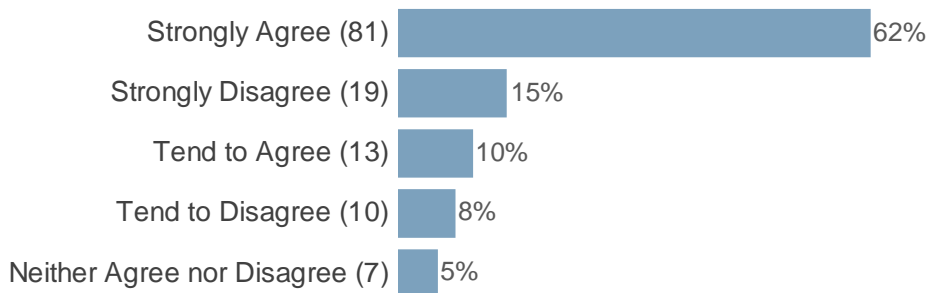


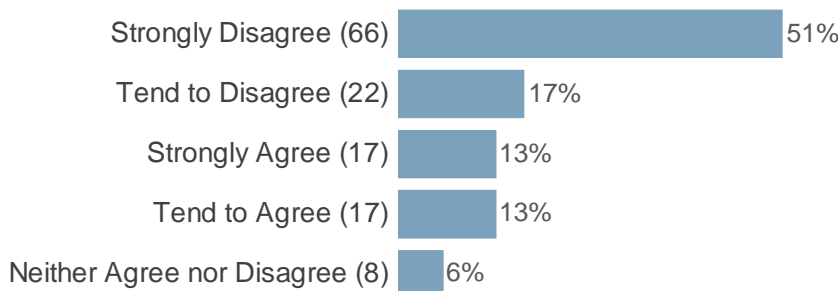
CAB Passenger Transport 2024

This report was generated on 03/01/24. Overall 130 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'. A total of 130 cases fall into this category.

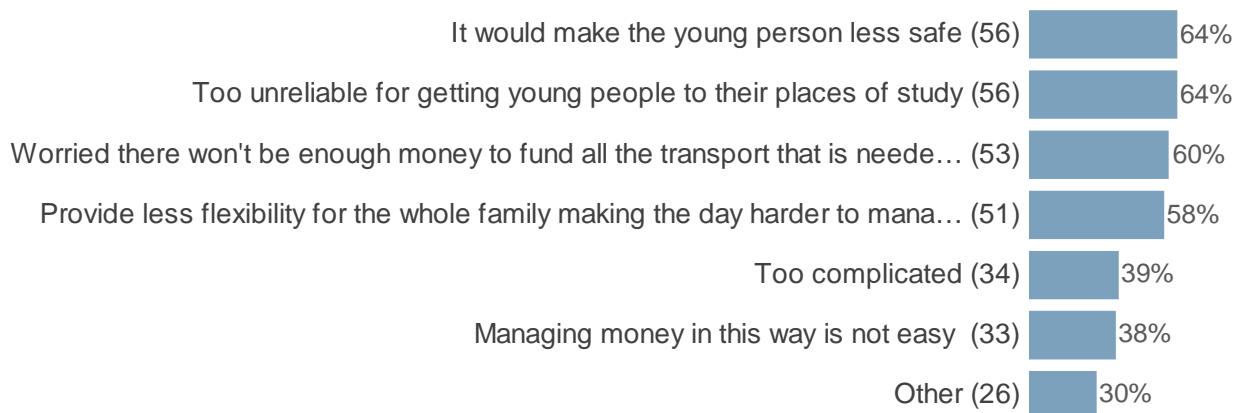
Please tell us how far you agree or disagree with Kirklees Council proposing to continue to provide specialist transport for post-16 students with the greatest needs?



