



# **Kent County Council**

## **Post 16 Transport for Mainstream and SEND students**

### **Consultation report**



Prepared by Lake Market Research



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# Executive Summary

- 228 responses were received to this consultation via the consultation questionnaire.
- 71% of consultees completed as parents / carers of children / young people in education. 76% of this consultee group indicated any of their children use KCC organised transport and 92% indicated any of their children / young people have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- 6% completed as students aged 16-19, or up to 25 if they have Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities.
- 23% completed in another capacity. 62% of this consultee group responded as a Kent education professional. 34% identified as 'other' with the majority noting they are Kent residents or grandparents. 4% completed as a transport professional.
- Consultees were first asked to provide any comments on the draft Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2025-26 in their own words. Whilst this question asked for comments on the 2025-26 statement, feedback received spans both the 2025-26 and 2026-27 statements. The most common themes reported are:
  - Children / young people not being able to access public transport / travel independently
  - The statement's contents making education inaccessible for some children / young people
  - The statement being unfair / discriminatory
  - Concern families cannot afford to pay for transport.
- Concerning the draft Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2026-27, consultees were asked to indicate their agreement or disagreement with the two proposals put forward:
  - 34% agree with providing a Personal Transport Budget to most learners who qualify for additional support from KCC, to facilitate their travel to their place of education; 56% disagree.
  - 24% agree with the expectation that students aged 19+ apply for a discretionary bursary from their learning provider to facilitate their travel to and from their school or college, 63% disagree.
- Consultees were asked to provide any comments on the proposals in their own words. Common themes reported under proposals are consistent with those reported under the 2025-26 statement are:
  - Children / young people not being able to access public transport / travel independently
  - The statement's contents making education inaccessible for some children / young people
  - The statement being unfair / discriminatory
  - Concern families cannot afford to pay for transport
- 26% of consultees providing a comment about the first proposal (PTB) commented that parents / carers would be affected / they would need to change their working hours / give up work. 21% commented that families cannot afford to pay for transport / Personal Transport Budget will not cover costs.

- 23% of consultees providing a comment about the second proposal (discretionary bursary) commented they believe the process would be complicated / time consuming / the application process raises some concerns. 15% raised concerns that establishments do not have the funds / already have a tight budget.

# Background and Methodology

## Background

Kent County Council (KCC) consulted on their Post 16 Transport Policy statements for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 academic years. There are no significant changes proposed for the 2025-26 statement, however, KCC are legally required to consult each year. Whilst there are no changes to the level of support being offered for 2025-26, KCC have clarified some wording in the policy relating to how contributions and refunds are made, to better explain these processes, and included some limited additional wording to clarify KCC's current approach.

There are two main changes proposed for the 2026-27 Post 16 Transport Policy statement:

1. A Personal Transport Budget (PTB) to be provided to most learners of sixth-form age who qualify for funded travel support from KCC.

PTBs give families the flexibility and control in making their own travel arrangements. They may help towards covering the costs of running a family car or be used to make other arrangements to enable students to get to their place of learning.

Eligible families would receive between £1,400 and £4,700 to help with the cost of travel, depending on how far away home is from school, college or training. Parents would no longer have to directly pay the contribution (the equivalent of the Kent 16+ Travel Saver pass which is currently up to £600) as this would be calculated into the total amount they are eligible to receive.

2. Initially require adult learners (those aged 19 or over, whose course started after their 19th birthday) to apply for a discretionary bursary from their education or training provider for help with travel costs first before applying to KCC for additional support. These providers receive direct funding for these bursaries, whereas KCC does not receive dedicated monies for any travel support they provide adult learners.

Consideration may be given to providing mileage payments to students whose bursary is not sufficient to enable them to get to or from their place of education or training.

## Consultation process

On the 27 January 2025, an 8-week consultation was launched and ran until the 23 March 2025. The consultation invited residents, library users and other interested parties to provide views on the proposed options or suggest potential alternatives.

Feedback was captured via a consultation questionnaire which was available on the KCC engagement website ([www.kent.gov.uk/post16consultation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/post16consultation)). Hard copies of the consultation material were also available on request. Large print format was available from the consultation webpage and consultation material and the webpage included details of how people could contact KCC to ask a question, request hard copies or an alternative format. A Word version of the questionnaire was provided on the webpage for people who did not wish to complete the online version.

A consultation stage Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was carried out to assess the impact the proposals could have on those with protected characteristics. The EqIA was available as one of the consultation documents and the questionnaire invited consultees to comment on the

assessment that had been carried out. An analysis of responses to this question can be found with the overall findings' sections of this report.

Activities to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage participation, included the following:

- Email sent to stakeholder database and those registered with Let's talk Kent who had expressed an interest in being kept informed of consultations about 'children and families' and 'schools and education' (13,912 people). A reminder email was also sent towards the end of the consultation period.
- Email / letter to stakeholders including: existing Kent 16+ Travel Saver pass holders, potential users (sent to current Year 10 and 11 users of the Kent Travel saver or those Year 10 and 11 students in receipt of free school transport), head teachers, Further Education providers, bus operators and other school transport providers, such as taxis and relevant organisations from equality groups distribution list.
- Media release.
- Posters in Kent Libraries and Gateways and on some Kent buses.
- Promoted in newsletters and bulletins including: KCC residents' e-newsletter, KCC staff channels; KELSI bulletin, KCC SEND e-newsletter.

A summary of interaction and supply of consultation material can be found below:

- 3,213 visits to the consultation webpage by 2,879 visitors during the consultation period.
- Organic posts via KCC's corporate channels had a reach of 62,048 on Facebook and Instagram. There were 76,793 impressions on X (Twitter), LinkedIn, Nextdoor and Instagram. Reach refers to the number of people who saw a post at least once and impressions are the number of times the post is displayed on someone's screen. The posts generated 2,266 clicks through to the consultation webpage. (Not all social media platforms report the same statistics).
- The number of document downloads are show in the table below:

Document name	Downloads / views
Consultation document	329
Policy Statement for 2025/26	158
Policy Statement for 2026/27	120
Equality Impact Assessment	34
Equality Impact Assessment - Appendix	5
Word version of the questionnaire	28
Consultation Document – large print	4
Policy Statement 2025/26 – large print	1
Policy Statement 2026/27 – large print	2
Equality Impact Assessment – large print	0
Consultation Questionnaire – large print	4
Consultation Document – easy read	6

## **Consultation response**

There were 228 responses to this consultation and all were received via the online consultation questionnaire.

### **Points to note**

- Consultees were given the choice of which questions to answer / provide a comment for. The number of consultees providing an answer to each question is shown on each chart / data table featured in this report.
- Consultees were asked to detail the reasons for their views in their own words. For the purpose of reporting, we have reviewed the comments made for each of these questions and grouped common responses together into themes. These themes are reported where relevant in this report. Please note the percentages in these data tables will exceed the sum of 100% and comments often cover more than one theme.
- Please note the sum of individual percentages in any single choice question in this report may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
- Please note that participation in consultations is self-selecting and this needs to be considered when interpreting responses. Inclination to take part in the consultation is subject to individual personal topic interest and service usage.
- KCC were responsible for the design, promotion and collection of the consultation responses. Lake Market Research were appointed to conduct an independent analysis of feedback.

# Consultation profile

## Response profile

The majority of consultees responding to the consultation questionnaire are parents / carers of children / young people in education (71%). 6% of consultees are students aged 16-19, or up to 25 if they have Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities. 23% of consultees completed the questionnaire in another capacity.

CONSULTEE TYPE	Count	Percentage
As a parent / carer of children / young people in education (attending nursery, school, college or other further learning)	162	71%
As a student aged 16 to 19, or up to 25 if you have Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND)	14	6%
In another capacity	52	23%
Total	228	

## Profile of parents / carers answering

The majority of parents / carers answering indicated their child(ren) are of secondary age / in years 7-11 (50%) or are in years 12-13 (44%). 26% of parents / carers indicated any of their children / young people are older than year 13 up to 25 years old.

Two thirds of parents / carers of children in years 7-11 indicated any of them attend a Kent special school (66%) and 39% attend a Kent mainstream school. Just under six in ten parents / carers of child(ren) in years 12-13 indicated any of them attend a Kent special school (56%), 13% attend a Kent mainstream school and 21% attend a Kent college.

20% of parents / carers of children in years 7-11 indicated any of them use the KCC Travel Saver and 24% of parents / carers of children/young people in years 12-13 indicated any of them use the KCC Travel Saver.

76% of all parents / carers answering indicated any of their children / young people use KCC organised transport. The majority of parents / carers indicated any of their children / young people have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and an Education, Health and Care Plan (92%).

**Please select the age groups that apply to your children/young people**



<b>PARENTS / CARERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 19-25</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Early Years (0-4 years)	1	1%
Reception (4-5 years)	1	1%
Years 1-6 (Primary aged 5-11)	16	10%
Years 7-11 (Secondary aged 11-16)	80	50%
Years 12-13 (Post-16 aged 16-18)	71	44%
Later than Year 13, but started current course / qualification before 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday	16	10%
Aged 19-25 (started current course / qualification after 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday)	25	16%
Blank	1	1%

**If your children/young people attend a school or further education establishment, please select which type from the list below**

<b>PARENTS / CARERS OF YEARS 7-11 CHILDREN</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Special school in Kent	53	66%
Special school outside of Kent	2	3%
Mainstream school in Kent	31	39%
Mainstream school outside of Kent	0	0%
Grammar school in Kent	15	19%
Grammar school outside of Kent	0	0%
College in Kent	7	9%
College outside of Kent	0	0%
Kent Independent education provider	0	0%
Other	3	4%

<b>PARENTS / CARERS OF YEARS 12-13 CHILDREN</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Special school in Kent	40	56%
Special school outside of Kent	4	6%
Mainstream school in Kent	9	13%
Mainstream school outside of Kent	0	0%
<b>PARENTS / CARERS OF YEARS 12-13 CHILDREN</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Grammar school in Kent	6	8%

Grammar school outside of Kent	0	0%
College in Kent	15	21%
College outside of Kent	0	0%
Kent Independent education provider	3	4%
Other	2	3%

