

Hull City Council

Post-16 Transport Policy

2019-2020

Post-16 Transport Policy Statement – Academic Year 2019-2020

Transport policy statement for young people aged 16-18 in further education, continuing learners aged 19 and those young people aged 19-24 (inclusive) with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

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Introduction

Hull is a geographically small city and travel by commercial public service buses is available across the city, providing adequate access for almost all post-16 learners.

Local authorities do not have to provide free or subsidised post 16 travel support but do have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or other support that the authority considers it necessary to make to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.

All young people carrying on their education post 16 must reapply for travel support.

‘Sixth form age’ refers to those young people who are over 16 years of age but under 19 or continuing learners who started their programme of learning before their 19th birthday (years 12,13,14).

Local authorities also have a duty to encourage, enable and assist young people with learning difficulties / disabilities to participate in education and training, up to the age of 25.

This policy uses the term ‘Post 16’ to include both learners of sixth form age and those with learning difficulties/disabilities up to age of 25.

This policy document specifies the support that Hull City Council (the council) considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of Post 16 learners receiving education or training.

Education or training refers to learning or training at a school, further education institution, a council maintained or assisted institution providing higher or further education, an establishment funded directly by the Education Skills Funding Agency, learning providers delivering accredited programmes of learning which lead to positive outcomes and are funded by the council, for example, colleges, charities and private learning providers.

Neighbouring local authority, governing bodies of schools, further education institutions, education and training providers and Loudmouth and Hull Parents Forum have been consulted on this policy.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the policy is to provide high quality transport services as efficiently, economically and sustainably as possible to ensure that students get to school, college or training provider in a reasonable time, travel in a safe environment and arrive ready to study.

The council’s Corporate Plan 2018-2022 aims and objectives which are taken into consideration when assessing transport/travel support from:

- **Supporting Children and Families** - Improve outcomes for looked after children and those with special educational needs or disabilities.

- **Championing education, training and employment** - Make Hull a place of learning by supporting people to develop skills and knowledge to gain and improve their employment opportunities.
- **Ensuring financial and social inclusion** - We will endeavour to ensure education, skills and training provision is accessible with flexible support for those need it most.
- **Improve access through digitally enabled services** - We will modernise the council's online services, to enable residents and visitors to select online functionality for interacting with the council and provide access to the skills and technologies that enable active participation.
- **Developing new ways of working in partnership** – Continue to improve services, including championing equalities and diversity, through external challenge and review including learning from Ofsted and Care Quality Commission inspections and Local Government Association peer challenge.
- **Making the best use of our assets and budgets** - Move towards digitising all documents sent to the council to support smarter and flexible ways of working to reduce the need for documents to be physically stored.

Along with the aims and objectives from the Hull Children, Young People and Families Plan, 2018 – 2023:

- **Young people are ready for life and work** – As part of our statutory responsibility, work with colleges, schools and training providers to make sure sufficient suitable education, learning and skills provision which meets the need of the city is available.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)** – Home to School Transport, medical needs, efficiency and independence

Transport and Travel Support

Local schools, colleges and training providers provide support through various funds, including 16-19 bursaries funding, for travel. This could be in the form of subsidies, or travel cards. In the first instance learners should apply to their school, college or training provider for assistance with travel.

Concessionary tickets for young people 16 – 25 from public transport providers

Hull Card and KAT Card for young people

Hull City Council, Stagecoach and EYMS have agreed to share the cost of discounting a Hull Card by 10 percent for those who have not yet reached their 20th birthday. The KAT Card allows for multi operator travel using a single card making travelling across the city easier.

The scheme provides a more convenient and cost effective way to travel providing you with seven consecutive days of unlimited travel.

Disability Bus Pass

If you are over the age of 5 and live in Hull, you can apply for a Disability Bus Pass if you are:

- In receipt of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and awarded eight or more points in either the following sections:
 - Seven – communication verbally
 - 12 – moving around
- In receipt of the high rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Have been refused a driving licence due to medical reasons
- A blue badge holder
- Registered with our social services and have one of the following cards:
 - Yellow – Sight impaired or severely sight impaired
 - White – Profoundly or severely deaf
 - Grey – Without speech
 - Blue – Limbless
 - Pink – Learning Disability

Further information can be found at www.hull.gov.uk

Disability +C Bus Pass

A disability +C bus pass is intended for use by anyone who cannot use public transport alone. This pass will allow the holder to travel with a companion (who must not be accompanying the person as part of their paid employment) free of charge. In some cases people issued with +C bus passes who do not always have to travel with a companion and because of this, +C bus passes holders can travel alone.

Further information can be found at www.hull.gov.uk

Travel support from schools and colleges

A number of sixth form colleges offer dedicated free transport from various destinations around the city to their establishment and/or offer reimbursement opportunities for bus passes purchased; please contact individual sixth form colleges for their own specific arrangements.

