical Database (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> relevant research <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) </p> <p>What sources of data have been used to produce the screening of this policy/proposal? (Please tick all that apply)</p>
Please include any other sources of data	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Feedback from face-to-face meetings with parents and other stakeholders</div>
ASSESS THE POTENTIAL IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div> <p>Include how any potential negative impact be removed or mitigated.</p>
Protected characteristic: Age *	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service Users / Stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/> Employees <input type="checkbox"/> Wider Community <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable </p> <p>Please select those directly impacted or affected.</p>
Age details:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Birmingham's home to school transport service provides travel assistance to over 5,780 children and young people. There are approximately 4,250 pupils transported to and from school, college or centre every day using transport provision i.e. accessible/non accessible minibus, MPV or taxi and approximately and 1,600 pupils are issued a bus pass.</p> <p>The consultation asked respondents about the proposal for and changes to, a new 0-25 Transport Assistance Policy for Education.</p> </div>

The changes proposed include combining policies into one 0-25 document; changing the stage 2 appeals process from a member panel to officers and enabling parents to attend any stage 2 meetings; strengthening the emphasis on independent travel training and personal transport budgets; greater clarity regarding the application and decision-making processes and the rights and responsibilities of parents.

In addition changes to the policy proposed; increasing the financial contribution from families for post 16 transport; introducing a contribution for pre-school transport and setting out the council's policy in relation to travel assistance for young adults over the age of 19.

For the selected characteristics, please add further details. Describe the potential positive and negative impact of the policy or service and how any negative impacts will be mitigated. Describe who is affected, how they are affected and any additional comments.

Protected characteristic: Disability *

- Service Users / Stakeholders
- Employees
- Wider Community
- Not Applicable

Please select those directly impacted or affected.

Disability details:

Birmingham's home to school transport Service was established to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to make transport arrangements for eligible children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Any changes to transport primarily affect children with SEND. The outcome of the consultation was broadly in line with the proposed changes to the policy. What became clear was that service users want the service to improve and want more communication and involvement in the development of the service.

The main changes within the policy that will affect service users is the increase in the contribution for post 16 users and the introduction of a contribution for pre-school children. Other changes largely relate to clarity concerning aspects of home to school transport, the decision making and appeals process as well as the application process.

An additional emphasis on independent travel training and an improved personal transport offer was broadly supported, but respondents were keen that the council did not 'impose' any changes on families, but worked with them as appropriate.

Work is taking place to review the location of specialist education across the city to bring provision closer to children and to seek to reduce travel which will enable more options to be available to families regarding travel to school.

For the selected characteristics, please add further details. Describe the potential positive and negative impact of the policy or service and how any negative impacts will be mitigated. Describe who is affected, how they are affected and any additional comments.

Protected characteristic: Gender *

- Service Users / Stakeholders
- Employees
- Wider Community
- Not Applicable

Please select those directly impacted or affected.

Gender details:

There are no specific gender implications.

For the selected characteristics, please add further details. Describe the potential positive and negative impact of the policy or service and how any negative impacts will be mitigated. Describe who is affected, how they are affected and any additional comments.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment *

- Service Users / Stakeholders
- Employees
- Wider Community
- Not Applicable

Please select those directly impacted or affected.

Gender reassignment details:

For the selected characteristics, please add further details. Describe the potential positive and negative impact of the policy or service and how any negative impacts will be mitigated. Describe who is affected, how they are affected and any additional comments.

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership *

- Service Users/ Stakeholders
- Employees
- Wider Community
- Not Applicable

Please select those directly impacted or affected.

Marriage and civil partnership details:

For the selected characteristics, please add further details. Describe the potential positive and negative impact of the policy or service and how any negative impacts will be mitigated.

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity *

- Service Users / Stakeholders
- Employees
- Wider Community
- Not Applicable

Please select those directly impacted or affected.

Pregnancy and maternity details:

For the selected characteristics, please add further details. Describe the potential positive and negative impact of the policy or service and how any negative impacts will be mitigated. Describe who is affected, how they are affected and any additional comments.

Protected characteristics: Race *

- Service Users / Stakeholders
- Employees
- Wider Community
- Not Applicable

Please select those directly impacted or affected.

Race details:

For the selected characteristics, please add further details. Describe the potential positive and negative impact of the policy or service and how any negative impacts will be mitigated. Describe who is affected, how they are affected and any additional comments.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs *

- Service Users / Stakeholders
- Employees
- Wider Community
- Not Applicable

Please select those directly impacted or affected.

Religion or beliefs details:

For the selected characteristics, please add further details. Describe the potential positive and negative impact of the policy or service and how any negative impacts will be mitigated. Describe who is affected, how they are affected and any additional comments.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation *

- Service Users / Stakeholders
- Employees
- Wider Community
- Not Applicable

Please select those directly impacted or affected.

Sexual orientation details:

For the selected characteristics, please add further details. Describe the potential positive and negative impact of the policy or service and how any negative impacts will be mitigated. Describe who is affected, how they are affected and any additional comments.

Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.

Any changes to home to school transport will affect the families of children with SEND primarily. The impact of the proposed changes have been considered as part of the consultation, and the feedback received. This is reflected within the cabinet report.

Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended

 YES

If yes, please continue to complete the remaining questions. If no, please go to the quality control section below.

What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal?

The findings of the consultation were broadly in line with the proposals of within the new policy.

The only area where on-line respondents did not agree with a proposal was to increase the polct 16 contribution for transport. 48% disagreed, whilst 32% agreed and 16% neither agreed nor disagreed.

It was felt that this increase could disadvantage families who may already be struggling financially.