<b>PARENTS / CARERS OF LATER THAN YEAR 13 CHILDREN BUT STARTED COURSE BEFORE 19<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY</b>	Count	Percentage
Special school in Kent	7	44%
Special school outside of Kent	0	0%
Mainstream school in Kent	1	6%
Mainstream school outside of Kent	0	0%
Grammar school in Kent	1	6%
Grammar school outside of Kent	0	0%
College in Kent	6	38%
College outside of Kent	0	0%
Kent Independent education provider	0	0%
Other	1	6%

<b>PARENTS / CARERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 19-25</b>	Count	Percentage
Special school in Kent	9	36%
Special school outside of Kent	0	0%
Mainstream school in Kent	0	0%
Mainstream school outside of Kent	0	0%
Grammar school in Kent	0	0%
Grammar school outside of Kent	0	0%
College in Kent	16	64%
College outside of Kent	0	0%
Kent Independent education provider	1	4%
Other	2	8%

**Do your children/young people currently use a KCC Travel Saver pass?**

<b>PARENTS / CARERS OF YEARS 7-11 CHILDREN</b>	Count	Percentage
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Yes use KCC Travel Saver (years 7-11)	16	20%
Yes use KCC 16+ Travel Saver (years 12-14)	0	0%
No	65	81%

<b>PARENTS / CARERS OF YEARS 12-13 CHILDREN</b>	Count	Percentage
Yes use KCC Travel Saver (years 7-11)	0	0%
Yes use KCC 16+ Travel Saver (years 12-14)	17	24%
No	53	76%

<b>PARENTS / CARERS OF LATER THAN YEAR 13 CHILDREN BUT STARTED COURSE BEFORE 19<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY</b>	Count	Percentage
Yes use KCC Travel Saver (years 7-11)	0	0%
Yes use KCC 16+ Travel Saver (years 12-14)	5	31%
No	12	75%

**Do any of your children/young people receive KCC organised transport?**

<b>ALL PARENTS / CARERS ANSWERING</b>	Count	Percentage
No	38	24%
Yes, 1 child	101	63%
Yes, 2 children	17	11%
Yes, 3 or more children	4	3%

**Do any of your children/young people have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities?**

<b>ALL PARENTS / CARERS ANSWERING</b>	Count	Percentage
Yes, with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	148	92%
Yes, without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	8	5%
No	9	6%

<b>ALL PARENTS / CARERS ANSWERING</b>	Count	Percentage
Yes, with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	148	92%

Yes, without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	8	5%
No	9	6%

## Profile of students answering

The fourteen students answering are of mix of ages and therefore also attend a mix of education establishments. Nine of the students answering use KCC organised transport and two use a KCC Travel Saver. Twelve indicated they have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and have an Education, Health and Care Plan. One indicated they have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities but do not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

**Are you a student aged 16 to 19, or up to 25 if you have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)?**

ALL STUDENTS ANSWERING	Count	Percentage
Early Years (0-4 years)	0	0%
Reception (4-5 years)	0	0%
Years 1-6 (Primary aged 5-11)	0	0%
Years 7-11 (Secondary aged 11-16)	0	0%
Years 12-13 (Post-16 aged 16-18)	4	29%
Later than Year 13, but started current course / qualification before 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday	4	29%
Aged 19-25 (started current course / qualification after 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday)	6	43%
Blank	0	0%

**If you attend a school or further education establishment, please select which type from the list below.**

ALL STUDENTS ANSWERING	Count	Percentage
Special school in Kent	5	36%
Special school outside of Kent	0	0%
Mainstream school in Kent	1	7%
Mainstream school outside of Kent	0	0%
Grammar school in Kent	0	0%
Grammar school outside of Kent	0	0%
College in Kent	4	29%
College outside of Kent	0	0%
Kent Independent education provider	3	21%
Other	2	14%

**Do you use KCC organised transport?**

ALL STUDENTS ANSWERING	Count	Percentage
No	3	20%
Yes	9	60%
Not sure	3	20%

**Do you currently use the Kent 16+ Travel Saver pass?**

ALL STUDENTS ANSWERING	Count	Percentage
Yes	2	14%
Yes use KCC 16+ Travel Saver (years 12-14)	0	0
No	12	86%

**Do you have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities?**

ALL STUDENTS ANSWERING	Count	Percentage
Yes, with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	12	86%
Yes, without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	1	7%
No	1	7%

## Profile of consultees answering in another capacity

The profile of consultees answering in another capacity is mixed. 62% indicated they are responding as a Kent education professional (31 consultees); 35% representing special schools, 10% representing mainstream schools, 57% representing colleges and 10% representing Kent Independent education providers. 34% (17 consultees) identified as 'other' with the majority noting that they are Kent residents or grandparents.

	Count	Percentage
Transport professional	2	4%
- Minibus operator	1	2%
- Other	1	2%
Education professional in Kent	31	62%
- Special school Head / teacher or another representative	11	35%
- Mainstream school Head / teacher or another representative	3	10%
- Grammar school Head / teacher or another representative	0	0%
- College Head / teacher or another representative	8	57%
- Kent Independent education provider	3	10%
- Other	6	19%
Education professional outside in Kent	0	0%
Other (including Kent residents, grandparents, other interested professionals)	17	34%

## Demographic profile

The tables below show the demographic profile of consultees who completed the consultation questionnaire. The proportion who left these questions blank or indicated they did not want to disclose this information has been included as applicable.

Gender	Number of responses	Percentage
Male	111	49%
Female	34	15%
Prefer not to say / blank	83	36%

Gender same as birth	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	143	63%
No	1	0.4%
Prefer not to say / blank	84	37%

Age	Number of responses	Percentage
16-17	3	1%
18-20	2	1%
21-25	2	1%
26-30	3	1%
31-35	2	1%
36-40	7	3%
41-45	22	10%
46-50	31	14%
51-55	34	15%
56-60	16	7%
61-65	7	3%
66-70	5	2%
71-75	4	2%
76-80	7	3%
Prefer not to say / blank	83	36%



Disability	Number of responses	Percentage
Yes	27	12%
- Physical	12	5%
- Sensory (hearing, sight or both)	1	0.4%
- Longstanding illness or health condition	8	4%
- Mental health condition	8	4%
- Learning disability	6	3%
- Neurodivergent	8	4%
- Other	5	2%
No	111	49%
Prefer not to say / blank	90	39%

Ethnicity	Number of responses	Percentage
White English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish or British	136	60%
Irish	1	0.4%
Any other White background	3	1%
Prefer not to say / blank	88	39%

Religion	Number of responses	Percentage
Atheist	4	2%
Christian	63	28%
Buddhist	1	0.4%
A different religion or belief (Agnostic / Pagan)	2	1%
No religion or belief	69	30%
Prefer not to say / blank	89	39%

Sexuality	Number of responses	Percentage
Heterosexual / Straight	136	60%
Bisexual	0	0.4%
Gay or Lesbian	0	0.4%
Prefer to define my own sexuality	1	1%
Prefer not to say / blank	91	40%

## Response to consultation proposals

### Consultees' comments on the draft Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2025-26

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide any comments on the draft Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2025-26 in their own words. The comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. Half of consultees answering (50%) provided a comment to this question. Whilst this question asked for comments on the 2025-26 statement, feedback received spans the 2025-26 and 2026-27 statements.

The most common themes reported are children / young people not being able to access public transport / travel independently (26% of consultees answering), the statement's contents making education inaccessible for some children / young people (23%), the statement being unfair / discriminatory (22%) and concern families cannot afford to pay for transport (22%).

18% of consultees commented that all education transport should be provided / funded by KCC.

**If you have any comments on the draft Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2025-26, please provide them in the box below.** Base: all consultees providing a response (111)

	Number of responses	Percentage
Cannot access public transport / travel independently	29	26%
Making education inaccessible / young people will miss out / changes will affect attendance	26	23%
Unfair / discriminatory to families / those with SEND	24	22%
Families cannot afford to pay for transport	24	22%
All education transport should be provided / funded by KCC	20	18%
Children / young people are legally obligated to be in education until 19	13	12%
Parents / carers affected / change working hours / give up work	13	12%
Establishments are not on public transport routes / not accessible by public transport	13	12%
Special schools are often further away / are few and far between / little choice where to send young people	11	10%
Should continue to be able to use same transport as used before the age of 16	11	10%
Public transport is poor / poor availability / timings / long journey times / expensive	10	9%
Concerns about payments / basis / criteria for charging	9	8%
Young person suffers with anxiety / mental health / disability / changes could exacerbate issues	8	7%
Complicated process / time consuming / concerns about application process	7	6%
Safety issues / safeguarding / vulnerable at risk when travelling	6	5%
Agree with Personal Transport Budget	6	5%

	Number of responses	Percentage
Agree with proposals / praise for KCC	5	5%
Any changes will be disruptive for young people / KCC letting them down	5	5%
Happy with status quo / happy no changes for next year	4	5%
Personal Transport Budget is not appropriate / would not work / would be insufficient	4	4%
Cannot apply a one-size fits all approach / all young people are different / have different needs	4	4%
Live rurally so journeys are even more complicated	4	4%
Young people are entitled to an education	4	4%
Young person or family should contribute financially to transport	4	4%

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about children / young people not being able to access public transport / travel independently and making education inaccessible can be found below:

**“My son is in a special school with severe and complex needs and when he reaches 16 he will still require transport to school. He cannot travel along on public transport as has no awareness of danger and I cannot afford to pay for his transport. If changes are made and his transport stops he would be unable to attend school and this would be damaging to his health and social wellbeing and I regard it as discrimination as he has an EHCP which is covered to age 25 so should be able to get to his education without costs to parent who can't afford. A local school cannot accommodate his needs or I would have walked him to his local school but as this is not the case and has never been I have always had to rely on school transport. Taking this away at age 16 when education continues as a compulsory service until 18/19 is unacceptable and I object to this fiercely.”** (Parent / carer)

**“The proposals being mooted would affect my son's ability to attend college, he isn't able to travel alone or on public transport , I also cannot afford to pay for him to get to colleges unless he receives a taxi , he would have to leave education which at the moment is his life, he doesn't meet people outside of college so it would have a detrimental effect on his life .”** (Parent / carer)

**“Our 16 year old son would not be able to make his own way via public transport to his school, he doesn't go anywhere alone due to his disability, also the school is difficult to get to by public transport. While KCC provides transport I know that the drivers have all been vetted and approved by the Local Authority (they have checked DBS etc), they have assessed best value as they have that expertise and can compare tenders and the young people have consistent transport.”** (Parent / carer)

