

PaCC Position Statement – Home- School Transport



Following on from Brighton and Hove City Council's Home to School Transport Consultation and implementation of the new policy, the Parent Carers Council (PaCC) sets out below the key points of their position statement, a working document. PaCC is aware of budget pressures on all local authorities however we seek to work collaboratively with officers and councillors to protect services for vulnerable members of the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) community.

PaCC Requests:

- That the Home to School transport decision-making processed is delayed until Children and Young People (CYP) have their annual reviews and proper consultation (including risk assessments) with parent carers and students can take place. This is in line with the policy and allows for person-centred planning approaches and co-production of solutions with individual families.
- That the Local Authority (LA) observes statutory duty for all eligible children who are unable to access independent travel training.
- That home-school transport is not withdrawn for appealed decisions until the appeal process has been completed. The number and outcome of appeals is monitored.
- That LA strongly reconsiders its position on pre-school and post 16 transport provision. Equalities issues must not be disregarded. The PaCC welcome the city's strong vision of equitable opportunity for vulnerable groups and notes the formation of a new Fairness Commission. The PaCC additionally welcomes the commitment of the LA to narrow the gap of attainment between the SEND community and their peers. PaCC are highly concerned that removing home to school transport for pre-school and post 16s children to attend specialist provision or particular colleges might mean some are unable to take up the place, possibly increasing the attainment gap. We ask that this is monitored by the LA.
- To see the current and ongoing breakdown of Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) figures of young people with SEND and ask this be used as a baseline to ensure the NEET figure for SEND young people is not negatively impacted by the removal of transport post 16.
- That Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) must be available for pre-school and post 16 CYP.
- That the Children's and Families bill provides a strong framework to ensure a person centred approach is maintained at all times to ensure the 'good' progress of our CYP in the city. Home to School transport is a key area here and we would like consideration of the voice of the child/young person (and their parents/carers) to be central to decision making and service planning.

The PaCC will continue to consult on this Position Statement with the Local Authority and Councillors. Our position statement is available to the public and we will publish it on our website and share it with our member families.

To read the minutes from PaCC Connect on Home to School Transport and access Brighton and Hove's Transport Policy, please copy and paste this link <http://paccbrighton.org.uk/what-we-do/pacc-connect-events/>.

The Parent Carers' Council (PaCC) is a parent-led forum which represents parent carers with children and young people with any kind of physical disability, learning disability, complex or long-term medical/health condition, or special educational need. The group was formed to enable parent carers to work closely together to help improve services and support. It aims to help parents get more directly involved in the strategic delivery of services for disabled children in Brighton & Hove and now has about 250 signed up members.