Please tell us how far you agree or disagree with this proposed change:



Please tell us why you disagreed with the proposed change... [tick all that apply]



Please specify:

The council should be responsible for organising and making payment for ALL the children who have special educational needs and have an EHCP

The mileage cost does not cover the cost of a taxi to and from settings if needed, meaning that the most vulnerable families without their own transport are impacted, likely leading to a deficit in their income which may mean they choose for their children not to continue in education, impacting the futures of these vulnerable children who need additional support

Children rely on the transport to remain in mandatory education, this should be considered in the same category as pre 16 transport. These children are not able to travel on public transport, leaving them extremely vulnerable to being out of education, or even at risk of abuse, in a variety of ways.

Main concerns: some families unable to manage money so payment will be spent on other items and then the young person has no funds to access transport and education attendance is impacted - who would then work with family to ensure better financial management, how would transport be arranged if this happens etc. Some of these pupils are particularly vulnerable and this scheme would mean taxi/transport drivers are used who have potentially had no checks or training and could be persons unsuitable to be in contact with vulnerable young adults putting young people at risk.

I have a job and would not be able to facilitate this

Safeguarding concerns; restricting parents ability to work, huge knock on impact on the whole family

My son has a learning delay, he is unable use public transport unassisted and the only option would be for me to take him to college to ensure his safety.

Most parents find it difficult already with school transport this change will only disrupt children with severe disability' routine as they wouldn't be able to cope with the change of transition. Not to mention some children had to endure the changes of not having a school transport escort because of the lack of transport Escorts.

My kid wont be able to attend school

Drivers currently have safe gaurding courses to become approved drivers the allso have child and adult safety dbs included on there application curret firms have extra liability insurance as part of being a aporoved driver and operator. None of these things are needed for your normsl taxi driver.this would be serious breach of safegaurding.one rule for operators whom meet the criteria. This is a serious saftey issue for vulnerable post 16 .and also this practice is being used already for school children were parents are being paid by kmc to get there children to school some of these companys dont and sont have these procedures in place i.e transport badges and adult learning courses.this is not right.i believe there could be very serious case of liability on the council if anything or something happens.we as approved operators have a duty of care but this would be serious case of breach if this proposal is passed

My child is wheelchair dependent and would not be able to travel alone or in any other vehicle other that wheelchair accessible and trying to find a wheelchair accessible taxi for school times is not an option as I have tried before they are all used to do school transport . I have l'll health and would not be able to do a 30 min journey there and back and after a few hours do the the same, there are also families with complex needs who NEED to work and cannot do this extra transporting. This is a vital service for our children and our mental health. If no school transport my child would have to stop going to school which would be disastrous for us as a family unit

Children with SEN need as much independence as they can and getting the school bus gives them some independence while still been in a safe environment.

I am disabled so i couldnt always get him there.Hes safe and happy wirh trabsport and has a great driver who he trusts and knows.It guves him independence without the worry of him on public transport,as he couldnt manage that alone.

My child has an esscort how would i find and pay for a travel escort

My child will never be able to travel alone, i don't believe the council would provide transport for him under exceptional circumstances because Kirklees always let these kids down.

Single parents who have other children to get to school, which attend a different school to the disable child can not be in two places at once.

Please specify:

Parents have enough other services to juggle and arrange themselves with health and social care etc. and this PTP payment adds to an extra burden and services should be working for the family and not the family having to chase them. If a family struggles to budget this may mean the PTP money is spent elsewhere and not on the child and this can lead to safeguarding concerns. .

Direct travel payments to parents may lead to accountability issues, potential misuse of funds, and difficulty in tracking actual travel expenses. It could also create logistical challenges in ensuring that payments align accurately with the intended purposes, raising concerns about transparency and financial control.

As a parent and carer of a child with learning disabilities, I am also a victim of your uncaring incompetence. These proposals see you dodging your responsibilities to society's most vulnerable. Disgusting.