**“As a student in a SEN college most SEN students will not be able to handle a journey on public transport independently.”** (Student)

**“The change in policy was introduced rapidly last year without clear information being sent to parents so many of our pupils did not have transport at the beginning of the academic year. How do you reach out to parents with their own learning difficulties? I think the**

**policy discriminates against pupils in Special Schools as often those pupils have to travel to attend their District Special School and are unable to use public transport. It is then ludicrous that post 19 transport is provided again free of charge. Surely transport should be allocated as to whether those pupils have the capacity to travel independently on public transport and not on age.” (Education professional)**

**“I agree that all learners with an EHCP should not automatically be awarded home school transport - however, those that cannot travel independently and meet the criteria of not attending an additional placement should receive this support. I also think it’s wrong that a post 19 learner cannot financially contribute to their travel. I am aware that this rule is set in state law.” (Education professional)**

Example verbatim, in consultees’ own words, about families who cannot afford to pay for transport can be found below:

**“I think that moving everyone (with limited exceptions) is unfair. as the cost of transport will far exceed the amount of PTB. If my child continues on to the sixth form of his current school is will cost £15,600 per annum for the same transport he has now. This is unsustainable even with the PTB, and no guarantee that they will qualify for a KCC organised vehicle.” (Parent / carer)**

**“Charging for transport puts many families, already at financial hardship due to supporting a child or young person with special needs, at greater levels of difficulty. Education is compulsory up to the age of 18. A young person with SEND does not have the luxury of being able to choose where they can attend. My child cannot attend the closest sixth form provision as it is not suitable. We do not have a choice where our child attends - we cannot choose somewhere within walking distances at a) this would not be suitable b) this would not be possible.” (Parent / carer)**

**“Your proposals will have a negative impact on many of our students’ abilities to access our sites and therefore their education with us as a provider. Not all of our students even get a bursary so this will mean that we will become inaccessible to them altogether because of the cost of transport.” (Education professional)**

Example verbatim, in consultees’ own words, about being unfair / discriminatory to families / those with SEND can be found below:

**“The change in policy was introduced rapidly last year without clear information being sent to parents so many of our pupils did not have transport at the beginning of the academic year. How do you reach out to parents with their own learning difficulties? I think the policy discriminates against pupils in Special Schools as often those pupils have to travel to attend their District Special School and are unable to use public transport. It is then ludicrous that post 19 transport is provided again free of charge. Surely transport should be allocated as to whether those pupils have the capacity to travel independently on public transport and not on age.” (Parent / carer)**

**“Very concerned about current proposals as feel there are yet more barriers for SEND YP and particularly Young Adults attending education. There are a limited number of specialist college places for example and these will only be accessible for the majority by arranged**

**transport- admittedly this will not be the case for everyone but does feel that ultimately there could be an increase in SEND individuals with poor outcomes if this is poorly handled and rushed through.” (Parent / carer)**

**“Our 16 year old son would not be able to make his own way via public transport to his school, he doesn't go anywhere alone due to his disability, also the school is difficult to get to by public transport. While KCC provides transport I know that the drivers have all been vetted and approved by the Local Authority (they have checked DBS etc), they have assessed best value as they have that expertise and can compare tenders and the young people have consistent transport.” (Parent / carer)**

**“The lack of PTB for Post 16 pupils with SEN will create a further year of financial crisis for families and pupils continuing to miss education.” (Education professional)**

**“How is the system going to maintain and keep consistent the opportunity to access education for students who have learning or mental health disabilities by making these changes? How is the system going to protect vulnerable students from being financially abused from parents / carers? How are students going to be able to access more remote locations to access the courses that suits their career paths?” (Education professional)**

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about children / young people being legally obligated to be in education until 19 can be found below:

**“Still find it appalling that SEN children that are unable to access public transport have to pay to go to school when it's a legal requirement.” (Parent / carer)**

**“As all children are required to attend education until 19 years the transport should be funded until the legal obligation expires and then be looked at in a case by case needs requirement. Sometimes disabilities become more affecting at an older age especially in areas of anxiety and mental health alongside their everyday challenges and this should continue to be widely supported until any form of education ceases.” (Parent / carer)**

**“Why are post 16 students living in rural areas with very limited public transport still not allowed to get the KCC provided school bus to 6 form! Applying for a spare seat is nonsense as they never get one and they are then expected to pay for it. 16 to 18 year olds are now legally required to be in education or approved training so surely they should be able to use the school bus they have always got to get to the same school to do A levels. The first public bus leaving our village is at 9.20am too late for school.” (Parent / carer)**

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about how parents / carers will be affected / need to change working hours / give up work can be found below:

**“While I understand the financial pressures Kent are facing as a Head Teacher myself I am concerned about how my child with epilepsy, social and communication difficulties and learning difficulties will be able to continue to access school from 16 if transport will not be provided. Even if he could get to Ashford on the train, which he could not as he cannot walk to the shop in the village on his own, he would then not be able to get to Wyvern school as it is too far to walk and he could not manage a bus on his own. I work full time and my husband is away a lot with work. One of us would have to give up work to be able to**

**transport him if these changes go ahead. This would mean a complete change to our lives and out ourselves in a very difficult, financial situation. Our lines of work do not give us flexibility to provide transport at the right times.” (Parent / carer)**

**“My son, and all 3 of my children are far too vulnerable to get a train or a bus to school, for when the time comes post 16. They are not street wise at all. I am going to have to drive my son (he's the eldest) to his current school he's at the moment, because he is happy there. So, wants to stay there. This is going to be detrimental to my working life, as I will have to drive him from Sittingbourne to the Malling school everyday. Twice a day.” (Parent / carer)**

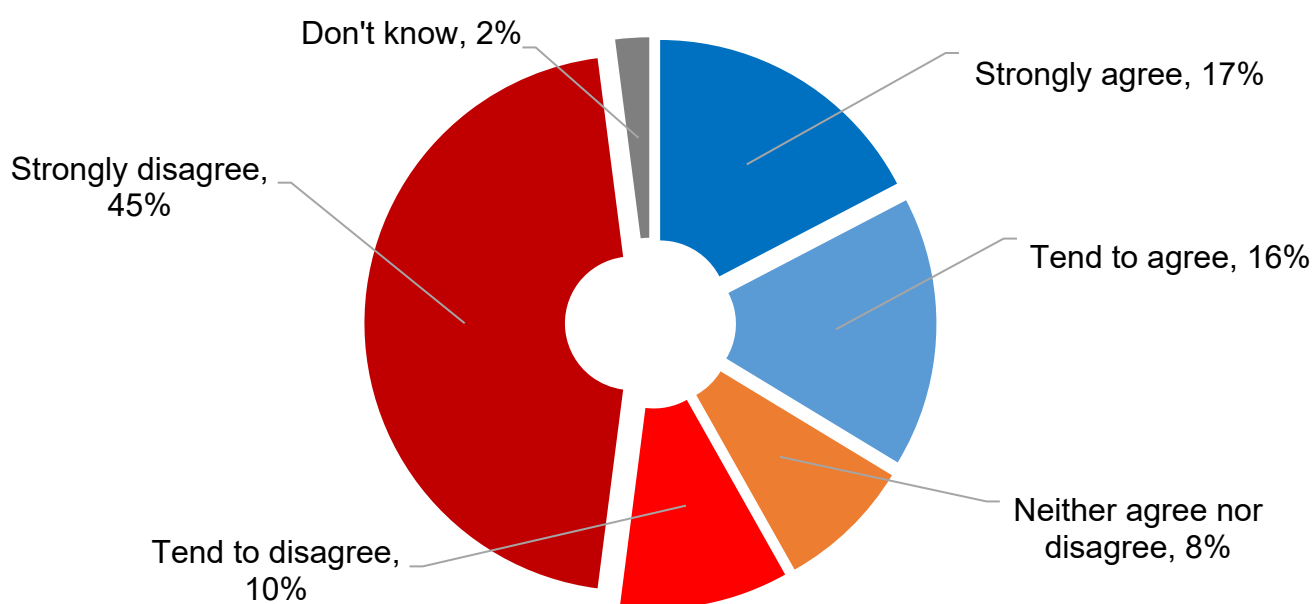
**“This proposal will not work for most parents as they can't be in two places at once and also you will be adding more stress to parents and children with SEN having to arrange their own transport.” (Parent / carer)**

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## 2026-27 statement proposals - Provision of a Personal Transport Budget to most learners who qualify for additional support

Just over a third of consultees (34%) agree with the first proposal for the 2026-27 statement to provide a Personal Transport Budget to most learners who qualify for additional support from KCC, to facilitate their travel to their place of education. 56% disagree with this proposal; 45% strongly disagree. 8% indicated they neither agree nor disagree and 2% are unsure.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to provide a Personal Transport Budget to most learners who qualify for additional support from KCC, to facilitate their travel to their place of education?** Base: all providing a response (225)



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	76	34%
Net – Disagree	125	56%
Strongly agree	39	17%
Tend to agree	37	16%
Neither agree nor disagree	19	8%
Tend to disagree	23	10%
Strongly disagree	102	45%
Don't know	5	2%

Agreement proportions are broadly consistent by parents / carers of children / young people of different ages and attendance at different types of school. However, a lower proportion of consultees who receive KCC organised transport agree compared to consultees who do not receive KCC organised transport.

% agree (subgroups shown where base sizes permit)	Number of responses	Percentage
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Years 7-11 (Secondary aged 11-16)	21	27%
Years 12-13 (Post-16 aged 16-18)	22	31%
Attend a special school	23	26%
Attend a mainstream school	9	25%
Receive KCC organised transport	24	19%
Do not receive KCC organised transport	24	60%
Consultee with a disability	10	42%
Consultee with a caring responsibility	10	42%
Education professional	11	35%

### Consultee comments on proposal to provide a Personal Transport Budget

Consultees were asked to add any comments in their own words on the proposal to provide a Personal Transport Budget to most learners who qualify for additional support from KCC, to facilitate their travel to their place of education. The comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 69% of consultees provided a comment to this question. 48% of those who indicated they agree with the proposal provided a comment; 86% of those who indicated they disagree with the proposal provided a comment.

