

## **Consultation on proposed changes to the Post 16 Transport Policy academic Year 2012/13**

This is a public consultation document about the future Post 16 Transport policy in Lancashire.

This consultation refers to discretionary Post 16 transport provision, in particular the Transport Grant Scheme for students attending a School Sixth Form. The proposals within this consultation affect all students enrolling on a course of Further Education from September 2012.

### **Introduction**

This document outlines the support with home to school transport that Lancashire County Council is proposing to offer for the 2012-13 academic year to mainstream students aged 16-19 attending a school sixth form or college.

Whilst Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide home to school transport for eligible children up to age 16, there is no legal requirement to provide free transport to students over the age of 16 and any financial support for these learners is therefore discretionary.

Local Authorities do have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement that provides information about the transport support that is available to enable students aged 16-19 to attend places of learning. It includes the transport arrangements made by the County Council as well as information about those arrangements made by the individual further education (FE) colleges in Lancashire and by the various transport operators.

The 2011/12 Lancashire Transport policy can be found at [Lancashire County Council's Post 16 Transport Policy](#)

### **Current Policy**

Discretionary support for Post 16 transport to school sixth forms, in the form of a Transport Grant Scheme is currently administered by the County Council. The majority of this grant has previously been funded by an annual subsidy provided by the government through the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA).

The Transport Grant Scheme provides a means tested grant directly to school sixth form students. The amount paid to individual students ranges from £100 to £500 dependent on the level of household income and distance travelled from home to school.

## **Proposed Policy**

The Council is seeking your views on the following proposal:

To end the Transport Grant Scheme for all School Sixth Form learners from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012.

## **Why is the Council proposing the change?**

The Transport Grant Scheme has been funded through an annual subsidy provided by the Young Peoples Learning Agency (YPLA). This funding came to an end in August 2011.

To replace this funding the YPLA are providing funds directly to all further education providers through the new £180m 16-19 National Bursary Scheme. The funding is being given to school sixth forms, further education colleges and training providers to help 16 to 19-year-olds continue in full-time education, where they might otherwise struggle for financial reasons.

In the current economic climate, and to ensure its services and its use of resources is fair and equitable to all its residents, the Council would find it difficult to allocate new monies to replace the funding previously received by the YPLA without impacting on other services.

## **What support would the Council continue to offer should the proposal be implemented?**

The Council would continue to work in partnership with transport providers to ensure that concessionary fares are available to learners to enable them to access their chosen school or college.

There will still be funding support for the most vulnerable students and those with special educational needs

## **The Consultation Process**

The consultation will take place between Monday 19 September 2011 and Thursday 01 December 2011. During this time we would like to hear your views. You can take part either by:

Completing the online consultation questionnaire at [post 16 transport consultation questionnaire](#)

- Requesting or downloading a paper copy of the questionnaire and returning it completed to

Transport Grant Team

Lancashire County Council  
PO Box 61  
County Hall  
Preston  
PR1 8RJ

- Emailing any comments/downloaded forms to [studentservices@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:studentservices@lancashire.gov.uk)

If you have any questions regarding the consultation, please telephone the Transport Grant Team on 01772 530430.