

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES FOLLOWING THE LEARNER CONSULTATION SESSIONS ON THE DRAFT EDUCATION TRANSPORT POLICY

Post-16 Education - Grŵp Llandrillo Menai

a) Comments of Learners at Parc Menai, Bangor Site

1. Theme: Course Location

REF.	COMMENT	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
1.1a	"Although the site closest to me provides the subject, it does not provide level 1 in that subject - how will the college deal with this as every course has admission requirements and will it be possible to study the course that suits the level of my qualifications?"	The Council notes the consultee's wishes to be able to choose a post-16 course based on subject and location, and the Council is supportive of learners who choose a post-16 course that is suitable for them.
1.2a	"Students from Dolgellau are happy to travel to Bangor for up to 2 hours a day because they genuinely want to study the course there because of the facilities and resources available, and they have committed and are committed to completing the course - it is very important to be able to complete the course of your choice, in terms of subject and location. "	Nevertheless, the criteria of the Draft Education Transport Policy note that free transport will be provided to the nearest school or college providing the course, and this is consistent with the criteria for learners of statutory education age. The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day, which could apply to learners who choose an out-of-catchment school or college.

2. Theme: Transportation costs

REF.	COMMENT	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
2.1a	"For students over 19 years old, many ESOL students at college are over 19 years old, and they will find it difficult to pay for college transport, if they will need to do so"	The Council notes the concerns of the consultee regarding transport costs.
2.2a	"The cost-of-living has increased and makes things more difficult for students aged over 19 years old, and it is also more difficult to find work to help pay for transport costs."	Where learners are eligible for free transport, transport will be provided in accordance with the relevant criteria.

2.3a	"...for some students who travel here, it would take more time and several years for them to achieve their Level 1, 2 and 3 qualifications. This is unfair on those who will possibly take more time to reach their potential."	However, the Council recognises that the lack of transport for learners aged over 19 years old is likely to affect some learners.
2.4a	"The cost of public transport can be expensive if there is a need to pay for return journeys every day, travel can be £7 each way; this would make it difficult for some students to be able to attend."	The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day.
2.5a	"How much will the costs be afterwards? Will they be the same as public bus service costs?"	An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken, which formed part of the consultation documentation on the Draft Education Transport Policy. After considering the comments received, the assessment has been updated.
2.6a	"EMA can help towards travelling costs but it does not leave much money left towards other costs."	The Council notes the concerns of the consultee regarding travelling costs in the context of learners who benefit from the Education Maintenance Allowance as a source of support. Where learners are eligible for free transport, transport will be provided in accordance with the relevant criteria. The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken, which formed part of the consultation documentation on the Draft Education Transport Policy. After considering the comments received, the assessment has been updated.

3. Theme: Age

REF.	COMMENT	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
3.1a	"For students over 19 years of age, many ESOL students at college are over 19 years old, and they will find it difficult to pay for college transport, if they would need to do so"	The Council notes the concerns of the consultee regarding a lack of transport for learners over 19 years old in the Draft Education Transport Policy.

3.2a	"The cost-of-living has increased and makes things more difficult for students aged over 19 years, and it is also more difficult to find work to help pay for transport costs."	Where learners are eligible for free transport, transport will be provided in accordance with the relevant criteria.
3.3a	"...for some students who travel here, it would take more time and several years for them to achieve their Level 1, 2 and 3 qualifications. This is unfair on those who will possibly take more time to reach their potential."	However, the Council recognises that the lack of transport for learners aged over 19 years is likely to affect some learners. The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken, which formed part of the consultation documentation on the Draft Education Transport Policy. After considering the comments received, the assessment has been updated.
3.4a	"College students are getting older and therefore, a higher percentage of students would not be eligible for transport."	The Council notes the concerns of the consultee regarding a lack of transport for learners over 19 years old in the Draft Education Transport Policy. Where learners are eligible for free transport, transport will be provided in accordance with the relevant criteria. However, the Council recognises that the lack of transport for learners aged over 19 years old is likely to affect some learners. The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken, which formed part of the consultation documentation on the Draft Education Transport Policy. After considering the comments received, the assessment has been updated.

b) Comments from Learners at Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor, Dolgellau Site

