

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Review

## Home to School Transport

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# Statutory Duty

## Section 508B of the Education Act 1996 – travel arrangements for “eligible” children to “qualifying school”.

- Policy guidance:
- ‘Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance’ 2014 updated June 2023 (DfE)
- ‘Statutory guidance for local authorities for Post-16 travel support to education and training’, revised January 2019 (DfE)
- SEND Code of Practice

### Eligible children are:

- Compulsory school age (5-16)
- Attending their nearest suitable school which is more than the statutory walking distance from the address their child benefit is paid to
- Unable to walk because of SEND (even accompanied by a parent)
- Unable to walk in reasonable safety (even accompanied by a parent)
- From low-income households

### Qualifying schools are:

- Community schools, foundation schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools;
- Academies (including free schools, university technical colleges, studio schools and special schools);
- Alternative Provision academies/ Pupil referral Units;
- Community or foundation special schools
- Non-maintained special schools;
- Maintained nursery schools (where attended by a child of compulsory school age); and
- City technology colleges and city colleges for the technology of the arts

# Service Overview

- Home to school sits as part of Regeneration and Environment with Education and Health Care Planning (EHCP) and processes in Children and Young Peoples Services
- Mix of EHCP and Statutory Travellers in the cohort
- Direct travel solutions and commissioned solutions
- Independent Travel Training (ITT) Offer
- Services are also provided to Adults
- Mixture of solutions including ITT, Personal Travel Budgets, Zoom Zero Bus Pass, Shared Transport and Single Occupancy

# Cohort Overview

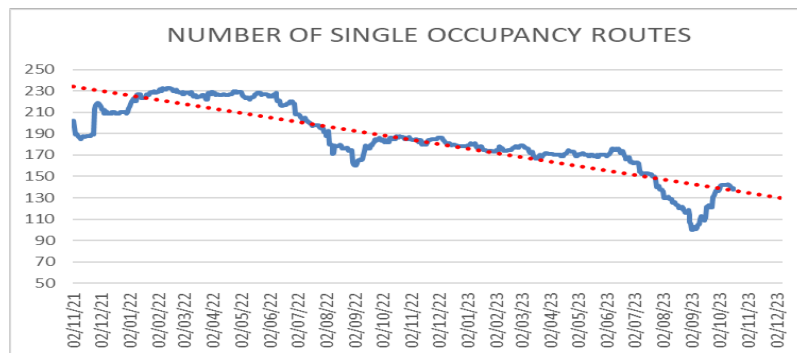
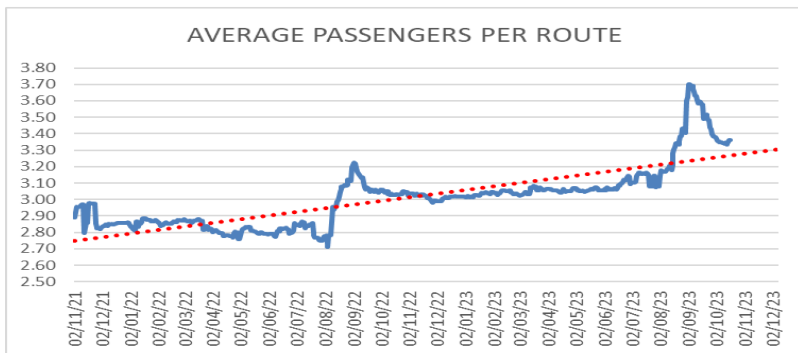
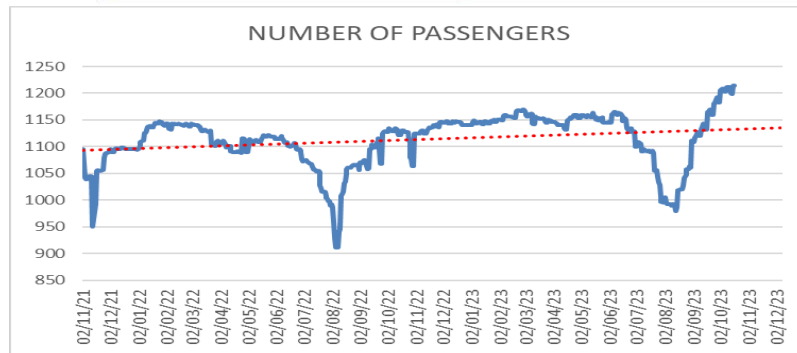
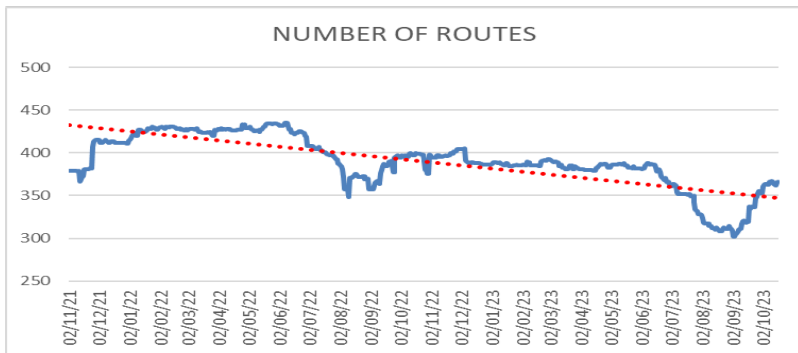
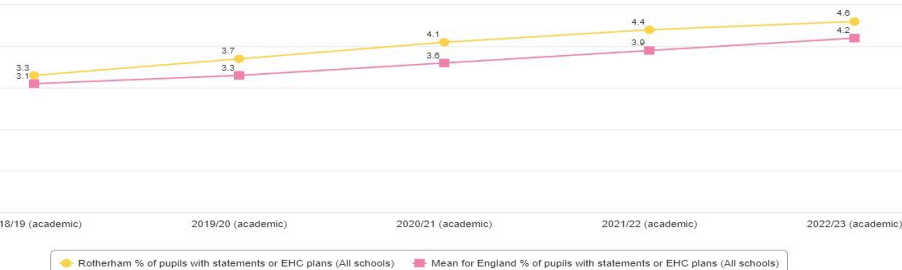
1805 Children and Young People receive home to school transport.  
1241 are children with an EHCP.