26% of consultees answering commented that parents / carers would be affected / they would need to change their working hours / give up work. Consistent with themes reported previously, consultees also commented that children / young people not being able to access public transport / travel independently (24%), the statement's contents making education inaccessible for some children / young people (22%) and concern families cannot afford to pay for transport / Personal Transport budget will not cover costs (21%).

13% made reference to special schools often being further away / few / there was little choice on where to send young people. 11% expressed concerns with assessment / monitoring criteria and how this affects who is entitled and the definition of exceptional circumstances.

**Please add any comments you have on this proposal in the box below.**

Base: all consultees providing a response (154)

	Number of responses	Percentage
Parents / carers would be affected / change working hours / give up work / can't be in two places at once	40	26%
Children / young people cannot access public transport / travel independently	37	24%
Makes education inaccessible / young people will miss out / changes will affect attendance	34	22%
	Number of responses	Percentage
Families cannot afford to pay for transport / Personal Transport Budget will not cover costs	33	21%



All education transport should be provided / funded by KCC	31	20%
Special schools are often further away / are few and far between / little choice where to send young people	20	13%
Concerns with assessment / monitoring criteria / what are exceptional circumstances?	17	11%
Young person suffers with anxiety / mental health / changes could exacerbate issues / need a routine	16	10%
Unfair / discriminatory for families / those with SEND	16	10%
Young people are entitled to an education	15	10%
Safety issues / safeguarding / vulnerable at risk when travelling	14	9%
Difficulty in arranging alternative transport	14	9%
KCC has more resources / better at co-ordinating / optimising vehicle capacity / routes	14	9%
Public transport is poor / poor availability / timings / long journey times / expensive	13	8%
Cannot apply a one-size fits all approach / all young people are different / have different needs	10	6%
Receiving a Personal Transport Budget should be a choice rather than a mandate	10	6%
No access to own transport / cannot drive	10	6%
Agree with Personal Transport Budget / good idea	10	6%
Legally obligated to be in education until 19	9	6%
PTB is not appropriate / would not work / would be insufficient	8	5%
Lead to an increase in traffic on the roads	8	5%
Young people qualifying for Personal Independence Payment / have an EHCP should continue to receive funded transport	8	5%
Those with physical disabilities face further challenges / add complications	7	5%
Potential difficulty in budgeting if in receipt of Personal Transport Budget	7	5%
Parents / families should contribute to cost of transport	7	5%
Establishments are not on public transport routes / not accessible by public transport	6	4%
Concerned that money will not be used for its intended use	5	3%
Live rurally so journeys are even more complicated	5	3%
Agree with Personal Transport Budget if it covers costs / can be used by family members / carers	5	3%
KCC should not be funding transport	5	3%
	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Complicated process / time consuming / concerns about application process	4	3%
Travel training would not work	4	3%

Understand it's expensive for KCC / there are budget restrictions	4	3%
Would welcome a train pass	4	3%

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about how parents / carers would be affected / would need to change their working hours / give up work can be found below:

**"It's not the cost that concerns me, but rather the time and effort to accompany children to school during a working day. I would not expect help for my younger child, who also has SEN but is able to get to and from school independently. However, my older child, who has SEN and an EHCP cannot independently go anywhere unaccompanied and is vulnerable. Her needs are such that there are extra pressures on the family and we need the extra support eg home-to-school transport to continue post 16. I am concerned about moving over to a PTB system, but that is based on our individual circumstances. Other families might prefer it."** (Parent / carer)

**"It is a good idea for families that are able to drive their children to school themselves, however for those who can't get their children to school themselves because maybe they work or don't even drive it is not particularly helpful. Some children are not able to get public transport on their own either so the Bus pass may not be helpful to them as well."** (Parent / carer)

**"This is just another way for you to reduce the travel spaces on the buses as it's still costing you more than we are paying for now! I'm a parent of 4 SEN children with ECHP's at 2 schools how on earth am I meant to be in 2 places at once? And before you use the free school breakfast/ after school clubs our child can't access those due to their needs and no trained staff!"** (Parent / carer)

**"While I agree that PTBs should be offered, they will not be a practical or cost effective solution for many families. For working parents, using the PTB to take young people to school is unlikely to be an option and parents are very unlikely to have the ability/skills or local contacts to be able to make arrangements with other transport providers in the way that the KCC team is able to do, which would be more resource effective than individual transport arrangements for each young person."** (Parent / carer)

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about children / young people not being able to access public transport / travel independently and making education inaccessible can be found below:

**"I think this would make applying for transport for those aged 16 and above who have SEND, and cannot travel independently due to their needs, so much more complicated than the current system. It will be so much harder for young people and their parents/carers to navigate this system - of jumping through extra hoops before transport is arranged. I think it will put post 16 learners off applying for help with transport and therefore will affect their attendance at their education setting. With the previous changes, the cohort of youngsters accessing education shrank, and I am worried that these proposals will decrease the numbers of young people who can access education still further. In your own EqIA you indicate that this is a concern. The more you deny young people access to education, the more likely it is that they will become economically inactive as adults."** (Parent / carer)

**“My daughter's school is not close to any public transport route. There is a station at Thanet Parkway however she would need to take a 20-25 minute walk including crossing a dual carriageway where there is no crossing provided. She is not streetwise as she does not go out independently. The risk of her crossing this road is too dangerous and is a safeguarding issue. She also would not be willing to do this. She would also need to walk down an isolated lane with no buildings nor lighting. Again, this is too risky and would affect her attendance at school as she would not be willing to undertake this. (Parent / carer)**

**“This would be extremely detrimental to my son and would mean he can no longer attend the special school he has thrived in for many years. Another KCC cost cutting venture, our poor kids suffer as usual with no regard to their needs. Transport should be provided whilst children with an EHCP are in education. The whole of their education. It is discriminatory to change things the way you propose and will no doubt go ahead as our voices usually mean very little.” (Parent / carer)**

**“There are many students with EHCPs for whom independent travel is an aspiration not a reality at the present time. Travel provision from KCC facilitated these learners continuing their education and teaching their potential. This is crucial for these individuals to go on and be able to access the workplace rather than having to rely on a lifetime of benefits.” (Parent / carer)**

**“Many learners with SEND could not be supported to effectively manage this budget with their parents. They are more at risk of financial abuse and some parents have SEND or severe mental health issues themselves. This will stop so many students attending college and accessing their right to education.” (Education professional)**

**“Most of our sites are not accessible by public transport so these budgets would be insufficient OR leave young people in dangerous situations whereby they have to walk the last length of their journeys along country lanes in isolation, often in the dark in the winter months.” (Education professional)**

**“This works well for students who have parents available to drive them to a destination but it will be very difficult for students who live in a remote location & do not have a mobile parent. They are even more likely to drop out of education which put them at an even greater disadvantage.” (Education professional)**

**“I work in a SEN college where students rely on taxis to attend college. we are a remote college where public transport is not available. We have a number of students with severe needs that would not be able to access public transport as this would be too triggering for them. In general, the majority of students in my college would struggle to attend college which would then effect their entitlement to an EHCP and an education. Our students would stop attending college if travel was disrupted.” (Education professional)**

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about families not being able to afford to pay for transport / Personal Transport Budget will not cover costs can be found below:

**“We live some distance from the special needs school - my child is severely disabled and cannot attend any other setting. I work full time and do not have the time to spend 2 hours plus a day taking her to school. I cannot see that £4000 will cover her journeys when 1 taxi journey from Ashford to Tenterden costs £80. In addition to this, she requires an escort in**

**the car as she is severely epileptic.. Not only is this proposal already causing me some stress (as the parent of a severely disabled child I am already under considerable stress) but potentially puts at risk her ability to attend school.” (Parent / carer)**

**“I have doubts as to whether the amount allocated will be enough to provide taxis for our students. Many parents also have learning needs or difficulties with form-filling and may lose out if required to complete application forms. Any shortfall will not be able to be covered by bursaries or other college funds. If students cannot come to college by taxi due to lack of funds, their entire education will be affected. This could also affect taxi drivers who often rely on regular school trips as the main part of their income.” (Education professional)**

**“The journey time to college is 45mins to an hour ; that would mean approx. 2 hours there and back twice a day; Its simply not possible to drive for that long 5 days a week and £5000 would not cover the cost ; My daughter is really learning and improving at college but it is the nearest one to us so for her to keep on improving she has to go there.” (Parent / carer)**

Example verbatim, in consultees’ own words, about concerns with assessment / monitoring criteria / the definition of exceptional circumstances can be found below:

**“I think there should be some clarity on the phrase 'exceptional circumstances'- what are the circumstances where a learner would have an organised vehicle rather than a PTB?” (Parent / carer)**

**“Only offering transport in exceptional circumstances will mean many young adults will not be able to access educational settings. Your staff do not have the knowledge or training necessary to determine an individual’s needs or ability. Providing a young adult with funding will not magically give them the skills necessary to native public transport, manage or afford daily taxis or have the ability to learn to drive.” (Parent / carer)**

**“Exceptional circumstances needs to refer to those with severe and complex disabilities. Those who have received their own or 2:1 KCC provided transport and assistant in the past. Age is not substantially going to change a person's level of need related to their disability, perhaps as compared to others who need less support as they age. Level of need is not linear with age progression. In some cases, the level of need can increase with age. (Parent / carer)**

Example verbatim, in consultees’ own words, about special schools often being further away / few and far between / there is little choice where to send young people can be found below:

**“Most adult learners have to travel long distances to the most suitable special college for their needs. This proposed policy would make it very difficult in most cases for them to access their college, in most cases, colleges where they are settled and are progressing in their chosen course to enable them to be able to be more independent and employable. The KCC are potentially taking this away.” (Parent / carer)**

**“I think there is unrealistic expectations around how KCC is going to meet this growing demand for specialised transport. 16-18 year olds are still 'children' and parents would still be expected to help them access education. I think that helping parents with car transport costs makes lots of sense. Relentless increases in taxi transport is just not sustainable. However this policy change is likely to spotlight a bigger issue around why young people are having to travel long distances in the first place (lack of appropriate local SEN provisions). That is a better focus to work on than taxi provision. My only proviso is that**

**there are always cases where 'normal' is not going to work. For example if a parent has to be at three different settings simultaneously. So there will always need to be a safety net. In the policy for where families are realistically not going to be able to meet the need.” (Parent / carer)**

