



Directorate of  
Children & Families

# **Post-16 Transport Policy Statement**

## **2019/20**

# Document Control

## Ownership & Review

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## Version Control

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| 1.0     | May 2017 | F Golightly |         |
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| 1.3     |          |             |         |

## Distribution

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# 1. Background

The Redcar & Cleveland Transport Policy Statement is published annually. It is a single point of reference to enable young people in years 11, 12 and 13 to find out more about the transport assistance available locally. It can help post-16 learners make well-informed choices about where they can study.

The Transport Policy Statement is relevant to those students resident in the borough who are:

- aged 16-18;
- aged 19+ if they are still on a learning programme that they started before their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday; or
- aged 19-24 if they have a current Learning Difficulty Assessment, statement of SEN or Education, Health and Care Plan;

and who are enrolled in full-time learning or training at:

- an establishment funded directly by the Education & Skills Funding Agency;
- a learning provider funded by the local authority to deliver accredited learning; or
- an establishment directly funded by the Education & Skills Funding Agency that provides an apprenticeship or traineeship.

The local authority will seek service users' views annually regarding the transport assistance described in the Transport Policy Statement.

## 2. Who is eligible for assistance?

Assistance from Redcar & Cleveland local authority is available to support some young people aged 16 or older to access relevant learning. Transport assistance is discretionary and subject to the availability of resources and subject to an individual student meeting the relevant eligibility criteria.

Local authorities are expected to prioritise support to students who need it the most. Particular consideration has been given to the needs of those students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Local authorities have a duty to encourage, enable and assist the participation of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in education and training up to the academic year in which they reach their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In order to be considered for travel assistance, learners must be attending an eligible learning centre such as a school sixth form, further education college or work-based learning provider. Eligible learners are defined in section 509AC of the

Education Act 1996; learners must also be enrolled on a valid full-time programme of learning. This may include:

- full-time further education courses up to and including Level 3, that require at least 12 hours guided study per week at a college or school;
- a course of at least 16 hours guided study per week that leads to an Apprenticeship;
- a Foundation Learning Programme funded by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

### **3. What assistance is available?**

Local authorities have the discretion to determine what transport and financial support are necessary to facilitate young people's attendance and determine a reasonable level of transport or financial support that is considered necessary to ensure access to education or training for young people resident within the borough.

Redcar & Cleveland local authority currently provides different levels of assistance based on individually assessed needs, reasonableness and affordability. At present, Redcar & Cleveland local authority offers the following to young people resident in the borough:

#### **3.1 Independent travel training**

The local authority employs an Independent Travel Training team who can offer Individual training to young people post-16 to support them to learn to travel to school or college safely.

The team will work on a 1:1 basis with a young person to teach a particular route by travelling with the student until they feel confident to travel independently. They will also cover personal safety, stranger danger and 'what if' scenarios as part of the training.

The team work closely with Kirkleatham Hall School and KTS Academy to identify young people who will be suitable for Independent travel and offer group work in school.

Kirkleatham Hall School and KTS Academy may also provide some Independent Travel Training to students in with the intention that trained students should be less reliant on specialist transport in years 12 to 14 and to prepare them for independent travel after leaving school.

Independent travel helps to reduce the impact of social exclusion and will help prepare young people for adulthood

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for the local authority's independent travel training, a student should:

- be resident in the borough;
- be aged 16 – 24 on 31st August in the year that their learning programme commences;
- have a current statement of Special Educational Needs, a Learning Difficulty Assessment or an Education, Health and Care Plan;
- be enrolled on a learning programme funded by the Education & Skills Funding Agency or local authority.

### **Costs and how to apply**

This is currently a free service and is accessed via a referral from school, college or another professional working closely with a young person, e.g. SEN Link Officer, Careers Adviser or Social Worker.

## **3.2 Local authority transport provision**

Redcar & Cleveland local authority provides transport for some students with special educational needs, a learning difficulty or disability who would not otherwise have any means of accessing a learning programme.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for transport provided directly by the local authority, a student must:

- be resident in the borough;
- be aged 16 – 24 on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the year that their learning programme commences;
- have a current Statement of Special Educational Needs, a Learning Difficulty Assessment or an Education, Health and Care Plan that identifies transport as a need;
- have no other means of travelling to the learning provider;
- be enrolled on a learning programme funded by the Education & Skills Funding Agency or local authority that
  - is at a higher level than the previous level achieved;
  - provides appropriate progression to further learning or employment;

- is with the nearest provider that can meet the majority of needs within the local authority boundary OR is with the provider named in their most recent statement of SEN / Education, Health and Care Plan.

### **How to apply**

An application for assistance should be submitted on behalf of the young person by the current school, college or provider using the local authority's current form (ATN1B). Transport eligibility will not be considered unless a completed and signed ATN1B form is submitted. Supporting evidence will need to be provided such as the most recent statement of SEN, an up-to-date Learning Difficulty Assessment or an Education, Health and Care Plan. It is recommended that applications are made by 31<sup>st</sup> May in the academic term prior to the start of the course, in case the application is rejected and the student has to consider alternative arrangements.