Increased number of vehicles arriving at college, when already busy. Environmental impact of individual journeys.

no personal travel assistant to keep him safe which is really needed

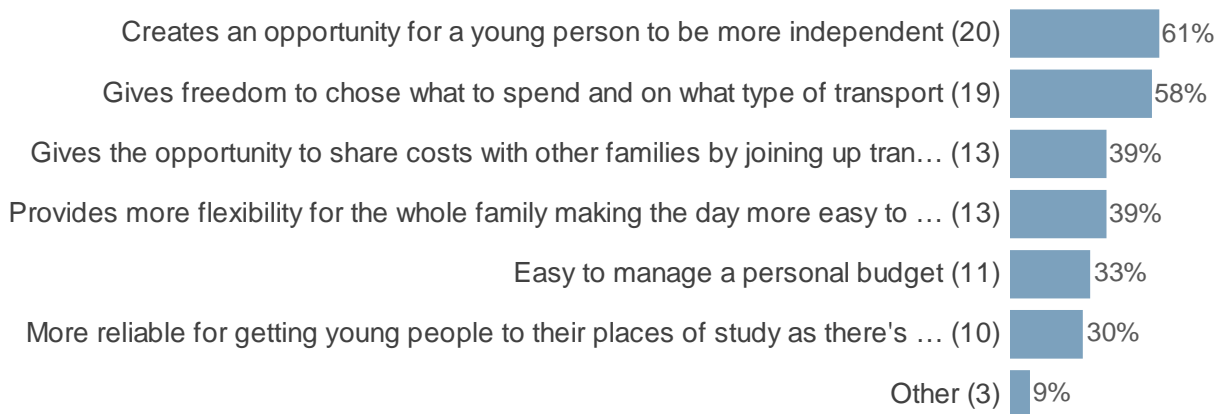
Increases the risk of financial abuse

My child has autism and needs to be dropped at school safely but I have other children to get to school so it would be difficult.

- potentially major knock-on effects, including some parents giving up work/reducing working hours to transport their children; some parents choosing the nearest - not the right - educational setting for their child; potential decrease in attendance levels at school; less environmental sustainability (more individual vehicles travelling).

Value of the contribution (even taking into account the parent contribution which post 16 parents pay) is not enough to pay for a taxi to and from college which child currently has. Significant concern for those on a low income. Taxi sharing may work if you live near someone who goes to the same college, but parents would need to sort this out themselves and this requires making connections with other parents who they don't know anything about. Could anyone facilitate this? Students on courses other than foundation are often the only child who is on that course with that timetable so cannot share with anyone else. Such courses sometimes start at different times on different days eg. 10am or a 1.15pm finish. Parent cannot drop or pick up at these times of day. Concerns re. child who needs either an escort or adapted vehicle. Process for requesting this was not clear, members concerned this would be another 'fight' for them. Parents who currently get mileage costs for taking child to college rather than a council organised taxi would get less money than they currently do. Practical issues of trying to get a taxi for 9am which is when college starts. It's very hard to get a taxi at that time in the morning and they are often late picking up. Similar issues at the end of the day especially if this is 3pm. Lack of fairness between those staying at special school who will get a place on the bus (at the cost of just the parent contribution) and those who go elsewhere who won't have a bus at potentially significant cost/inconvenience to parents. Issues for parents who live in a remote rural area as taxis are hard to find/cost more than the banding. Public transport isn't an option for these families and they don't live near other people who might assist or share taxis. Issue for parents whose child attends a college out of area- contribution isn't enough for the cost of a taxi and the public transport journey is not one that is possible to an out of area college as it is too complex. Also it's harder to find anyone to share a taxi with. This potentially means that the guidance suggestion that parents have a choice for post 16 education isn't a choice in Practice.

Please tell us why you agreed with the proposed change... [tick all that apply]



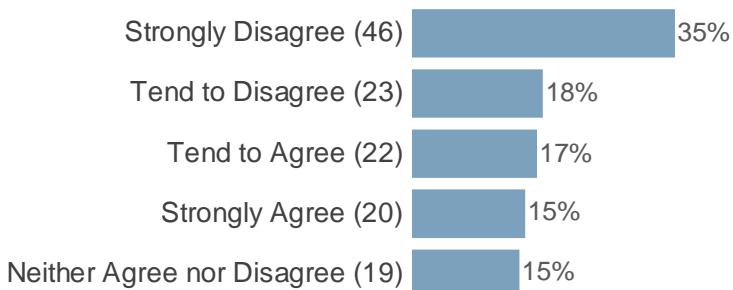
Please specify:

Families receive benefits to support this and should not be reliant on council transport, some even have mobility cars

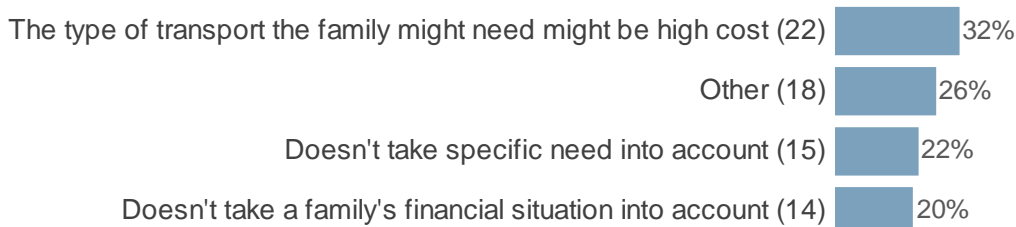
More cost effective and consistent with what their peers do.

young people without special needs can plan journeys on their own and use public transport so help with the cost but let them get there on their own

How much do you agree or disagree with this proposal? (Lone parents with children under the age of 5)



Please tell us your main reason why you disagree with this proposal:



Please specify:

The council should be responsible for organising and making payment for ALL the children who have special educational needs and have an EHCP.

I disagree for all the reason stated alongside a proposal on how you may work with a reduced budget without impacting these children. Many of chaperones/escorts on these routes do not have experience working with children with additional needs, worrying so, to the point where it's a significant safeguarding concern. As a result, vulnerable children are in danger and the chaperones cannot cope with escorting these children and, as a result the children end up frustrated with no experienced adult to help to settle them. If the children then become heightened on the transport the chaperones/escorts then say that child needs to be removed from the bus. This then leads to unnecessary single routes where, if the chaperone was experienced in the first place, the children would all be on a single route. I speak from experience on this, and I have been unbelievably concerns as a parent on the capabilities and experience of chaperones, worried for my child and receiving communications from transport to say my son needs a single route. The route now has a component chaperone, my son is back on the route and no longer using single transport...and with the experienced chaperone there has not been a single issue on the route, the chaperone is happy, confident and oozing experience and all the children are safe and happy.

All of the above. It does not consider the child's vulnerability if the family are unable to provide or fund the appropriate transport.

All of the above - your form is not helpful and does not allow me to puck more than one.

Possibly doesn't take into account specific need and family situation but also distance is not always the determining factor for cost - shorter journey may not have good transport links and may require multiple/expensive modes and routes of transport whereas a long journey may be a single bus route that is easily accessible.

It won't cover taxis

That each family needs to be looked at individually and the need why transport is needed

Cannot choose one factor there are so many factors to why doing this would be wrong, all of the above and availability for specific transport. The safety of the kids would be put at risk, some parents may once got the money decide that it won't be spent on transport and would put a child at risk

Don't agree with bandings - may not cover all costs

bus fair is the same price for as long as you travel

Single professional working mum will not be able to pick/up and drop

Because of the smaller budget, this will stop families bring able to get their children to their preferred school if further away.

The type of transport the family might need might be higher than the cost of a fairly divided PTP budget. Doesn't take the families financial circumstances into account and they would be paying for the phone bill to arrange this service and this has added costs. Taxis may not be available at the time the families need them and the arrangement you have now with passenger assistants works. Children NEED to stay in education until 18, if PTP payments do not work then those families will not be sending their children to education and will be breaking the law. How can you stop the law from being broken in this situation?