**“We live some distance from the special needs school - my child is severely disabled and cannot attend any other setting. I work full time and do not have the time to spend 2 hours plus a day taking her to school. I cannot see that £4000 will cover her journeys when 1 taxi journey from Ashford to Tenterden costs £80. In addition to this, she requires an escort in the car as she is severely epileptic.. Not only is this proposal already causing me some stress (as the parent of a severely disabled child I am already under considerable stress), but potentially puts at risk her ability to attend school.” (Parent / carer)**

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about being unfair / discriminatory to families / those with SEND can be found below:

**“Not viable for SEN children where independent travel is not possible. Will prohibit my child attending full time education. Under PTB will also lose economies of scale as taxi is shared and at full capacity with other pupils at same educational establishment.” (Parent / carer)**

**“This would be extremely detrimental to my son and would mean he can no longer attend the special school he has thrived in for many years. Another KCC cost cutting venture, our poor kids suffer as usual with no regard to their needs. Transport should be provided whilst children with an EHCP are in education. The whole of their education. It is discriminatory to change things the way you propose and will no doubt go ahead as our voices usually mean very little.” (Parent / carer)**

**“In the case of my son and family I'm a single parent, I work and do not have the ability to take my son to school and pick him up. He is not able to get public transport on his own and I would not be able to continue with my employment if I had to take him to school and pick him up five days a week. I feel I'd be discriminated against for having a child with a disability, who can't travel on public transport but has to legally be in education until at least 18.” (Parent / carer)**

**“As with all the consultations, It is clear and obvious that there is a real need to cut over spending where it can be cut and to slim down on areas that can be slimmed down. There will always be a cohort that wins and others that loose as a direct result of any change. My/our personal concern is around the overwhelming need for travel for the extremely vulnerable SEND students that rely on Special schools, like ourselves. Where parental involvement/ability is an issue, we would like to maintain the need for exceptional circumstances to always be able to be discussed and a bespoke plan put into place. Working closely with KCC for sometime, I am sure this will be the case, but needed to highlight the need for some will not to fit into the box not matter what you plan. We would hate to have such a barrier to learning, making our bespoke teaching ineffective as they would be unable to attend placement.” (Education professional)**

**“Many learners with SEND could not be supported to effectively manage this budget with their parents. They are more at risk of financial abuse and some parents have SEND or**

**severe mental health issues themselves. This will stop so many students attending college and accessing their right to education.”** (Education professional)

Example verbatim, in consultees own words, from those agreeing with the proposal can be found below:

**“SEN children need additional support. Personal transport budget is a massive help.”**

(Parent / carer)

**“I think this is sensible as the bus network is now very limited so having a budget would enable each family to make arrangements for whatever form of transport makes the most sense for their young person - in my situation this would be train-fare. Also, there are some families who can afford to pay for the transport themselves.”** (Parent / carer)

**“There are many reasons why students are unable to use public transport or why parents would be unable to transport them personally so as long as parents are not overly questioned as to why their child requires KCC provided transport I agree with the PTB.”**

(Responded in another capacity)

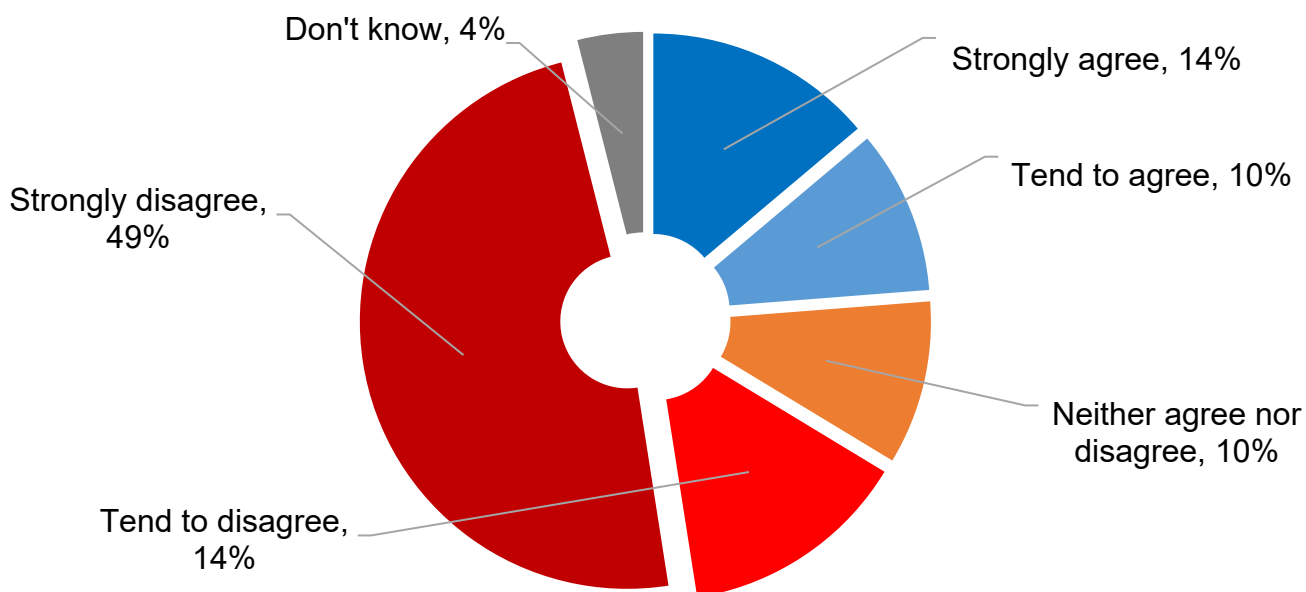
**“Times are hard for all of us, but for KCC to continue funding where it is not legally required needs to be addressed.”** (Responded in another capacity)

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## 2026-27 statement proposals - Expectation students aged 19+ apply for a discretionary bursary to facilitate travel

Just under a quarter of consultees (24%) agree with the expectation for the 2026-27 statement that students aged 19+ apply for a discretionary bursary from their learning provider to facilitate their travel to and from their school or college. 63% disagree with this proposal; 49% strongly disagree. 10% indicated they neither agree nor disagree and 4% are unsure.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the expectation that students aged 19+ apply for a discretionary bursary from their learning provider to facilitate their travel to and from their school or college?** Base: all providing a response (225)



Supporting data table	Number of responses	Percentage
Net – Agree	53	24%
Net – Disagree	142	63%
Strongly agree	31	14%
Tend to agree	22	10%
Neither agree nor disagree	22	10%
Tend to disagree	32	14%
Strongly disagree	110	49%
Don't know	8	4%

Agreement proportions are broadly consistent by parents / carers of children / young people of different ages and attendance at different types of school. However, a lower proportion of

consultees who receive KCC organised transport agree compared to consultees who do not receive KCC organised transport.

<b>% agree (subgroups shown where base sizes permit)</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Years 7-11 (Secondary aged 11-16)	12	15%
Years 12-13 (Post-16 aged 16-18)	12	17%
Attend a special school	12	14%
Attend a mainstream school	7	19%
Receive KCC organised transport	14	11%
Do not receive KCC organised transport	13	33%
Consultee with a disability	6	25%
Consultee with a caring responsibility	14	16%
Education professional	9	29%



## Consultee comments on expectation students aged 19+ apply for a discretionary bursary to facilitate travel

Consultees were asked to add any comments in their own words on the proposal that students aged 19+ would apply for a discretionary bursary to facilitate travel to their place of education. The comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. 56% of consultees provided a comment to this question. 32% of those who indicated they agree with the proposal provided a comment; 70% of those who indicated they disagree with the proposal provided a comment.

Consultees reiterated earlier comments namely the statement being unfair / discriminatory (20%) and the statement's contents making education inaccessible for some children / young people (15%). In addition to the most common themes expressed so far, consultees commented they believe the process would be complicated / time consuming / the application process raises some concerns (23% of consultees answering) and establishments do not have the funds / already have a tight budget (15%).

22% of consultees commented that all education transport should be provided / funded by KCC.

**Please add any comments you have on this proposal in the box below.**

Base: all consultees providing a response (124)

	Number of responses	Percentage
Appears a complicated process / time consuming / concerns about application process	28	23%
All education transport should be provided / funded by KCC / it's their responsibility	27	22%
Unfair / discriminatory for families / those with SEND	25	20%
Making education inaccessible / young people will miss out / changes will affect attendance	19	15%
Establishments do not have the funds for this / already have a tight budget	19	15%
Young people cannot access public transport / travel independently	16	13%
Young people are entitled to an education	16	13%
Concerns with assessment / monitoring criteria / what are exceptional circumstances?	14	11%
Parents / carers affected / change working hours / give up work / can't be in two places at once	12	10%
A bursary is discretionary / not guaranteed / establishments choose to fund or not	12	10%
Schools attended by those with SEN are often further away / are few & far between / little choice where to send young people	11	9%
Difficulty in arranging alternative transport	10	8%
Agree with bursary / good idea	8	6%
Personal Transport Budget / bursary is not appropriate / would not work / would be insufficient	7	6%
	Number of responses	Percentage

Establishments are not on public transport routes / not accessible by public transport	7	6%
Bursary would be insufficient / not cover costs	7	6%
Families cannot afford to pay for transport / bursary will not cover costs	6	5%
If claiming retrospectively, cannot afford to fund it in the first place	6	5%
Affect young people in the long term / future / detrimental in the long term	6	5%
KCC should not be funding transport	6	5%
Cannot apply a one-size fits all approach / all young people are different / have different needs	5	4%
Safety issues / safeguarding / vulnerable at risk when travelling	4	3%
KCC abandoning / neglecting young people	4	3%
No access to own transport / cannot drive	4	3%
Happy to contribute to cost of transport	4	3%
Personal Transport Budget would be preferable	3	2%

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about it being a complicated process / time consuming / concerns about application process can be found below:

**“Overly bureaucratic hurdles just to delay, deny and dismiss applications. Please don’t introduce more difficulties for our most vulnerable children. They cannot access much if anything in life please don’t take their right to attend school from them.”** (Parent / carer)

**“These are all unnecessary, taxing and discriminatory hoops for an individual with learning disabilities to go through. It is degrading and insulting for parents and students to have to continually, Year in Year, prove their need. Many of these students have lifelong conditions that unfortunately will not change for the better when assessed this year or next.”** (Parent / carer)