We may also offer alternative support which could include:

- payment of a mileage allowance in lieu of provision of a travel permit, taxi or minibus;
- payment of a cycling allowance; or
- an escort to supervise the student on the walk or bus journey to school.

### **3.3 Personal budgets**

A young person with an EHC Plan (or their parents) may be entitled to request a personal budget to help meet specific costs arising from the young person's special educational needs. Parents should discuss with the LA's SEN Service whether a personal budget may be appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

If a family is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP), a personal budget as part of an EHC Plan or any other direct payment provided to help fund travel arrangements for a young person, this will be taken into account when assessing eligibility for assistance with home to school travel for that young person.

### **3.4 Additional travel assistance for priority students**

#### **Short-term medical conditions**

Students suffering from a short-term medical condition or injury that impairs their ability to walk or prevents them from attending their learning programme may apply for travel assistance on

medical grounds. Assistance granted on medical grounds will be limited to the duration of the learner's incapacity and will require a supporting letter from an appropriate health professional. Applications for travel on medical grounds must be submitted to the learning centre in the first instance.

### **Young parents**

Care to Learn (C2L) is a national scheme that can help pay for child care and travel costs for students aged 19 and under at the start of their course. Further details are available at [www.gov.uk/care-to-learn](http://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn).

## **4. Additional information**

### **4.1 Travel outside of the Borough**

Redcar & Cleveland local authority supports choice so that young people should have a reasonable opportunity to choose between the courses available to them at 16 and be supported to access their choices.

Local authority transport e.g. taxis, mini-buses etc, will not be provided to learners who choose to enrol in an out-of-borough educational establishment unless it makes sense for an individual student because a similar, suitable course is not available locally.

The local authority may provide assistance if a similar course is not available locally however students should also enquire about travel assistance available from their learning provider.

Colleges may be able to provide assistance with transport for some pupils from their student access budget.

### **4.2 Distance considerations**

A young person can reasonably be expected to walk three miles to access education or training, assuming a safe walking route is available and taking into account the impact a learning difficulty or disability may have on a young person's ability to walk this distance.

### **4.3 Journey time considerations**

Best practice suggests that a journey of up to 75 minutes each way to access learning is reasonable but that a single journey should not necessitate several changes of transport.

## **5. Further assistance with travel**

In addition to assistance from the local authority, local schools and colleges may also offer support with transport. Further details can be found below or by accessing the web links:

## **5.1 Schools / sixth forms:**

### **Freebrough**

<https://tltrust.org/freebrough-academy/parents-students/transport>

### **Nunthorpe Academy**

<http://www.nunthorpe.co.uk/sixth-form/support/>

### **KTS Academy**

Eligible students attending KTS Academy may be entitled to free transport to and from school.

### **Kirkleatham Hall 6<sup>th</sup> form**

Eligible students attending Kirkleatham Hall School may be entitled to free transport to and from school.

## **5.2 Colleges**

### **Askham Bryan College**

<https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/students/student-transport/getting-to-college>

### **Prior Pursglove College**

<http://pursglove.ac.uk/16-19-students/student-support/>

### **Redcar & Cleveland College**

<https://www.cleveland.ac.uk/student-services/free-travel/>

### **Middlesbrough College**

<https://www.mbro.ac.uk/student-services/travelling-to-college>

## **5.3 Free bus pass for reasons of disability**

If you feel you are eligible for free travel for reasons of disability you can apply for a bus pass. The Local authority will require evidence to support your application.

For more information please click on the following link:

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/resident/roads-and-travel/Pages/Bus-Passes.aspx>

#### **5.4 Residential bursary fund**

This is only available to students attending a college designated as 'specialist' in a particular vocational area, e.g. land-based provision. Colleges may use it at their discretion to help young people pay daily transport costs.

#### **5.5 Arriva student saver tickets**

Students studying full time at universities, colleges or sixth form schools in the North East can now buy money-saving tickets lasting for a term or full academic year. The tickets allow students studying in the region to travel anywhere, any time, on Arriva buses for a simple one-off payment.

To be eligible you must be 14 or over on 1 September and be studying a full time course at university, college, sixth form or at school.

For more information and prices please click on the following link:

<https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/north-east/bus-tickets/young saver/>

### **6. Complaints**

The local authority's aim is to provide the best possible services at all times. However, if you are unhappy with this policy or a decision made under this policy, you may make a complaint using the local authority's standard complaint procedure. Any complaint about the policy or service will be investigated in line with the local authority's corporate complaints procedure and corrective action taken if necessary. Complaints can be sent either via an online form on the local authority's website, emailed via [contactus@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk) or a letter sent to:

Children & Families Service Complaints Officer  
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council  
Seafield House  
Kirkleatham Street  
Redcar  
Yorkshire  
TS10 1RT

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint regarding this transport policy, young people or their families may complain to the Secretary of State for Education.