1. Theme: Course Location

REF.	COMMENT	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
1.1b	"...currently studying construction and living in the Ffestiniog area and enjoying the course. The same course is offered at the Rhos-on-Sea site, which is closer to my home...but I would like to stay in Dolgellau to study."	The Council notes the consultee's wishes to be able to choose a post-16 course based on subject and location, and to continue with his studies in Dolgellau. The Council is supportive of learners choosing a post-16 course that is suitable for them. The criteria of the Draft Education Transport Policy notes that free transport is provided for learners to the closest school or college in Gwynedd and Anglesey that provides the course.
1.2b	"left the local secondary school because of a lack of relationship with staff and no friends and attending the college instead, and so as the bus is running anyway, we should not be looking to pay for the transport as the college suits me now..."	The Council notes the consultee's wishes to be able to choose a post-16 course based on subject and location, and the Council is supportive of learners who choose a post-16 course that is suitable for them. Nevertheless, the criteria of the Draft Education Transport Policy note that free transport will be provided to the nearest school or college providing the course, and this is consistent with the criteria for learners of statutory education age.
1.3b	"I had to study A level in the college instead of the nearest school as at least two of the courses offered in school are presented in English only, so they aren't suitable for my linguistic needs."	The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day, which could apply to learners who choose an out-of-catchment school or college. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken, which formed part of the consultation documentation on the Draft Education Transport Policy. Following consideration of the comments received, the assessment has been updated.
1.4b	"The provision or choice of subjects and columns at the local school are not always suitable...and the timetable and choices at the college seem to be more suitable, and so how will this affect the transport provision?"	
1.5b	"is it possible to consider the radius around the address in order to convey option 1, 2 and 3 for course options?"	The Council notes the consultee's wishes to be able to choose a post-16 course based on subject and location, and in the form of options in the context of transport eligibility. The Council is supportive of learners choosing a post-16 course that is suitable for them.

		Nevertheless, the criteria of the Draft Education Transport Policy note that free transport will be provided to the nearest school or college providing the course, and this is consistent with the criteria for learners of statutory education age. The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day, which could apply to learners who choose an out-of-catchment school or college. The Education Department could be contacted to discuss individual situations, if the transport provision is likely to facilitate the learners' choices.
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2. Theme: Learners with ALN

REF.	COMMENT	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
2.1b	"Learners who have come to us from Ysgol Hafod Lon Special School feel secure when continuing into Further Education with their fellow learners, it is a major and difficult step."	The Council notes the positive comments and accepts that processes are in place to facilitate the process of supporting learners with ALN as they transfer from a Special School to a further education college.
2.2b	"Some students from Penrhyn Llŷn will have to travel to the Glynllifon site, and the course choices don't always favour special education."	The Council notes the consultees comments on the suitability of every course at the Glynllifon site for learners with ALN.

3. Theme: Change of Address

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3.1b	"I've moved home address during the year - how will this disrupt my studies?"	The new policy would consider the change of address circumstances in order to facilitate the ability of learners who have already commenced a course who move house during the current academic year to continue to receive transport until the end of that year.
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c) Comments from Learners at Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor, Glynllifon Site

1. Theme: Course Location

REF.	COMMENT	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
1.1c	"Because of personal reasons as a result of bullying at school, I had to attend a further education college further away, not the closest, as the same crew who bullied me also attended the closest college and as a result, I applied for a further education course at another site. How will you deal with such considerations with the new transport policy?"	The Council notes the consultee's wishes to be able to choose a post-16 course based on subject and location, and the Council is supportive of learners who choose a post-16 course that is suitable for them. Nevertheless, the criteria of the Draft Education Transport Policy note that free transport will be provided to the nearest school or college providing the course, and this is consistent with the criteria for learners of statutory education age. The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day, which could apply to learners who choose an out-of-catchment school or college. The Education Department could be contacted to discuss individual situations.
1.2c	"the quality of the facilities and the experiences offered in this college are very valuable to me, although it is further away than the similar one, and possibly gives me better work opportunities after I complete the course; do you take this into account?"	The Council notes the consultee's wishes to be able to choose a post-16 course based on subject and location, and the Council is supportive of learners who choose a post-16 course that is suitable for them. Nevertheless, the criteria of the Draft Education Transport Policy notes that free transport is provided for learners to the closest school or college (in Gwynedd and

		Anglesey) that provides the course. This is consistent with the criteria for learners of statutory education age. The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day, which could apply to learners who choose an out-of-catchment school or college. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken, which formed part of the consultation documentation on the Draft Education Transport Policy. Following consideration of the comments received, the assessment has been updated.
1.3c	"at what time of year would decisions about whether learners are eligible or not, be made? - it could guide students' choice of a suitable course and college."	The Council notes the consultee's wishes to be able to choose a post-16 course based on subject and location, and in the context of transport eligibility. The Council is supportive of learners choosing a post-16 course that is suitable for them. The criteria of the Draft Education Transport Policy notes that free transport is provided for learners to the closest school or college providing the course, and this is consistent with the criteria for learners of a statutory education age. The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day, which could apply to learners who choose an out-of-catchment school or college. The Education Department could be contacted to discuss individual situations, if the transport provision is likely to facilitate or confirm the learners' choices.