**“This is further administrative burden on families with young people who have additional needs, as well as on those learning providers. I can foresee this additional layer of bureaucracy could slow down the process of ensuring young people with SEND have the appropriate means of support to get to their place of learning.”** (Parent / carer)

**“Why add another layer for parents to have to go through? Why should learning providers have to be involved? This is unfair and time consuming. Who funds the bursary? Why should there be even more paperwork to fill out? These students have needs that are currently being met so there is no need to change the system. Perhaps savings should be made elsewhere in KCC and money allocated where the need is.”** (Parent / carer)

**“This could work for those who can understand the long term benefits, but many of our SEND students will not be able to grasp the idea that they get a Discretionary budget that needs to last for a term.”** (Education professional)

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about children / young people not being able to access public transport / travel independently and making education inaccessible can be found below:

**“I believe SEN students should be supported until they finish their schooling. My daughter would not be able to access public transport independently with confidence and would need to change school as there is no public transport available. This is not an option for her.” (Parent / carer)**

**“If the learner has no bus route or is unable to use the bus then this would just damage their chance of getting the education they need some learners require a longer time to achieve the goals but can't get to the college because KCC has dumped them in the trash pile. With out vital transport i.e. taxi and travel training 19+ are basically left to rot and therefore can't reach their potential and have no choice but to claim benefits. Taking this away isn't helping anyone other than KCC pockets.” (Parent / carer)**

**“I do not believe this is morally right or fair to students with disabilities, they often have to travel a further distance to access a suitable provision. This means that in the cases where their provisions are further it could be over £20 per journey, meaning that their bursary would diminish within weeks. This would also hinder access to the other things provided using the vulnerable bursary. Them then having to apply for PTB would mean further time out of education waiting on transport.” (Education professional)**

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about being unfair / discriminatory to families / those with SEND can be found below:

**“It puts young adults with SEN at a severe disadvantage. Many children with SEN qualify for enhanced mobility within PIP. For whatever reasons, they are unable to travel alone and, unlike their peers, unable to access public transport alone. This means a parent would need to choose between their young person attending further education or working, since SEN provision is rarely local. Many young people with SEN require more education to reach the same level as their peers. This policy denies them that and forces them to finish their education at 19. Those young people with SEN, who are in receipt of the enhanced mobility of PIP, deserve the same opportunities as everyone else. This policy says KCC believes otherwise.” (Parent / carer)**

**“This is very much a conciliatory device and as we all know EHCP's are now very hard fought & difficult to come by. So my concern is that this will put young people with special needs at a huge disadvantage, particularly as funding from KCC is so tight. I fear those who need it most, won't be "considered" for support.” (Education professional)**

**“I do not believe this is morally right or fair to students with disabilities, they often have to travel a further distance to access a suitable provision. This means that in the cases where their provisions are further it could be over £20 per journey, meaning that their bursary would diminish within weeks. This would also hinder access to the other things provided using the vulnerable bursary. Them then having to apply for PTB would mean further time out of education waiting on transport.” (Education professional)**

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about establishments not having the funds for this / already have a tight budget can be found below:

**“Colleges do not the means to pay for this transport from their budgets. Paying for this transport will remove funding from other students within the organisation.” (Parent / carer)**

**“How are schools going to come up with a bursary? They are underfunded as it is, and this will further disincentivise them to take on students with additional needs. Families with SEN children are statistically less well-off and less able to arrange and provide transport.”**  
(Parent / carer)

**“This assumes that learning providers have surplus bursaries available - they do not. In 25/26 the DFE have awarded the same cash figure for bursaries as 24/25 - therefore a real terms cut when factoring in inflation. It is disingenuous to promote that learning providers will be able to assist without any discussion with learning providers as to whether that is the case. In assisting certain learners then others will go without. It is a completely flawed strategy directing potential learners to a Bursary System that currently has demand that significantly exceeds 100% of the funding available.”** (Education professional)

**“My organisation is not able to provide sufficient funding through bursaries, which means some students will not be able to continue with their education. If these students have EHCPs and we are named, this could lead to changes of placement being requested.”**  
(Education professional)

Whilst not explicitly referenced within the question for feedback, example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about replacing transport provision with bursaries can be found below:

**“We are trying to ensure that skills are achieved to enable our child to enter the workforce rather than requiring a lifetime of care. It seems short-sighted to limit the ability to get to/from the educational establishments which will enable future work (thus saving KCC long term care costs). PTB are not a viable alternative and leaves each parent trying to negotiate with a taxi company without any economies of scale. This will lead to increased road traffic and seems a backward step.”** (Parent / carer)

**“The difficulty of finding and providing transport cannot just be offset by a monetary allowance.”** (Parent / carer)

**“This is complicating a system that currently works , as my son only receives personal independence payment and isn't on benefits , he probably wouldn't be accepted for a bursary as most bursaries require benefits to judge availability, I as his parent am on benefits but we wouldn't be able to get the bursary and without it he'd not be able to get to college . I wouldn't know how to arrange transport for him even with the money , so the fact the education dept sorts this out is much better for us and means my son can attend college where he is happiest and thriving, take that away and it would have a detrimental effect on his life.”** (Parent / carer)

**“I completely disagree to removing transport for post 19 provision, except in exceptional circumstances. The financial amounts suggested would not be sufficient to pay for transport - this means a parent/carers would be responsible. This is often not possible, meaning you are discriminating against the learner that is legally entitled to stay in education until the age of 25 if appropriate. Removing transport would make this impossible for many learners, which is wholly unacceptable. It is well documented in SEND law that SEND learners require more time to learn and this policy would effectively take this opportunity away for many learners. The policy also states when deciding on travel support, a qualification at the same level would not usually be considered and it would need to see strong progress towards a clearly defined qualification or potential career. I**

**believe this is unlawful and is not a requirement to stay in education - there is clear case law refuting this statement: Buckinghamshire CC v SJ [2016] UKUT 0254 (AAC) "I reject any suggestion that the attainment of qualifications is an essential element of education. For many of those to whom the 2014 Act and Regulations apply, attaining any qualifications at all is not an option. That does not mean that they do not require, or would not benefit from, special educational provision" and 15ZA(8) of the Education Act 1996 states training including "vocational, social, physical and recreational training", which may not have a qualification attached and is measurable progress being subjective. I feel your policy is going to have a detrimental impact on many young people, forcing them to stop education when they have the ability and capacity to make progress in education and training. I believe this to be discriminatory and potentially unlawful."** (Parent / carer)

**"With regard to adult learners, why do they need to apply for bursaries first? Only offering mileage payments is unfair and possibly unlawful considering that Contact charity confirm that parents cannot be required to transport an adult child. Section 508F of the Education Act 1996, referenced in the DfE guidance on page 19 states that adult learners should have transport provided by the local authority and that this should be provided free of charge. Mileage payments, like PTBs, may be unacceptable options, especially as young people of this age want to be independent from parents and parents will be out of pocket making long, most of the day round trips, where they need to stop and buy a drink as it isn't recommended that they drive for hours without a break."** (Parent / carer)

**"The proposal to replace direct transport provision with a mileage payment assumes that all students have access to a vehicle or a family member who can transport them. This is not always the case, particularly for learners with disabilities who may require specialist transport arrangements. Public transport is often inaccessible or impractical for these students due to mobility issues, the need for supervision, or the location of their education provider. Shifting the responsibility to individual learning providers and families introduces unnecessary complexity and uncertainty, making it harder for vulnerable learners to access their education. Instead of reducing support, KCC should ensure that all students with SEND and EHCPs have reliable, guaranteed transport options that do not depend on the discretionary decisions of different institutions. I urge KCC to reconsider this proposal and maintain a direct, structured approach to transport support for adult learners who need it."** (Parent / carer)

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, from those agreeing with the proposal can be found below:

**"If it is all organised promptly it could work however people may not have the money up front to fund their travel and keep their receipts to claim money back at a later date."** (Parent / carer)

**"This is a better option. Many young people do not apply for the bursary or start it and then do not provide the required evidence. This would help to push them to access the bursary funding that is potentially allocated for them."** (Responded in another capacity)

**"For most families I believe this will work well. My only concern is as before that my son has high support needs."** (Parent / carer)

**“All forms of funding need to be explored. KCC will end up going bankrupt if not. If this happens there will be even less services and support for young people who need it.”**  
(Responded in another capacity)

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## Any other comments or alternative suggestions on proposed Post 16 Transport Policy statement

Consultees were given the opportunity to provide any other comments or alternative suggestions in their own words on the proposed Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2026-27. The comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section. Just under four in ten of consultees (38%) provided a comment to this question.

30% of consultees answering referenced that all education transport should be provided / funded by KCC. Other comments highlighted that the statement's contents being unfair / discriminatory to those with SEND (15% of consultees answering), young people are entitled to an education / right to maximise opportunities (14%) and proposals will affect the most vulnerable / remove support from those who need it (13%).

### If you have any other comments or alternative suggestions on the proposed Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2026-27, please provide them in the box below.

