

Consultation on Enhanced Parental Transport Allowance for Home to School Transport

18th June, 2018 to 13th July, 2018

From 8th January to 2nd April 2018, North Yorkshire County Council consulted on some potential changes to its Home to School Transport Policy. The new transport policy was approved by the County Council on 16th May 2018 with changes being implemented from September 2018.

However councillors have requested a further short consultation to clarify one aspect of the new policy - the introduction of a voluntary Enhanced Parental Transport Allowance for certain families whose school aged children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) would be eligible for, and require, additional transport assistance.

This document explains the Enhanced Parental Transport Allowance and provides the opportunity for the public to give their views.

Who are we consulting?

The council has already consulted with a wide range of groups on the proposals which have now been approved and incorporated into the new Home to School Transport Policy. The purpose of this consultation is to consult with parents, carers and young people about the detail of the enhanced rate including how this will be calculated and applied for individual families. The consultation will also be open to the wider public and all views will be taken into account.

How are we consulting?

We are asking a number of questions, in a survey, about the Enhanced Parental Transport Allowance. The survey will be available online, via the Council's website and via the Local Offer. We have provided an 'easy read' version online and alternative formats and paper copies will be available if required.

We will make people aware of the consultation via NYPACT and other parent/carer groups, through educational establishments, the council website and Local Offer and other publicity.

What is the timescale?

We are consulting for four weeks (30 days), starting on 18th June 2018 until 13th July 2018. Once the consultation has closed, we will review all of the responses and prepare a report to enabled Elected Members to reach a decision.

Information about our equalities impact assessment

We have drawn up an equalities impact assessment (EIA), which has been continually updated throughout the initial Home to School Transport consultation process. It has been reviewed ahead of the additional consultation and will be available as part of the consultation information on the council's website.

Completing the survey

Please give your feedback on the proposals outlined by filling in our online survey, at www.northyorks.gov.uk/sendtransport

If you would like a paper copy or alternative format of the survey, please call our customer service centre on 01609 780780.

Our proposals for consultation

We have agreement to introduce an Enhanced Parental Transport Allowance to parents/carers with children who are eligible for transport assistance and require additional support and supervision from someone other than the driver, as identified as part of their assessment of special educational needs.

The Enhanced Parental Transport Allowance would only be available to solo travellers from September 2018 and is a **voluntary** agreement with families.

We have decided to personalise the Enhanced Parental Transport Allowance for families by taking into account their individual circumstances and applying a consistent formula, made up of:

- The length of the journey based on the approved mapping tool, adopted by the Council.
- The time of the journey based on the approved mapping tool, adopted by the Council.
- Additional support required as identified in the assessment based on a cost of £10/hour (16.7p per minute).

The Enhanced Parental Transport Allowance would be paid for up to four journeys per day to cover the cost of the parent or carer transporting to and from the educational establishment and returning home.

We have demonstrated how this will work in practice using a couple of examples below:

Example A

Child X currently travels 35.8 miles from home to school and this journey on average takes 55 minutes by car.

If the family would like to consider an enhanced transport allowance we would work it out as below:

- £10 per hour (16.7p/ min) to acknowledge additional support required x 55 minutes travel time = £9.17/ journey
- Then to convert this amount to the mileage allowance we would need to divide it by 35.8 miles $£9.17 / 35.8 = 25.6\text{p per mile}$

Therefore the total Parental Transport Allowance will be:

- 45p basic allowance rate + 25.6p enhanced = 70.6pence per mile
- Taking into account 4 journeys per day this equates to 143.2 miles in total and therefore we would pay £101.10 per day or **£19,209** per year based on 100% attendance at school

Example B

Child Y currently travels 22.4 miles from home to school and this journey on average takes 40 minutes by car.

An enhancement allowance for the family would be calculated as below:

- £10 per hour (16.7p/ min) to acknowledge additional support required x 40 minutes = £6.67/ journey
- Then to convert this amount into the mileage allowance we would then divide this by the miles travelled £6.67/22.4 miles = 29.76p per mile

Therefore the Parental Transport Allowance will be

- 45p basic allowance + 29.76p enhanced = 74.76p per mile
- Taking into account four journeys per day this equates to 89.6 miles and therefore we would pay £66.98 per day or **£12,726** per year based on 100% attendance at school

As the allowance is voluntary, we would strongly advise parents/carers to seek independent advice before they agree to the enhanced mileage allowance so they are aware if it has an impact on their current household income.

If parents/carers enter into this agreement with the council, it is on the assumption that they assume responsibility for ensuring their child is transported to school with appropriate levels of supervision and care.

The allowance paid will be based on actual attendance rates of your child in school, as confirmed by the school.

Payment would be made to parents/carers on receipt of claim forms at intervals which are suitable to individual circumstances, for example weekly, monthly, termly.

Survey questions

How are you involved with transport from home to school?

I am a parent or carer

I am a young person

I am responding on behalf of a school or college

I am a transport provider

I am responding on behalf of (please write below)

1. Do you agree with the factors we are taking into account to calculate the enhanced rate – time, distance, recognition of additional support?

A. Time:

Yes

No

B. Distance:

Yes

No

C. Recognition of additional support:

Yes

No

2. Do you think the way we are intending to work out the enhanced rate is appropriate?

Yes

No

3. Do you have any other comments you would like to make about the proposal?

Thank you for taking the time to tell us your views.

Please submit your views by Friday 13 July 2018.

**For printed surveys, once completed please send your responses to:
Central Admin Team, SB110
North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton,
North Yorkshire DL7 8AE**