Please specify:

While the idea of basing personal travel payments (PTP) on the distance from a young person's home to their place of study may seem logical at first glance, there are several arguments against this approach. Using distance as the sole criterion for allocating PTP may overlook economic disparities. Some families residing in closer proximity to educational institutions may still face financial hardships, while others situated farther away might be economically stable. This method fails to account for the broader financial context of each family. A distance-based approach may inadvertently incentivise individuals to choose educational institutions solely based on potential financial gain, rather than academic or personal preferences. This could lead to suboptimal educational decisions for students, as they may prioritise proximity for monetary reasons over educational quality. The availability and efficiency of public transportation or other commuting options can significantly vary based on geographic locations. Students residing in rural areas may face challenges in accessing cost-effective transportation, leading to an unfair distribution of PTP. Implementing a distance-based payment system requires accurate and regularly updated data on the distance between each student's home and their place of study. This could pose administrative challenges, including increased paperwork, potential errors, and ongoing maintenance costs. Basing payments solely on distance might neglect other pertinent factors contributing to a student's financial burden, such as family size, socioeconomic status, or special circumstances. This approach may inadvertently reinforce existing social inequalities. Distance-based payments may not accommodate students pursuing non-traditional forms of education, such as online courses or vocational training, which may not involve physical commuting. This exclusionary approach fails to acknowledge the evolving landscape of educational choices. In conclusion, while the intention of efficiently and fairly dividing the budget among families is commendable, a distance-based payment system presents several barriers, including economic oversights, unintended consequences, infrastructure variances, administrative complexities, social equity concerns, and exclusionary practices. A more holistic and nuanced approach to assessing financial need would be advisable.

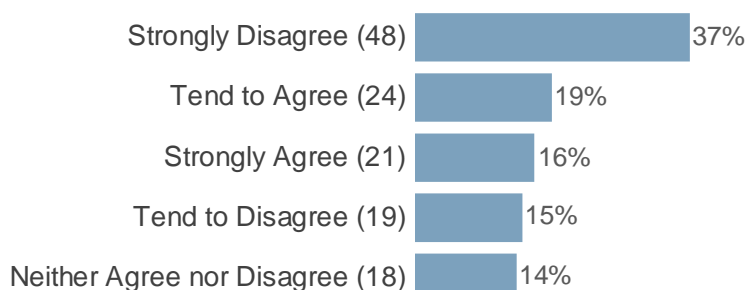
You have responsibilities that you want to slide away from.

Each taxi firm charges differently. For a standard car from Oakes to Huddersfield £5-7 for a wheelchair vehicle £12+

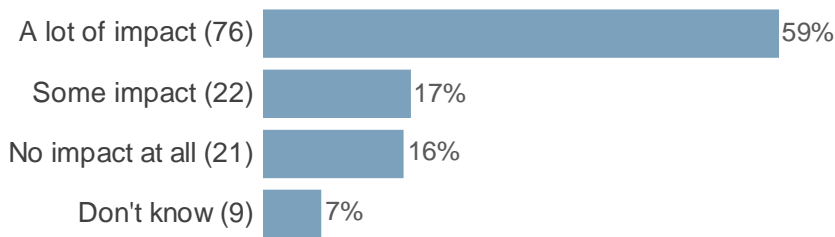
Payments are ridiculously low, needs to be minimum of 45p per mile.

As this reply is on behalf of multiple members, there are many reasons not just one main one. Need for adapted vehicles or escort and how that might work was a significant issue for some; cost not being enough to cover the cost of a taxi was significant for others; impact on family finances if cost of transport not sufficient to cover cost; inability to easily arrange transport was issue for others either due to individual difficulties or location of family (travel from rural areas) or timings (taxis for 9 am are hard to source); some raised issues of impact on parent choice of post 16 college if transport not provided in way it is now.

How much do you agree or disagree with this proposal?



Overall, what impact will the new Travel Statement and these key proposals have on you?



Please tell us why you answered this way...

My son has paid transport at tge moment and is going in to post 16 in september so this will affect me

The current wheelchair taxi service to college currently works really well and my son can manage his taxi through college support. If left to ourselves this would mean increased phone calls to book taxi's and especially a wheelchair accessible taxi. I agree with non wheelchair services, but it's harder for wheelchair users than people that can walk to access appropriate taxi's.