Base: all consultees providing a response (84)

	Number of responses	Percentage
All education transport should be provided / funded by KCC	25	30%
Unfair / discriminatory to those with SEND / all have different needs	13	15%
Young people are entitled to an education / right to maximise opportunities in life	12	14%
Most vulnerable will be affected by this / removing support from those who need it	11	13%
Making education inaccessible	11	13%
KCC just want to save money / stop cutting funding	10	12%
Parents / carers affected / change working hours / give up work / can't be in two places at once	10	12%
Cannot access public transport / travel independently / travel training would not work	10	12%
Other suggestion about process / funding (use of minibuses / taxis, individual assessments)	10	12%
KCC should save money elsewhere / not waste money	9	11%
Criticism of consultation / further clarification needed	9	11%
Detrimental in the long term / affect their future	8	10%
Bursary would be insufficient / not cover costs	8	10%
Safety issues / safeguarding / vulnerable at risk when travelling	7	8%
KCC's responsibility / should not all be the family/carers / KCC have better resources	6	7%
Provide minibuses to establishments to collect young people en route	5	6%
What are exceptional circumstances? Definition required	5	6%
Personal Transport Budget / bursary are insufficient to cover travel costs / £600 contribution is too much	5	6%

	Number of responses	Percentage
Young people qualifying for Personal Independence Payment / have an EHCP should continue to receive funded transport	5	6%
Should be on a case by case basis	4	5%
Happy to contribute to cost of transport if KCC organise it	4	5%
Special schools are few and far between / little choice where to send young people / lack of public transport to them	3	4%
Legally obligated to be in education until 19	3	4%

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about the statement's contents being unfair / discriminatory to those with SEND, young people being entitled to an education / right to maximise opportunities and affecting the most vulnerable can be found below:

**“Whilst I appreciate KCC is having to look at budget cuts it seems very easy to pick on disabled people ; they are an easy target. Most parents with disabled children have already been through so much with budget cuts closing play groups respite etc ; you only have to look in the news to see some people are at breaking point with even some suicides ; stopping these young adults from accessing education by cutting transport is a disgrace and KCC should look elsewhere to make cuts.”** (Parent / carer)

**“It is hard enough for our children to cope with a day of college without adding in additional stress before they even get there. The taxi is not ideal, still causes stress when drivers change or drivers' text while driving, or aggressive to other road users but at least it means she is in education. I have no idea how many children with EHCPs and their families would be happy with a PTB or how many colleges would fund transport for post 19. I can only speak for my child and without a taxi she would struggle.”** (Parent / carer)

**“Bear in mind the number of parents who will have to give up work just to get their children to their education providers. If these children can't get to college, they also won't be able to work in future, meaning they will not be earning and will have to rely on benefits. They will be unfairly disadvantaged again, because of their disability, not given the chance to thrive and be self-supporting. It is absolutely not a well thought plan to stop access to education for older learners with SEND as it reduces their life chances and means parents also won't get a break and will need to be full time carers if their adult children can't get to school/college.”** (Parent / carer)

**“Giving access to those students of Sixth form age to the buses they were able to use from Y7 to 11 in rural areas is vital. We have had students unable to get to use because they no longer have transport, making them a greater risk of being NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).”** (Education professional)

**“This is clearly a cost cutting exercise but you MUST put safety first and the higher education of our young people first. Most of these SEND students are only in higher education because they have the transport to get here. If it is left to our parents and carers to organise, many of whom are SEND and vulnerable themselves, these young people will drop out of college and lose all of the many benefits that higher education offers. This must not be allowed to happen but it will if you push forward with this idea. Please don't.”** (Education professional)





# Response to Equality Impact Assessment

Consultees were asked to provide their views on KCC's equality analysis in their own words. The comments have been reviewed and grouped into themes consistent with the process reported in the 'Points to Note' section.

Only 28% of consultees provided a response to this question and 40% of the comments provided did not specifically relate to the EqlA.

Amongst those answering, there is some concern that the statement is discriminatory towards:

- Families of young people (19% of consultees answering)
- All protected characteristics / vulnerable (18%)
- Those with SEND (13%)
- Physical disabled / wheelchair users (11%)

3% of consultees answering made reference to the EqlA being adequate.

**We welcome your views on our EqlA for the draft 2026-27 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement and if you think there is anything else we could do to lessen the impacts on learners and their families. Please write your comments/suggestions in the box below**

Base: all consultees providing a response (62)

	Number of responses	Percentage
Discriminatory towards families of young people	12	19%
Discriminatory towards all protected characteristics / vulnerable	11	18%
Discriminatory to young people / those aged 16+	8	13%
Discriminatory to those with SEND	8	13%
Discriminatory to those physically disabled / wheelchair users	7	11%
Other comments related to EqlA	7	11%
Discriminatory based on income levels	4	6%
EqlA seems inadequate	3	5%
EqlA seems adequate	2	3%
No comment / nothing to add	2	3%
Comments unrelated to EqlA	25	40%

Example verbatim, in consultees' own words, about potential discrimination can be found below:

**“As always on paper you look like you're being inclusive but you really really aren't!!! This is going to affect all of the family not just said child! What about the mental toll on the parent or the parent losing their job or having to put off going back to work due to all the changes proposed!!.”** (Parent / carer)

**“Since KCC have neglected to detail what constitutes 'exceptional circumstances' it is impossible to say what the full impact would be on those young people with SEN. As it**

**stands it fails them in every way possible. There is no way to lessen this impact other than to rethink the entire proposal.” (Parent / carer)**

**“Young people who qualify for the enhanced mobility element of Personal Independence Payment (unable to plan or undertake journeys safely alone) should qualify for provision of transport without the threat or fear of having to jump through hoops to receive it. To take this away by saying it will be considered in “exceptional circumstances” fails SEND children and their families. We all appreciate KCC needs to save money but this cut is not the way to do it.” (Parent / carer)**

**“You recognise the PTB would not enable transport to school, you can see the difficulties for families already struggling and the fact it is likely to impact many learners remaining in education - the only way the impact can be lessened is to provide transport. Yet again the most vulnerable in society are being targeted, with their outcomes being limited.” (Parent / carer)**

**“As identified it is going to negatively impact on the education of many learners due to families potentially being unable to transport their child. This will either mean them remaining at home or potentially going into adult social care (a massively under resourced and inappropriate place for young people).” (Education professional)**

**“As it says in your own document, those with protected characteristics will be effected. This is not morally just. The right thing to do would be to provide funding for minibuses so that the cost of taxis is reduced and those with SEND can still access their education.” (Education profession)**

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## Section 1 – About You

Before you tell us your views on the draft Post 16 Transport Policy Statements for 2025-26 and 2026-27, we would like to ask you some questions about you. This information will help us to understand your views in more depth.

**Q1. Are you a parent/carer of children/young people in education (by education we mean attending nursery, school, college or other further learning)?**

Select **one** option.

☐  
☐

Yes

No (**go to Q2**)

**Q1a. Please tell us the first 5 characters of your postcode:**

*Please do not reveal your whole postcode. We use this to help us to analyse our data. It will not be used to identify who you are.*

**Q1b. Please select the age groups that apply to your children/young people:**

Select **all** that apply.

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

Early Years (0-4 years) – **go to Q1e**

Reception (4-5 years) – **go to Q1e**

Years 1-6 (Primary aged 5-11) – **go to Q1e**

Years 7-11 (Secondary aged 11-16) – **go to Q1c**

Years 12-13 (Post-16 aged 16-18) - **go to Q1c**

Later than Year 13, but started current course/qualification before 19<sup>th</sup> birthday  
– **go to Q1c**

Age 19-25 (started current course/qualification after 19<sup>th</sup> birthday) - **go to Q1c**

**Q1c. If your children/young people attend a school or further education establishment, please select which type from the list below. Otherwise, please go to Q1d.**

*Select **all** that apply.*

- |                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Special school in Kent              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Special school outside of Kent      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mainstream school in Kent           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mainstream school outside of Kent   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Grammar school in Kent              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Grammar school outside of Kent      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | College in Kent                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | College outside of Kent             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Kent Independent education provider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other, please say which one:        |

--

**Q1d. Do your children/young people currently use a KCC Travel Saver pass?**

This is the travel card subsidised by KCC that gives access to the public bus network.

*Select **all** that apply.*

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, KCC Travel Saver (years 7-11)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, KCC 16+ Travel Saver (years 12-14) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No                                      |

**Q1e. Do any of your children/young people receive KCC organised transport?**

*Select **one** option.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, 1 child
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, 2 children
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, 3 or more children

**Q1f. Do any of your children/young people have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities?**

*Select **all that apply**.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

**Please now go to Section 2.**

**Q2. Are you a student aged 16 to 19, or up to 25 if you have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)?**

Select **one** option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No ( <b>go to Q3</b> )

**Q2a. If you attend a school or further education establishment, please select which type from the list below. Otherwise, please go to Q2b.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Special school in Kent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special school outside of Kent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mainstream school in Kent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mainstream school outside of Kent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grammar school in Kent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grammar school outside of Kent
<input type="checkbox"/>	College in Kent
<input type="checkbox"/>	College outside of Kent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kent Independent education provider
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please say which one:

--

**Q2b. Please tell us the first 5 characters of your postcode:**

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*Please do not reveal your whole postcode. If you're not sure or don't want to tell us, you can leave the box blank. We use this to help us to analyse our data. It will not be used to identify who you are.*

**Q2c. Please select the age group you are in:**

Select **one** option.

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Years 12-13 (Post-16 aged 16-18)

Later than Year 13, but started current course/qualification before 19<sup>th</sup> birthday

Age 19-25 (started current course/qualification after 19<sup>th</sup> birthday)

**Q2d. Do you have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities? Select *one* option.**

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Yes, with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Yes, without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

No

I'm not sure

**Q2e. Do you currently use the Kent 16+ Travel Saver pass? Select *one* option.**

This is the travel card subsidised by KCC that gives access to the public bus network.

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Yes

No

**Q2f. Do you use KCC organised transport?**

Select *one* option.

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Yes

No

I'm not sure

**Please now go to Section 2.**

**Q3. If you are not a parent/carers or student, please select from the following options:**

<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------

Transport professional. Please select from the following:



- ☐ Taxi operator
- ☐ Minibus operator
- ☐ Bus operator
- ☐ Other, please tell us more:

☐ Education professional in Kent. Please select from the following:

- ☐ Special school Head / teacher or another representative
- ☐ Mainstream school Head / teacher or another representative
- ☐ Grammar school Head / teacher or another representative
- ☐ College Head / teacher or another representative
- ☐ Kent Independent education provider
- ☐ Other, please tell us more:

☐ Education professional outside of Kent. Please select from the following:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Special school Head / teacher or another representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mainstream school Head / teacher or another representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grammar school Head / teacher or another representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	College Head / teacher or another representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Independent education provider
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please tell us more:

☐

Responding in another capacity. Please let us know in the box below:

**Q3a. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us the name of your organisation in the box below:**

**Q3b. Please tell us the first 5 characters of your postcode:**

*Please do not reveal your whole postcode. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide your organisations postcode. We use this to help us to analyse our data. It will not be used to identify who you are.*

## Section 2 – Post 16 Transport Policy Statements

## **The draft 2025-26 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement**

**No changes are being proposed for the 2025-26 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement, however, KCC is legally required to consult every year.** Page 10 of the consultation document provides a summary of the draft Statement. The consultation document and full draft Statement are available from the consultation webpage [www.kent.gov.uk/post16consultation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/post16consultation).

There will be the opportunity to provide your feedback on the Statement for 2026-27 in the next question.

