

BRIEFING NOTE:

Report Title: Home to School Transport Review Briefing.

Report of: **Audrey Kingham.**

Executive Director of Children, Young People and Education & DCS.

Report by: **Neil Dorward.**

Senior Manager - Education Development & Collaborative Projects.

Purpose of Report:

To communicate to Executive and Senior Leadership Team the recommendations emerging from the home to school transport review and the progress to date in commencing initiatives in response to the recommendations.

Key Issues

1. Home to School Transport delivered by Northumberland County Council has experienced many challenges throughout and beyond the pandemic, one aspect of this being the budget for SEN transport being significantly underestimated, a system wide review of home to school transport was requested in response.
 2. From the review of home to school transport a range of **36** recommendations for service improvement were proposed.
 3. **30** of the **36** recommendations are actively being implemented, the remainder being contingent upon other factors and/or timing, with plans in place.
 4. Recommendations on Independent Travel Training, Devolved Transport Budgets and Enhanced Personal Budgets are being supported via BEST Value for Money workstream.
 5. Recommendations in delivery aim to improve home to school transport via different ways of working, structural options are subject to further consideration as part of the wider structural review.
 6. A full summary of the resulting recommendations is provided in the appended full Home to School Transport review report (Appendix 01) and a summary of progress in response to the home to school transport review recommendations is set out in the background section of this report.
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To note: a recommendation in the Home to School Transport review report (Appendix 01) is the consideration of 4 options for Service Integration and Business Models moving forward. Developments in this area are being considered independently as part of the wider structural review within Northumberland County Council. The potential for a minority of recommendations to be progressed is contingent upon the outcome of this structural review.

Background

Recommendations resulting from Home to School Transport Review, aligned to ToR priority areas.

Terms of Reference Review Phase 01 – Policy Recommendations:

	Recommendation	Status
1	Policy development	Work in progress, initial policy release May 23
2	Annual service user consultation	Developed, benchmark consultation complete
3	Policy refresh	Work in progress, initial policy release May 23
4	SEND representation in all Policy	Work in progress
5	Independent Travel Training (ITT) written into policy	Deferred until ITT function established, which is work in progress (pt 9)
6	CSC transport policy	Working group creation instigated, policy will follow
7	CSC transport working group	Formative discussion instigated
8	ASC transport policy	Work in progress
9	Enhanced Personal Budgets	Work in progress (BEST VFM workstream)
10	Transport terminology/expectation	Work in progress
11	NEET representation in policy	Formative discussion instigated
12	Post 16 policy SEND representation	Complete, published
13	Sustainability within policy	Developed in draft, to be published May 2023
14	Devolved transport budget	Work in progress (BEST VFM workstream)

Terms of Reference Review Phase 02 – Safeguarding & Appeals Recommendations:

	Recommendation	Status
1	Safeguarding spot check framework development/collaboration	Not yet commenced
2	School safeguarding team supplementary vehicle spot checks	Piloted, to be rolled out formally
3	Transport management systems	Business case is WIP for enhanced Capita one EMS modules – currently testing the effectiveness of this proposed option
4	Mandate subscription to DBS Update Service	Complete
5	Confidential, real-time pupil whistleblowing	Contingent upon TMS (pt 3)

Terms of Reference Review Phase 03 – Adult & Children’s Social Care Transport Recommendations:

	Recommendation	Status
1	CSC/SEND responsibility boundaries clear in policy	Working group creation instigated, policy will follow
2	CSC transport working group	Working group creation instigated
3	TMS efficiencies	Exploring Capita One modules
4	General day-to-day transport efficiency measures	Work in progress

Terms of Reference Review Phase 04 – Resources Recommendations:

	Recommendation	Status
1	Service Integration and Business Models	Work in progress (Structural review)
2	Transport staff resource levels	Considered lean, to be maintained
3	CSC transport working group	Working group creation instigated
4	TMS market wide feasibility study	Capita One expansion being explored initially
5	School safeguarding team supplementary vehicle spot checks	Not yet commenced
6	Integrate school transport & school admissions processes	Contingent upon wider structural considerations
7	Independent Travel Training	Work in progress (BEST VFM workstream) Business case submitted for start-up funding.
8	Post 16 transport eligibility support with complex cases	Soft launch owing to organisational change in Northumberland Skills
9	NIES support of complex SEND transport eligibility	Contingent upon wider structural considerations
10	Carbon impact monitoring/reduction	Work in progress

Terms of Reference Review Phase 05 – Service Integration, Business Models and Systems Recommendations:

	Recommendation	Status
1	Service Integration and Business Models (Home to School Transport)	Work in progress (Structural review)
2	TMS market wide feasibility study	Capita One expansion being explored initially
3	Service Integration and Business Models (Strategic transport - Regen)	Work in progress (Structural review)

Background Documents

Appendix 01 – Strategic Recommendations - Rev 11.0.pdf



Appendix 01 -
Strategic Recommen

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