I use the mobility car to take my 16 year old to day care centre most of the time. Perhaps other parents who have the same scheme could ferry there young person, we get support through the scheme so should be used more

I think it is unfair to penalise parents whose sons and daughters have to travel the furthest distance for their education. There will be a good reason for this - there is no suitable provision closer to where they live. The proposal unfairly disadvantages those young people who are forced to attend out of area provision as there is no where closer to home that can meet their very specific and specialised needs. A fairer way to decided on the allocation of transport funds would be by reference to the content of the EHCP plan. The survey so far has also tended to focus on those young people with severe physical disabilities, but what about those with learning disabilities and autism. They may not have physical disabilities, but their invisible disabilities can be just as disabling or even more so. the impact of invisible disabilities needs to be properly considered too.

Currently claiming mileage 2 x 2 return journeys a day would mean a mileage allowance of £2300 (after taking £2 per day parental costs off) under the new scheme I would get £1000 - financially how is that supposed to work ? Would be 3 buses to get to college which isn't going to happen ! Young adult far too vulnerable for that amount of change/responsibility. £2300 is still a whole lot cheaper than the £8k it apparently is costing you a year. Pay parents the correct mileage not a blanket fee ! More parents would probably take this as an option, it's worthwhile for them to either do it or a family friend, neighbour etc etc but the blanket amount would not cover costs at all.

I foresee that the new travel statement will severely detrimentally impact my disabled son. The council must not make any financial gains to the detriment of disabled children. It is utterly disgraceful and the policy makers should seriously rethink their initial idea and make a policy U-turn. The harm this poorly thought out idea will do to the council's reputation can be avoided if the needs of disabled children are placed higher than their own.

Please tell us why you answered this way...

Please look to make efficiencies elsewhere and not target vulnerable people for budget cuts. Why don't you allocate school buses for special needs provisions and see if the school are receptive to running the service and organising in return for additional funding that you would be paying to taxi companies. Even with a cut in budgets the funding for schools would be significant for organising and they have skilled staff members there that I am sure would take a route. This keeps the money benefitting the vulnerable people and children rather than private taxi companies. Also - providing an automated online form for parents to cancel their transport due to illness or where it's not required and the council ensuring the cost decreases on the route where cancellations for pick ups have been put in place. Ensuring there is an easy way to contact to let you know the taxi hasn't turned up or it did turn up but was c.50 minutes late, getting the children to school extremely late, with penalty clauses in your contract with the taxi company where there is a financial repercussion to such instances - the taxi people have a laissez-faire attitude to either not arriving or arriving or dropping off extremely late, they know they'll get paid anyway so there are no repercussions to them being late. In addition to this, the ability for parents to tell you what size vehicle arrives, so that you know where the taxi company is not meeting its obligations. I know transport pay for a bus for my sons route, the children have significant needs and need the bus in order to regulate. On many occasions the firm has sent a car out instead of the bus that I know the council are paying for - is this ever followed up? The chaperone struggles as the children become dysregulated in an enclosed space, the taxi company makes additional profit, again without repercussions. There really is better ways to make efficiencies than to impact vulnerable families and vulnerable children.

It has the potential to affect everyone! I would like you to also consider, post 16 children may need an appropriate adult/carer to help them arrive safely. The proposed £300 is considered for 1 annual buss pass for the child (with reduction if the child misses days, even due to appointments, hospital, other) if post 16 person is unable to travel alone, it would require a minimum of 2 adult annual passes, considering a pass is per person and not transferable, and some post 16s require different adults for different days or sickness, such as mum and dad or a carer. None of these facts have been considered in this proposal and add another layer to the difficulties vulnerable post 16 children will have attending mandatory education and work placements.

My son has Aspergers and high order autism , he has no sense of danger and doesnt connect with people very much and would struggle with the different drivers they would send . If there was a problem or a taxi didnt come for him he wouldn't have a clue and he certainly wouldnt be able to pay the driver as he doesnt understand money and is vulnerable that way too and these drivers that come for them now know they have issues and will ring either transport or the parents whereas a regular taxi wouldnt as they are not equipped to deal with this and if the taxi cost more than you propose , how can we as struggling parents also facing the cost of living find the money either . To be fair school age was lifted to further education so not to put pressure on the government and keeping most young adults dependent until 19 yrs of age so realistically they should be as entitled as under 16 because unless they work they cannot leave education so they remain a dependent and with our children being special needs they can remain in college until they are 25 yrs old and cannot and are likely to not claim finance in their own right until after 20 yrs of age .