2. Theme: Transportation costs

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2.1c	"if a termly payment for a pass would be introduced, then I would not be able to attend the college course, as I cannot afford any payment, and this could possibly mean that several learners would not be able to attend college and miss out on further education."	The Council notes the concerns of the consultee regarding transport costs. Where learners are eligible for free transport, transport will be provided in accordance with the relevant criteria. The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day. The Education Maintenance Allowance provides financial support for learners with costs such as transport to post-16 education. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken, which formed part of the consultation documentation on the Draft Education Transport Policy. After considering the comments received, the assessment has been updated.
2.2c	"if learners had to pay, and wanted to catch a college bus, how would they pay as it is not possible to pay every day on a college bus, like you do on a public bus?"	The Council notes the concerns of the consultee regarding paying for a college bus. If the Cabinet decides to charge a fee for some elements of post-16 education transport, the Council will put appropriate arrangements in place to respond to that with the transport operators.

3. Theme: Age

REF.	COMMENT	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
3.1c	"learners today maybe go to college later, and older than 19 years of age, and so any age cap would result in fewer students in the future, and for the college."	The Council notes the concerns of the consultee regarding a lack of transport for learners over 19 years old in the Draft Education Transport Policy.

		Where learners are eligible for free transport, transport will be provided in accordance with the relevant criteria. However, the Council recognises that the lack of transport for learners aged over 19 years old is likely to affect some learners. The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken, which formed part of the consultation documentation on the Draft Education Transport Policy. Following consideration of the comments received, the assessment has been updated.
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4. Theme: Public Transport

REF.	COMMENT	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
4.1c	"...if the transport has to be paid for, will this mean that buses run more often and at times that better suit the course timetable?"	The Council notes the consultee's comment regarding additional transport provision if there would be a need to pay for education transport. Should the proposal be implemented, an assessment of the education transport and public transport provision would have to be carried out to ensure that transport timetables were suitable to enable learners to arrive at the location in the morning and return in the afternoon.
4.2c	"the public bus I use to attend college only accepts my pass at specific times and there is no flexibility when there is a need to go home early or if I'm ill or have an appointment. Would this change with the new policy?"	
4.3c	"the public bus we currently use is full and we often have to stand for long periods. Will you re-visit the arrangements after the introduction of the new policy so that Glynllifon students are able to use the college bus only?"	

d) **Comments from Learners at Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor, Pwllheli Site**

1. Theme: Course Location

REF.	COMMENT	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
1.1d	"The choices and options are not available in every college site and so whilst some sites are convenient, it does not always offer every suitable subject"	The Council notes the consultee's wishes to be able to choose a post-16 course based on subject and location, and the Council is supportive of learners who choose a post-16 course that is suitable for them.
1.2d	"circles of friends will be separated if they have to go to different college sites...what about well-being because of this?"	Nevertheless, the criteria of the Draft Education Transport Policy notes that free transport is provided for learners to the closest school or college (in Gwynedd and Anglesey) that provides the course. This is consistent with the criteria for learners of statutory education age. The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day, which could apply to learners who choose an out-of-catchment school or college. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken, which formed part of the consultation documentation on the Draft Education Transport Policy. Following consideration of the comments received, the assessment has been updated.

2. Theme: Transport Timetables

REF.	COMMENT	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
2.2d	"some students have to set-off for college very early and arrive very late...could the timetables be adjusted to address better connections?"	The Council notes the comments of the consultee about the timetables of college buses and public transport. Should the proposal be implemented, an assessment of the education transport and public transport provision would have to be carried out to ensure that

		transport timetables were suitable to enable learners to arrive at the location in the morning and return in the afternoon.
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e) Comments of Learners at the Llangefni Site

1. Theme: Course Location

REF.	COMMENT	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
1.2e	"It is not fair to force learners, as restricting choices can mean that they are not able to study the course/location and disrupts their future."	The Council notes the consultee's wishes to be able to choose a post-16 course based on subject and location, and the Council is supportive of learners who choose a post-16 course that is suitable for them. Nevertheless, the criteria of the Draft Education Transport Policy notes that free transport is provided for learners to the closest school or college (in Gwynedd and Anglesey) that provides the course. This is consistent with the criteria for learners of statutory education age. The Welsh Government has the My Travel Pass scheme which facilitates and enables young people aged 16-21 years to travel on several journeys for £1 per day, which could apply to learners who choose an out-of-catchment school or college. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken, which formed part of the consultation documentation on the Draft Education Transport Policy. Following consideration of the comments received, the assessment has been updated.
1.3e	"This will force us to study A Levels in a closer location and affect our subject choices that could affect our career choice in the future."	

2. Theme: Calculating distance

REF.	COMMENT	THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
2.1e	"How would you differentiate if I live exactly 50% of the time with Mum, which is closer to one site, and 50% with Dad, which is closer to another site; what would happen in this situation?"	The Council notes the consultee's wishes to be able to choose to travel between the addresses of both parents. The Draft Education Transportation Policy makes specific proposals in the context of dual residence and offers clarity in this area.

		The Education Department could be contacted to discuss individual situations, if the transport provision is likely to facilitate or confirm the learners' choices.
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