



SHROPSHIRE
Parent
And
Carer
Council

Consultation on Shropshire SEN Transport – PACC Statement

Following the announcement by Shropshire Council that they intend to consult on changes to SEN Transport, including the removal of nursery transport and free Post 16 transport for new entrants, PACC want to hear your thoughts.

We want to know what difference the provision of free SEN transport to nursery or college made to your family. PACC recognises that there is no statutory requirement that Local Authorities provide transport for children and young people with SEND to nursery or Post 16 settings, however we believe not to do so is short sighted and a false economy. There is a significant level of evidence that families supporting children and young people with disabilities already face additional challenges around finances, work, relationships and physical and mental health, removing services will only increase those challenges and place families at greater risk of breakdown. This in turn places what are already often vulnerable children at further risk.

Shropshire Council's SEND Strategy states that its vision sees ***'Shropshire children and young people with SEND that are healthy, happy and safe, and able to achieve their full potential with support from a strong partnership between families, the voluntary sector and service commissioners'***. This potential reduction in support for families of children and young people with SEND is clearly in contradiction to achieving that vision.

In addition to this all Local Authorities have to operate under the 'Public Services Equality Duty' <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/discrimination/public-sector-equality-duty/what-s-the-public-sector-equality-duty> This means that public authorities must think about things like discrimination and the needs of people who are disadvantaged or suffer inequality, when they make decisions about how they provide their services and implement policies.

PACC believes that it is incumbent on Shropshire Council to evidence that any decision to reduce the school transport budget will not disproportionately have a negative impact on disabled children and young people and their families. If they cannot do this PACC believes that they would be in breach of the Public Services Equality Duty.

PACC is requesting a meeting with Councillor Nick Bardsley, the Children Services Lead to discuss all of the above further

In preparation for this discussion we want to hear from Shropshire parent carers about the difference the provision of free school transport to nursery and Post 16 settings made to their families. PACC wants to show how important this service is to SEND families and how it contributes to improving outcomes for disabled children and young people and their families. You can send your feedback to enquiries@paccshropshire.org.uk or via our Facebook page @ShropsPACC . There will also be an opportunity to discuss this issue and provide feedback at our Conference and AGM on the 26th March 2019. You can find out more about the conference and how to book onto this event at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pacc-annual-conference-2019-life-as-a-parent-carer-tickets-58072572628?fbclid=IwAR06ebi2kr_jdHBYGOQHm45DbqI7St2WvhHfulNh5cY53se9hykelwVBmng