

BRIEFING	TO:	Improving Places Select Commission
	DATE:	25 th July 2019
	LEAD OFFICER <i>(Full name, title and Directorate)</i>	Tom Smith Assistant Director, Community Safety and Street Scene Regeneration and Environment
	TITLE:	Recommendations from Improving Places Select Commission Relating to Home to School Transport Policy

Background

1.	<p>An update report on the implementation of the new Home to School Transport Policy was presented to Improving Places Select Commission on 1st November 2018.</p> <p>Improving Places Select Commission resolved:</p> <p>(1) That the report be noted.</p> <p>(2) That an update be submitted to the Select Commission in 6 months.</p> <p>(3) That the possibility of contactless cards be discussed with SYPTE/bus companies.</p> <p>(4) That the appeals process for the renewal of a home to school free bus pass be reconsidered in those cases where a family's circumstances had not changed from the previous year.</p>
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Key Issues

2.	<p>Service Update</p> <p>Since the last update to IPSC in November 2018 there have been a number of areas where further progress has been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual transport review process, to be undertaken at the same time as EHCP reviews to assess the suitability of existing transport, and the ability to partake in Independent Travel Training, is now in place. • The targeted uptake was to have 44 young people on Personal Travel Budgets (PTBs) by April 2019, and 69 on PTBs by September 2019. To date 56 young people are enrolled for Personal Travel Budgets. The targeted uptake is therefore on track for delivery and a significant increase from the 30 young people reported to IPSC in November 2018. • 'Train the trainer' training has been delivered for Independent Travel Training, providing the Council and partner schools with the ability to deliver training to young people. <p>Demand for the service however continues to rise, in line with national rises in Education and Health Care Plans for young people. The current assessment is that demand for the</p>
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service will increase by around 12% between January 2019 and January 2022, with 96 additional pupils in receipt of transport over that period.

Raising Disability Awareness Amongst Bus Drivers

The service has met with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE) to discuss the current situation, in terms of bus companies, to identify possible ways to increase the visibility of travellers with disabilities and the awareness amongst bus drivers.

In doing so, SYLTE have advised that 'journey cards' are currently available for travellers across South Yorkshire which can be displayed to Bus Drivers upon accessing the vehicle, to inform them of a disability. These can be found at:
<https://travelsouthyorkshire.com/journeycards/>.

The cards cover a number of disabilities that are not always recognised by sight and where the driver may be able to provide support to enable the person to travel independently. SYLTE are happy to work with the Council to develop cards to cover disabilities, or activities that may not currently be covered.

Zero Fare Pass Appeals Process

The service was asked by Improving Places Select Commission to consider, in the light of a number of young people being granted zero fare bus passes following Stage 2 appeals on the basis of exceptional circumstances, whether upon reapplication in the following academic year, the service would automatically grant a bus pass if no changes had occurred to the young person's situation, between applications.

Whilst the service appreciates that, on occasion, appeals may overturn decisions made within the Policy, the need for young people to apply each year is enshrined within the Policy. An annual application, and assessment against the Policy, is therefore required to take place. The service is however keen to avoid unnecessary appeals, which take up time and resources, and cause disruption to young people and parents.

The service has therefore reviewed the appeals process, and will issue guidance to the team that at point of application, if the circumstances have not changed year on year, the Transport Manager or Head of Service can grant the pass on the basis of exceptional circumstances without recourse to the appeal process. Clearly, should any change in circumstances occur, a full reassessment would take place, as per the Policy.

Key Actions and Relevant Timelines

3.

Recommendations

4. That Improving Places Select Commission notes and comments on this update report.