The 16 – 19 Bursary Fund

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help young people overcome specific barriers to participation so they can remain in education.

There are two types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

1. A vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200 a year for young people in one of the defined vulnerable groups below:

- in care;
- care leavers;
- in receipt of Income Support, or Universal Credit in place of Income Support, in their own right;
- in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit and Disability Living or Personal Independence Payments in their own right;
- discretionary bursaries which institutions aware to meet individual needs, for example help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment.

2. Discretionary bursaries which institutions award to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals and equipment.

To be eligible for the discretionary bursary young people must:

- be aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31st August 2019 or;
- be aged 19 or over at 31st August 2019 and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP);
- be aged 19 or over at 31st August 2019 and continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 ('19+continuers');
- be studying a programme that is subject to inspection by a public body which assures quality (such as Ofsted), the provision must also be funded by either a Government funding agency or the local authority.

Schools and colleges are responsible for managing both types of bursary. Young People who want to apply for support from the bursary fund should contact their chosen school or college to make an application.

Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/ search for post 16 bursaries or www.hull.gov.uk

Local Authority support for Learners with special educational needs or a disability

Hull City Council has a small amount of funding available for young people with Special Educational Needs and / or disabilities (SEND) in relation to transport to and from their place of learning or training. This is only available for learners who meet the qualifying rules (see below) and are unable to access suitable support from their school, college or training provider.

Transport Assistance is offered to a learner who meets the qualifying rules, submit a completed application and make the required contribution.

To qualify for transport assistance you:

- must be a resident in Hull,
- have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)* and,
- in year 12 or above and 19 years old or under on 31 August 2019; or

- continuing learners over 19 if they started the course prior to their 19th birthday.

And you are:

- a full time learner (12 hours or more timetabled sessions per week) - the course can be at entry level or at level 1, 2, or 3;
- not paying fees for your tuition, or studying as part of a paid apprenticeship;
- studying at the nearest school, college or training provider offering the level of course, this would normally be expected to be within the City boundary.

In exceptional circumstances support may be available for learners without an EHCP.

Contribution

Each eligible learner who qualifies for transport assistant will be required to make a contribution towards their travel this will be £340.00 for the year 2019-20 (this is reviewed annually). During 2017-18 the council spent £400,919 on Post-16 transport.

Learners or parents who may require financial assistance with the associated costs of continuing in post 16 education, should make enquiries with the School, College or Training Providers bursary arrangements.

The council offers a payment plan throughout the academic year details will be provided with the invoice for the contribution.

There are a number of local charities who provide financial support for children and young people with disabilities for further information please access Hull's Local Offer website on: <http://hull.mylocaloffer.org>

Concessions for low income families

The council does not assess applications based on means-testing. All learners regardless of circumstance are required to pay the standard contribution. Schools, Colleges and Training Providers offer support that may be means-tested and they should be contacted directly for more information regarding the Bursary Scheme.

Schools, Colleges and Training Providers out of Hull boundary

In exceptional circumstances, for learners with Special Educational Needs and/or disability, travel assistance to an establishment outside of the city may be considered, where the course offered is not available within the city.

Learners who attend a further education institution which is beyond daily travelling distance and they need to stay away

Travel assistance is only available to learners who attend school or college on a daily basis, unless there are exceptional reasons for attending an establishment on a residential basis.

Learners who reside away from home to attend a course should contact their school or college about a residential grant.

Refunds

Should the learner's transport assistance cease before the end of the academic year only within the first term will a percentage pro-rata reduction be refunded.

Should the learner only receive transport for a day or days, to and or from school, college this does not qualify for a reduction in the contribution; the contribution in full will be invoiced.

Independent Travel Training

The council will be offering independent travel training during academic year 2019-2020 if the learner would like to be referred please speak to your Connexions worker.

Applying for Local Authority transport support

An application form will be distributed to parents/carers of learners who are currently in receipt of home to school transport during April 2019. An electronic application form is available on www.hull.gov.uk/Post-16Transport emailed to hometoschooltransport@hullcc.gov.uk, the application form should be completed and returned to the address on the application form before 31st May 2019.

Transport arrangements for the September start date are not guaranteed if the application form is received after this date.

A letter advising if the application has met the eligibility criteria will be sent within 10 days of receipt of the application form; only if you receive a letter advising of any issues will you need to contact Children, Young People and Family Services.

All outstanding money for previous contributions will need to be paid prior to the start of academic year 2019-2020; any delay in payment could affect the organisation of transport arrangements for September.

Children, Young People and Family Services will notify Passenger Transport Service of the request for transport; there is no guarantee the transport arrangements received this academic year will be the same for academic year 2019-2020, Passenger Transport Service do endeavour to provide consistency however due to the contract renewal process and change of learners this is not always possible.