The results of the consultation showed that many respondents were particularly focused on how the service is delivered and the quality of the service, alongside good communication and involvement with the service in the future and less concerned about the policy itself.

What are the main findings from the analysis of the data?

Consultation analysis

The consultation has been quite comprehensive. Face to face meetings have been held with parents; voice of the child workshops undertaken; all statutory stakeholders have been contacted; sessions for elected members and MPs have been held and an on-line questionnaire was launched.

The feedback from the consultation was broadly in line with the proposed changes.

Who was consulted, what are the results of the consultation exercise?

Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.

Any changes to the service will have an impact on families who have children with SEND.

The increased contribution for post 16 and the introduced contribution for pre-school children could have an impact on the financial circumstances of families and their ability to pay for transport.

Based on the analysis of the data does the policy/proposal have any adverse impact?

Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact?

The intention is that this change in policy is part of improvements to service delivery and greater engagement with families, which ultimately will support children in their transition to adulthood and greater independence.

How will the effect(s) of this policy/proposal on equality be monitored?

Families will have access to information about other sources of funding/travel concessions to help them manage transport arrangements.

The contribution towards transport does include a lower fee for low-income families and the amount requested have been kept relatively low. The increase contribution is an additional £15 per month for families and £7 per month for low-income families.

Can the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact? on any particular group(s)?

There will be a new quality assurance framework for decision-making and more information on-line that helps to explain how the service works.

The team will work with the parent/carer forum, and four sessions each academic year will be arranged with parents to hear directly from them their experiences of the service.

Greater oversight from elected members will be also be established, outside of scrutiny arrangements, to be established by the Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing.

What data is required in the future?

Information regarding applications, decisions taken and appeals.

Numbers and type of complaints and how they have been managed and responded to.

Any changes to the number of individuals accessing transport provision.

Number of young people undertaking independent travel training.

Please describe the data needed to ensure effective monitoring of this policy/proposal?

Are there any adverse impacts on any particular group(s)



If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead.

There is the possibility that increasing the contribution to post 16 transport will have an adverse impact on some families.

The recommendation is to continue with this proposal as some young people and families told us that they would pay the increased contribution as they value the service. Some respondents also told us that the contribution provided an incentive to undertake independent travel training, which ultimately provide great benefits to the young person and their families. In addition, the service already has a considerable budget pressure. If this increased contribution is not applied it could mean further reductions in service delivery that may impact on a greater number of families.

Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal

Birmingham's Travel Assist Service was established to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to make transport arrangements for eligible children including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Travel Assist provides a variety of transport options to over 4,250 children and young people on a daily basis, with an additional 1,600 receiving bus passes and has an overall budget of £18.4m for 2018/19. The majority of the children using the service have requirements related to SEND but the service also supports looked after children; children in temporary accommodation and other vulnerable groups. The service operates more than 590 routes and has a range of support options including: 1-to-1's; mini bus/coach transport/taxis/MPV's;

Travel Guides; personal transport budgets; bus passes and independent travel training.

It is proposed that the service strengthens the offer to parents to make decisions that best suit them and their families, through the use of personal transport budgets; widen the offer for independent travel training and make available a wide variety of transport options for families, and promote independence.

As part of the modernisation of the service it is important to keep reviewing the service, looking at examples of good practice from elsewhere, and developing our offer to children and families.

The service will continue to deliver its statutory duties, and will focus on improving the offer currently available to school-age children.

The consultation has proposed changes to transport assistance for 0-25 years olds to education. The consultation involved parents/carers and schools; health and children's social care colleagues, schools and a considerable number of statutory stakeholders.

We want to strive toward co-production in this next stage of the development of the service.

A SEND Improvement Board currently is meeting weekly to develop closer alignment of work between the Council and Birmingham Children's Trust, Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group and Birmingham Community Health Care Trust. Other partners will also be involved in discussion including schools, parent carer forums, GPs and the Third Sector partners.

Please give details on any initial assessment carried out. For a full assessment please complete the rest of the form. AS OF 29/11/2018 YOU ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THIS BOX.

Consulted People or Groups

AS OF 29/11/2018 YOU ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THIS BOX

Informed People or Groups

AS OF 29/11/2018 YOU ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THIS BOX

Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA *

Due to the nature of the service any changes will have an impact on Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs impacting on both the protected characteristics of age and disability. New processes will be put in place to ensure that any impact is understood and that decision-making is transparent and robust.

An evidence base from the outcome of the consultation is available to all partners and stakeholders to provide clarity about the level of impact of any proposed changes and whether they will have operational, policy or service provision impact for children and other stakeholders.

Please add any documents including any consultation or engagement findings. Attach any source data using the attachment button above. Please include how you will mitigate against any negative impacts.

QUALITY CONTROL SECTION

Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing?

Please tick this box and 'Save' the document once you have finished. Your nominated Quality Control Officer will be notified to review the assessment and decide whether it can proceed for approval or reject it.

Quality Control Officer comments

Please untick 'Submit to quality control officer box' before saving.

Decision by Quality Control Officer

IMPORTANT: Quality Control Officer - Please untick the above box 'Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing?' before providing your decision.

Submit draft to Accountable Officer?

Quality Control Officers only - Please tick the box when you are happy for the assessment to be submitted for approval.

Decision by Accountable Officer

IMPORTANT: Accountable Officer - Please untick the above box 'Submit draft to Accountable Officer' before providing your final decision.

Date approved / rejected by the Accountable Officer



Reasons for approval or rejection

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records

Version: 64.0
Created at 08/11/2018 11:04 AM by  Simon J Field
Last modified at 12/04/2019 11:36 AM by Workflow on behalf of  Anne Ainsworth