- Children attending their nearest suitable school which is more than the statutory walking distance. (NAS)
- Unable to walk because of SEND (EHCP)
- From low-income households
- Children in Care who don't have an EHCP (LAC)
- Children/ Young People outside of compulsory school age including under 5's and 16+ (DISC)

# Budget Overview

	Actual	Budget	Overspend	Expenditure Increase (%) (Actuals)	Expenditure increase (£) (Actuals)
24/25 (Forecast)	8,709,156	5,658,734	3,050,422	5.05	418,404
23/24	8,290,751	5,762,051	2,528,700	13.79	1,005,004
22/23	7,285,747	5,603,125	1,682,622	20.60	1,244,690
21/22	6,041,057	4,266,417	1,774,640		

# Demand Overview



# Actions to Date

Since 2018/19, a series of actions have been taken which include:

- Separation of the Transport function under a new Head of Service role to provide greater focus
- Development of data and understanding of the transport cohort
- Driving cost efficiencies through improved logistics planning
- Reviewing single occupancy journeys
- Introducing an Independent Travel Training offer
- Benchmarking with other local authorities
- Strengthening of the application process
- Reducing the conversion rate of young people with an EHCP who require transport
- Review and implementation of Policy



# Impact

- Benchmarking shows Rotherham largely performs well with a need to focus on post 16
- 13 Candidates successfully travel trained providing vital skills and reducing cost, programme growing
- Whilst demand increases the proportion of single occupancy routes decreases
- Reduction in the growth of 16-19 costs
- Significant cost avoidance

	Pre 16: SEN transport	Pre 16: mainstream transport	Post-16: SEN transport (aged 16-18)	Post-16: SEN transport (aged 19-25)	Post-16: mainstream transport
ENGLAND - Average (median)	£103	£14	£42	£4	£0
ENGLAND - Maximum	£247	£244	£299	£64	£516
ENGLAND - Minimum	£21	£0	£0	£0	£0
Stat Neighbour - Average (median)	£90	£15	£31	£4	£0
Stat Neighbour - Maximum	£121	£143	£173	£11	£33
Stat Neighbour - Minimum	£69	£1	£7	£0	£0
Barnsley	£95	£46	£132	£0	£0
Redcar and Cleveland	£75	£41	£31	£5	£0
Doncaster	£99	£15	£21	£7	£3
Wigan	£90	£30	£7	£0	£0
<b>Rotherham</b>	<b>£86</b>	<b>£14</b>	<b>£173</b>	<b>£2</b>	<b>£10</b>
North East Lincolnshire	£105	£12	£24	£5	£0
Wakefield	£84	£32	£9	£4	£33
St Helens	£110	£11	£25	£11	£0
Durham	£121	£143	£121	£7	£2
Sunderland	£69	£2	£40	£1	£0
Tameside	£76	£1	£55	£0	£0
Rotherham ranking (out of 11 LAs)	7th	7th	1st	7th	2nd
Spend % to Stat Neighbour average	-4.4%	-6.7%	458.1%	-50.0%	>900.0%

# Future Plans

- Continuing to manage demand and delivery as efficiently and effectively as possible
- Review of Post 16-19 and Post 19-25 transport offer
- IT solutions improvements (incorporating route optimisation software)
- Ensuring delivery is appropriately supported to drive efficiencies
- Review of transport operator procurement arrangements.

# Questions