Passenger Transport Service will advise you of the transport arrangements for academic year 2019-20; you will be advised of the collection and drop off time, the operator provider, the drivers name and if provided the name of the escort.

Appeals

Any parent/carer who makes an application for transport assistance under the provisions set out in the Council's Policies and that application is refused will have the right to appeal the decision.

The appeal procedure is set out below.

The parent/carer will be requested to submit a Stage 1 letter of appeal within 20 working days together with supporting evidence if applicable outlining the grounds for appeal. The appeal should be on the basis of:

- Entitlement
- Distance measurement
- Route safety
- Consideration of exceptional circumstances

Upon receipt of a written letter of appeal explaining the exceptional circumstances as to why the Authority should consider providing assistance with transport outside of policy (together with any supporting evidence) the matter will be presented to a more senior officer not involved with the original decision.

The senior officer will review the decision and respond to the parent/carer within 20 working days of receipt of the appeal. If the appeal is rejected at this stage the response will be provided explaining the reasons for the rejection.

If the applicant remains unsatisfied there can be a Stage 2 appeal to an independent panel to determine whether support will be provided. This appeal must be submitted within 20 working days of receipt of the Stage 1 rejection letter.

The documentation including the reasons for the original refusal and any further information will be presented to an independent panel that will consist of Councillors who have had no involvement in the decision making so far. This review will take place within 40 days of the Stage 2 appeal being submitted.

The decision will be either to uphold the original decision and not to provide free travel assistance or to reverse the original decision and provide free travel assistance will be sent within 5 working days of the panel's consideration.

Parents will be advised of the possible escalation to the Local Government Ombudsman or Department for Education in relevant circumstances.

Young parents/Care to Learn

If you are a young parent under 20, Care to Learn can help pay for your childcare and related travel costs, up to £160 per child per week, while you're learning. Care to Learn can help with the costs of:

- childcare, including deposit and registration fees
- a childcare 'taster' session (up to 5 days)
- keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays
- taking your child to the childcare provider

Types of childcare

The childcare provider must be Ofsted registered and can be a:

- childminder
- pre-school playgroup
- day nursery
- out of school club

If your child needs specialist childcare, the provider must also be on the Care Quality Commission's register for specialist provision.

If you want a relative to get Care to Learn for looking after your child they need to be both:

- providing registered childcare for children they're not related to
- living apart from you and your child

Payments

Childcare payments go directly to your childcare provider. Before your childcare provider can be paid:

- your childcare provider needs to confirm your child's attendance
- your school or college needs to confirm that you're attending your course

Payments for travel costs go to your school or college – they'll either pay you or arrange travel for you.

Attendance

Payments will stop if:

- you stop attending your course;
- you finish your course;
- your child stops attending childcare.

Eligibility

You can get Care to Learn if:

- you're a parent under 20 at the start of your course;
- you're the main carer for your child;
- you live in England;
- you're either a British citizen or a national of a European Economic Area (EEA) country;
- your course is publicly funded (check with your school or college)
- your childcare provider is registered with Ofsted or the Care Quality Commission

Type of course

Care to Learn is only available for course in England that have some public funding.

This includes courses that take place in:

- schools
- school sixth forms
- sixth form colleges
- other colleges and learning providers, including Foundation Learning
- your community at Children's Centres

For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn/how-to-claim>

Adult Learners

If you are young adult learners under the age of 25 and have an Education and Health, Care Plan and you are planning on or continuing your learning and you require transport to attend your learning provider. Hull Connect to Support is Hull's local information and advice website for adults with health and social care needs and their carers. Connect to Support has been developed in partnership with Hull Adult social care, local people, service providers and community organisations.

You can find information on –

- staying healthy
- various health and social care conditions and support available
- hospital stays
- keeping people safe
- getting out and about including public and community transport
- help living at home including equipment and adaptations
- learning, jobs, volunteering and daytime opportunities
- finances including our new financial paying for care handbook and information on direct payments and personnel budgets
- caring for someone
- your rights including information on the Care Act 2014 as well as the process for someone to speak on your behalf (advocate)
- accommodation including a directory of residential and nursing homes for self funders
- local groups and activities directory

For further information regarding transport arrangements please visit: [Hull Connect to Support](#); or contact 01482 300300 and ask to speak to a 'See and Solve' advisor or contact your Social Worker.

Details of concessionary fares, discounts, subsidies, passes or travel cards including any charges available for Post 16 young people.

