

Equality Impact Assessment: Conversation Screening Tool

What is being reviewed?	Home to School Transport Policy
What changes are being made?	Amalgamation of three existing policies (currently one for each town)
Service Unit:	Children's Services
Participants in the conversation:	Angie Hill, Acting Team Manager, School Admissions, Children's Services David Harrop, Passenger Transport Manager, Transport and Engineering Carly Williams, Team Leader, School Admissions, Children's Services Emma Clarke, Acting Team Leader, Free School Meals and Education Transport Team
Conversation date/s:	27 September 2021
Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	Parents and carers of children and young people aged 4-16 Young people and their families aged 16-25
Do different groups have different needs or experiences?	The policy continues to ensure that transport assistance requests are considered based on the statutory minimum requirements for transport assistance. When transport assistance is agreed, assistance will be arranged that meets the identified needs of the specific child/young person and their family.
Will this change affect any service users?	Additional support for Children in Care and families in temporary housing has been provided within the new policy. The policy will not affect most service users because it continues to provide the statutory minimum for transport assistance.
What are the benefits or positive impacts of the change on current or potential users?	Introducing a single BCP Council policy will benefit all families who apply for transport assistance as it aligns all three existing policies and provides consistency when assessing transport assistance applications.
What are the negative impacts of the change on current or potential users?	There are two changes within the policy that negatively impact on some residents: Bournemouth residents will no longer be eligible for Year 10 and Year 11 transport assistance due to moving home. However, they can submit an appeal to review the decision.
Will the change affect employees?	A single policy will simplify and align processes by all employees who seek to support families applying for transport assistance and for employees who process applications.
Will the change affect the wider community?	A single policy will be positive for all BCP Council residents as it will provide consistency for all residents across the conurbation when assessing eligibility and providing home to school transport.

<p>What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by this change?</p>	<p>A public consultation of the draft policy will take place from 4 January 2022 until 18 February 2022. Key stakeholders will be targeted during the consultation.</p> <p>Responses from the consultation will be considered and where appropriate, amendments to the policy will be made.</p>
<p>Summary of Equality Implications:</p>	<p>A single policy will be accessible online for all BCP Council residents and paper copies will be provided on request.</p> <p>Transport requests will be assessed using the policy criteria. Where the child/young person and/or their family have additional needs or requirements these will be considered during the assessment.</p> <p>Transport for eligible children and young people will be provided based on the individual needs of the child/young person and/or their family using the criteria in the policy.</p> <p>Families will have the opportunity to access a two stage appeal process if they are unhappy with either the decision or the transport offer.</p> <p>For eligible young people who are 16+, the charge for transport can be waived if the young person and/or their family are in receipt of maximum working tax credit or eligible for free school meals.</p>