

## WLA Travel Assistance Policy for young people Consultation - Public Meeting on 14 February 2013

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**PRESENT:**

Carmen Coffey – Head of Pupil and Parent Services

Duncan Matthews – Independent Travel Programme Manager

Parents - 13 children attend Manor School.

Parents - 3 children attend Woodfield School.

CC	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>CC explained that the meeting was part of a wider consultation process and that the consultation had officially closed on 10 February 2013 but the Council wanted to capture views directly from those parents attending Manor and Woodfield Schools.</p>
CC	<p><b>Opening comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no automatic entitlement to school transport.</li> <li>• Resources are limited and budget pressures are enormous. There is a high level of need across all of our services.</li> <li>• Other aspect – want to do what’s best for children and young people themselves. Sensitive issue. Can be challenging for families. Not just about saving money, but doing what’s in the child’s long-term best interests.</li> <li>• Safety underpins all of our policies, as does the need to be fair and transparent.</li> <li>• Confirmed that this meeting was not about whether the current transport service was a good or bad service, but about the policy of allocating transport.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Q and A</b></p> <p><b>Parent:</b> Are there currently any cuts planned for SEN school transport?</p> <p><b>CC:</b> There are no plans to cut the numbers of those receiving SEN transport. The emphasis of the new policy is to offer more independence travel training and support parents in alternate ways that on Brent Transport Service only.</p> <p><b>Parent:</b> If both parents work, will Brent transport Service be given?</p> <p><b>CC:</b> All parents in Brent have the responsibility to get their children to school. Where there is an increased distance of a SEN school which is in opposite direction then it would not be a reasonable decision to refuse transport assistance.</p> <p><b>Parent:</b></p>

	<p>If the parent suffers from a medical emergency condition, will BTS be offered to the pupil or some support?</p> <p><b>CC:</b> Yes, the annual application process allows for all circumstances to be considered.</p> <p><b>Parent:</b> Will all conditions be considered for transport assistance? How do parents express these conditions in the application form?</p> <p><b>CC:</b> The SEN Statements have all the details of the SEN specialism are considered before any transport decisions are made.</p>
	<p><b>Close</b></p>