**Q4. If you have any comments on the draft Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2025-26, please provide them in the box below.**

*If you don't have any comments, please move on to the next question. Please do not include any personal information within your response.*

## **The draft 2026-27 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement**

**Proposal 1: We are proposing to provide a Personal Transport Budget (PTB) to learners who qualify for additional support from KCC, to facilitate their travel to their place of education, rather than the forms of support we currently offer. We are proposing that a PTB will be KCC's standard offer of additional support. A KCC organised vehicle will only be provided in exceptional circumstances.**

### **What is a Personal Transport Budget (PTB)?**

A PTB is a payment designed to support parents and young people in making their own personal arrangements to get to and from school, college or a training provider. Applicants are not limited in how they make use of the PTB to support travel, with the exception that funds cannot be used to purchase an alternative KCC pass or scheme for the young person, as these are already subsidised by KCC. While most learners currently receive no direct support from KCC to access their place of learning, this PTB payment acknowledges the additional challenges that some learners face in maintaining their educational or vocational responsibilities. This means that KCC will still be providing them with a greater level of support.

PTB payments are made on the basis of the straight-line distance between the applicants home and their main educational establishment or training provider in the following Bands (minus an initial contribution in line with the full cost of the K16+TS pass, including with appropriate adjustment to the rates for low income applicants who are unable to secure direct bursary support from their provider, for the academic year that the application is being made):

	<b>Annual Fund</b>	<b>Total Annual Fund minus contribution (e.g. £600).</b> This is the amount the applicant would receive.	<b>Total Annual Fund minus low income contribution (e.g. £300).</b> This is the amount the applicant would receive if they meet the low income criteria.
Band 1	£2,000	£1,400	£1,700
Band 2	£3,000	£2,400	£2,700
Band 3	£5,000	£4,400	£4,700

The nature of any exceptional arrangements for the provision of transport (rather than a PTB) will be highly dependent on individual circumstances. The proposed 2026/27

Transport Policy Statement therefore omits previous general guidance relating to KCC-organised transport. The policy outlines how requests for exceptional consideration will be managed.

**Current arrangements for those aged 16-18, and 19 (if the course started before the learner's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday):**

Where a learner of sixth-form age can demonstrate that a Kent 16+ Travel Saver, 16-19 Bursary, Care to Learn, Active Travel, Independent Travel Training or Vacant Seat Payment Scheme is not sufficient to facilitate their access to their place of education, KCC will consider making alternative arrangements. These include a Personal Transport Budget, a mileage payment or provision of a vehicle organised and paid for by KCC, all subject to a contribution of up to the total cost of a Kent 16+ Travel Saver (currently £600).

**Proposed changes:**

Where a learner of sixth-form age can demonstrate that a Kent 16+ Travel Saver, 16-19 Bursary, Care to Learn, Active Travel, Independent Travel Training or Vacant Seat Payment Scheme is not sufficient to facilitate their access to their place of education, KCC will consider making alternative arrangements. In most instances this will be a Personal Transport Budget. In exceptional circumstances, KCC may consider provision of a vehicle organised and paid for by KCC. Both offers are subject to a contribution of up to the total cost of a Kent 16+Travel Saver (currently £600).

**Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to provide a Personal Transport Budget to most learners who qualify for additional support from KCC, to facilitate their travel to their place of education? (A Personal Transport Budget would be offered instead of the provision of transport, unless there are exceptional circumstances.)**

Please select **one** option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

**Q5a. Please add any comments you have on this proposal in the box below. Please do not include any personal information within your response.**

**Proposal 2: To expect students aged 19+ to initially apply for a discretionary bursary from their learning provider to facilitate their travel requirements to and from their school or college, before approaching KCC for any additional support, which would be provided as a mileage payment for most pupils.**

Where KCC assesses that support provided to students via the government's 16 to 19 Bursary Fund (which has discretionary support for learners older than 19) is insufficient to facilitate a student's attendance at school, college or training, consideration will be given to a potential further mileage payment in the form of a Cash Allowance. Payments would be made at 45p per mile, paid in arrears, following confirmation of attendance and submission of appropriate fuel receipts.

Payments will be subject to recoupment of an initial contribution in line with the total cost of the Kent 16+ Travel Saver pass (with appropriate adjustments to the rates for low income applicants) for the academic year that the application is being made. The Kent 16+ Travel Saver cost is subject to change annually and can be found on our [website](#)<sup>1</sup>.

In exceptional circumstances, KCC will continue to consider providing transport support by way of a KCC provided vehicle. The policy outlines how these requests will be managed.

### **Current arrangements for adult learners (those aged 19+ who started their course after their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday:**

Where adult learners with SEND (including those with an EHCP) can demonstrate that they continue to require support to access their place of education, KCC will consider making alternative arrangements. These include a Personal Transport Budget, a mileage payment, or provision of a vehicle organised and paid for by KCC.

For the purposes of deciding whether to make transport arrangements, KCC would not consider it necessary, other than in exceptional circumstances, for a young adult learner to attend an additional Further Education course at the same level or equivalent where the learner had previously attended and completed a course at an establishment within the Further Education sector.

### **Proposed change:**

Where adult learners with SEND (including those with an EHCP) can demonstrate that they continue to require support to access their place of education following a formal request to their provider for a 16-19 Bursary, KCC will consider making alternative arrangements. In most instances this will be a mileage payment paid termly, subject to a contribution of up to the total cost of a Kent 16+ Travel Saver (currently £600). In exceptional circumstances, KCC may consider provision of a vehicle organised and paid for by KCC.

For the purposes of deciding whether to provide transport support, KCC would not consider it necessary, other than in exceptional circumstances, for a young adult learner to attend an additional Further Education course at the same level or equivalent where the learner had previously attended and completed a course at an establishment within the Further Education sector.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-transport/16-travel-saver/your-kcc-16-travel-saver](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-transport/16-travel-saver/your-kcc-16-travel-saver)

**Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the expectation that students aged 19+ apply for a discretionary bursary from their learning provider to facilitate their travel to and from their school or college?** (This would be instead of the provision of transport, unless there are exceptional circumstances.)

*Please select **one** option.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

**Q6a. Please add any comments you have on this proposal in the box below. Please do not include any personal information within your response.**

**Q7. If you have any other comments or alternative suggestions on the proposed Post 16 Transport Policy Statement for 2026-27, please provide them in the box below.**

*Please do not include any personal information within your response.*

## **Equality Analysis**

We have prepared an initial Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the draft 2026-27 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement.

An EqIA is a tool to assess the potential impact any proposals could have on the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and carer's responsibilities.

On page 22 of the consultation document, we have summarised the potential impacts and mitigations. The consultation document and full EqlA is available at [www.kent.gov.uk/post16consultation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/post16consultation) or on request.

**Q8. We welcome your views on our EqlA for the draft 2026-27 Post 16 Transport Policy Statement and if you think there is anything else we could do to lessen the impacts on learners and their families. Please write your comments/suggestions in the box below. Please do not include any personal information within your response.**

## Section 3 – More About You

We want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally, and that no one gets left out. That's why we are asking you these equality monitoring questions. This information really helps us to understand how different people could be affected by our proposals, but if you would rather not answer any of these questions, you don't have to.

It is not necessary to answer these questions if you are responding on behalf of an organisation. If you are responding on behalf of someone else, please answer using their details.

### Q9. What is your sex?

A question about gender identity will follow. Please select one option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
<input type="checkbox"/>	Male
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

### Q10. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

Please select one option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, please tell us your gender identity:	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say	

### Q11. Which of these age groups applies to you?

Please select one option.



<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	16-17	<input type="checkbox"/>	18-20	<input type="checkbox"/>	21-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	26-30
<input type="checkbox"/>	31-35	<input type="checkbox"/>	36-40	<input type="checkbox"/>	41-45	<input type="checkbox"/>	46-50	<input type="checkbox"/>	51-55
<input type="checkbox"/>	56-60	<input type="checkbox"/>	61-65	<input type="checkbox"/>	66-70	<input type="checkbox"/>	71-75	<input type="checkbox"/>	76-80
<input type="checkbox"/>	81-85	<input type="checkbox"/>	86-90	<input type="checkbox"/>	91-95	<input type="checkbox"/>	Over 95	<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

**Q12. Do you have a disability, health condition, physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities?**  
Please select one option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

**Q12a. If you answered 'Yes' to Q12, please tell us if any of the following disabilities or health conditions apply to you.**  
You may have more than one, so please select all that apply. If none of these applies to you, please select 'A different disability or health condition' and give brief details.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sensory (hearing, sight or both)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Longstanding illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mental health condition
<input type="checkbox"/>	Learning disability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neurodivergent, such as ADHD, autism, dyslexia and dyspraxia
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	A different disability or health condition

If you have selected 'A different disability or health condition', please tell us:

**Q13. What is your religion or belief?**

Please select one option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	No religion or belief	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Atheist	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christian	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buddhist	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hindu	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jewish	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sikh	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A different religion or belief, please tell us:	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say	

**Q14. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?**

Please select one option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Heterosexual/Straight	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bisexual	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gay or Lesbian	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer to define my own sexuality, please tell us:	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say	

A Carer is someone who gives unpaid care or help to anyone because they have a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness, or problem related to old age. Both children and adults can be Carers.

**Q15. Are you a Carer?**  
Please select one option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

**Q16. What is your ethnic group?**  
Please select one option.

**White**

<input type="checkbox"/>	English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish or British
<input type="checkbox"/>	Irish
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gypsy or Irish Traveller
<input type="checkbox"/>	Roma
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other White background, please tell us:

**Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups**

<input type="checkbox"/>	White and Black Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/>	White and Black African
<input type="checkbox"/>	White and Asian

☐

Any other Mixed or Multiple background, please tell us:

**Asian or Asian British**

☐

Indian

☐

Pakistani

☐

Bangladeshi

☐

Chinese

☐

Any other Asian background, please tell us:

**Black, Black British, Caribbean or African**

☐

Caribbean

☐

African background, write in below

☐

Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background, please write in below:

**Another ethnic group**

☐

Arab

☐

Roma

☐

Any other ethnic group, please tell us:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire; your feedback is important to us. All feedback received will be reviewed and considered in the development of our policies.

We will report back on the feedback we receive, but details of individual responses will remain anonymous, and we will keep your personal details confidential.

**Closing date for responses: midnight 23 March 2025**

