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Dear Ms Squires

Consultation on Post 16 Transport Policy

You sent to us the attached consultation document proposing the withdrawal of transport for post-16 learners from Rotherham. I am responding formally to the consultation document and request that this letter and this College's response is brought to the attention of Elected Members in Rotherham who will take decisions on this proposal.

Freeman College **objects in the strongest terms** to the proposal in the consultation document, since the proposed withdrawal of funding of post-16 transport will impact directly on the students from Rotherham who attend this College.

We object because:

- (i) Our students have a range of complex learning difficulties and require transport to enable them to get to College – they are not independent travelers and are vulnerable. Without transport, these students would not attend and would be likely to end up out of education altogether.
- (ii) If Rotherham Council agrees a placement at Freeman College, paid for by the Young People's Learning Agency, it necessarily follows that the Council should also ensure that the student can physically get to Freeman College - otherwise the promise of a place is false.
- (iii) If Rotherham Council will not fund transport for post-16 students with learning difficulties, it necessarily follows that you expect parents/carers and/or Freeman College itself to pay for taxis. We think that is unfair on parents carers, particularly parents of current students when transport has been agreed to be funded this year. As far as the College is concerned, our funding is given to us after a detailed assessment and is clearly given and audited on the basis that we provide education, therapy and, in some cases, residential care. We do not get funding for home to College transport.

We are a charity and an independent specialist college providing education, therapy and care for 16-25 year olds with a range of learning difficulties, disabilities and developmental