Concessionary Fares (Commercial and Concessionary Passes available to young people in the Hull area for use on Public Transport). Charges may change without notice.						
Scheme	User Group	Providers	Times Available	Registration Cost	Cost	Limitation
KAT Card – Hull Card for young people	Children and young people who have not yet reached their 20 th birthday	Stagecoach EYMS	Until 11.59 pm	None	£10 per week	Hull boundary, Anlaby, Cottingham Hessle, Kirkella, Wawne and Willerby
Disability Bus Pass	Children over the age of five years old	Stagecoach EYMS	Anytime	None	n/a	
The information contained below details how some schools and colleges provide extra transport help. If your school or college is not listed below please contact the directly for information.						
School/College/Training Provider	Website Link	Providers	Transport/Bursary Information			
Archbishop Sentamu Sixth Form	www.sentamuacademy.org.uk	Stagecoach EYMS				
Ganton School	www.gantonschool.org.uk	Stagecoach EYMS				
Frederick Holmes School	www.frederickholmes.hull.schol.uk	Stagecoach EYMS				
Hull College	www.hull-college.ac.uk	Stagecoach EYMS	If you qualify for our Student Maintenance Allowance, are studying a full-time course and live more than 2 miles from your place of study, you will also be eligible to receive FREE Transport to/from the College. Please note that the cost of transport will be deducted from your overall Student Maintenance Allowance and that this will vary depending on where you live.			

Hull Training	www.hcctraining.ac.uk	Stagecoach EYMS	
Pathway Training Plus	www.pathwayplus.org	Stagecoach EYMS	
Ron Dearing College	www.rondearingutc.com	Stagecoach EYMS	
Sirius West Academy	www.seriousacademy.org.uk	Stagecoach EYMS	
Sirius West Academy	www.seriousacademy.org.uk	Stagecoach EYMS	
St Mary's Sixth Form College	www.smchull.org	School Buses Stagecoach EYMS	£1.30 per journey for school buses
Tweendykes School	www.tweendykes.co.uk	Stagecoach EYMS	
Wilberforce College	wilberforce.ac.uk	College Buses Stagecoach EYMS	Any of our college buses (W1, W2, W3, W4, W5) currently cost a maximum of 80p per single journey for Wilberforce College Students. For our students who live in Hull, we are offering Stagecoach College Riders for only £8.50 – a saving of £3.00 per week on current on-board megarider costs – a deal exclusively available to all Wilberforce College students to buy each week from Student Services. If a student uses their College Rider to get to and from College every day this offers great value journeys.
Wyke College	www.wyke.ac.uk	College Buses Stagecoach EYMS	Travel passes can be purchased and paid for in half termly/termly instalments and income related transport bursaries are available.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why isn't post 16 transport free for everyone, in the same way as it is for school age pupils?

A: We expect local authorities to make reasonable decisions about what support should be available based on the needs of their population, local transport infrastructure and the resources they have available. It is, however, recognised that the cost of transport can be an issue for some young people and to help with this there is further supply available. Information about what support is available locally is available from the local authority in their post-16 transport policy statement. The statement can be accessed on the LA website or through the postcode search at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

The Bursary Fund for 16-19 year olds has the flexibility to help meet transport costs for these young people who need this support most. You can find out more about the 16-19 Bursary Fund [here](#).

In addition, most transport companies also give some kind of discount for young people such as discounted fares or subsidised travel passes.

Some education and training providers also provide subsidised or free transport for example college buses, and travel subsidies from private training providers.

Q: What support is available for young people with special education needs?

A: The post-16 transport duty also applies to young people with special educational needs aged up to age 25 (who have an EHC plan and started a course before their 19th birthday). Local authorities' post 16 transport policy statements must include specific arrangements for these young people to ensure they have the necessary support. The transport needs of young people with special educational needs should also be reassessed by their local authority when a young person moves from compulsory schooling to post-16 education so that the appropriate support is put in place accordance with the LA's post-16 transport policy.

Q: How do the duties apply for people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) as they turn 19?

A: The duty a young person is assessed under is dependent on when they started their current course. If a young person with SEND started the course before their 19th birthday then they are assessed under the 16-18 duty. If they have started a new course after their 19th birthday then they are assessed under the adult duty.

Young people will qualify for free transport under the adult duty where the local authority assesses that in order to attend education or training they require transport arranged by the local authority, such a specialised vehicle or minibus. If the young person's requirements are a personal travel budget, mileage allowance or public transport pass then this does not need to be provided free by the local authority as they have not put the travel arrangements in place. However, in these circumstances the local authority has discretion to pay some or all of the travel expenses.

Young people can also receive free transport if they are attending institutions outside of the HE and FE sector and started after their 19th birthday in residential provision if the provision, boarding accommodation and transport were all arranged by the local authority. Again, in these circumstances the local authority has discretion to pay some or all of the travel expenses.

Q: When will the contribution need to be paid?

A: Invoices will be raised at the end of September.

Included with the invoice will be a form for you set up a payment plan throughout the academic year.