No account has been taken for families who work/study. Also for families who use an escort, no mention of what happens here. This is a safety issue for my son. Lastly it is stated that pupils with highest need will still be transported... who decides what the highest need is? What is the criteria?

I can only see chaos, School transport could hardly be described as an efficient working department, they are almost impossible to contact through your useless automated phone system and often no one is there. its the department itself that needs to be more efficient, it would save you a fortune and parents a lot of anxiety and stress. Start at the root and then look for savings.

SEND teacher. Will my pupils be able to arrive at school safely, and regulated?

At this moment I do not know what the impact will be until assessments are done and you can tell me if I will get the payments or arranged transport.

It will empower parents to promote Independence skills in the community.

Please tell us why you answered this way...

I write as a professional who supports families and it will not impact me personally but will have a profound impact on young adults and those who support them. All of the students' needs need to be seen in context.

Work with pupils in post-16 education who have EHCPs and SEN plus many have complex family situations. Transport management needs a person who can manage the logistical challenges of individuals and find cost-effective solutions to do this. Looking at the money being spent on commissioning private hire vehicles, would it not be more cost-effective to invest in council provided transport ie employing drivers/expanding vehicle fleet or giving education providers the budget to invest in vehicle and driver.

I have other children that I need to get to school and I am unable to provide transport for them all. The council transport scheme allows my child to be safe whilst having some independence and I can focus getting my other children to school where breakfast clubs/after school clubs are not available to me. I have no other options

I am aware that there is a council deficit and the funding available needs to be for those in real need not where there are real alternatives to current claims. No support should be offered where the family already claim a vehicle for mobility etc. this is claiming twice

As a parent of a special needs child, who is not yet near Post-16 we worry that you will cut services so much that when we need assistance it is too late.

Will be difficult when it's self managed but hoping it will give self independence to pupil

I have a child that has very complex and complicated needs and requires a carer with her. I am concerned that once you start cutting cost at a lower level then it won't be long until you start to cut those of higher complicated children such as mine.

Have to apply each year. Not know if get it. Not think it will cover cost of a adapted vehicle with escort. Impossible for me to go with student due to work. Lack of consistency for all leading to financial and emotional stress.

I drive my SEND daughter to school and then college myself due to her increased anxiety & mental health issues. So I was out of pocket by doing school runs ever since she's been in primary school. Unfortunately no one informed me that I could claim travel /fuel cost until my daughter was 16! So I've missed out big time! Which seems very unfair. Firstly all parents should be told - when going through EHCP. It should be a legal requirement to inform all parents. Not just to mention transport but to let parents know about fuel cost. Moving on, this is a great initiative, giving parents a set amount of funds , depending on the distance of post 16 educational provision. It's just not very clear in the table shown if that's showing one way (journey/miles) to the provision or there and back. So if it's 10.3 miles one way is that how we calculate our journey or do we calculate for journey there and back or is it for morning drops off and home time pick up? So technically we are travelling x4 times (10.3 miles x4 for myself) from home to college. And back home then home time same journey again, repeat there and back. So that needs to be very clear and maybe a calculation guide would help to make it easy for parents. Show a few examples on the table below too. If I'm travelling 10.3 miles to take my daughter to college next year, does that mean I only get paid for 10.3 miles only for one way? But in reality I will be travelling 10.3 miles x4 each day. Therefore seems unfair if I only get paid for band 3. As I will be doing well over 20 miles each day to get my daughter to her educational provision and back home! Please bear that in mind! Also SEND colleges are usually x3 days only and this is classed as full time education so I don't think this is mentioned in your consultation and table referring to students attending 3 days or 5 days? Please make that part clear too. Furthermore it doesn't state clearly what you mean by eligible students. You've mentioned DLA but not mentioned PIP. And it doesn't say what documents or evidence will be required to show our child's eligibility. Or if one is rejected to make a claim how to appeal. My daughter receives PIP and she has learning difficulties, anxiety, autism and adhd. I know she's eligible so what proof would one need to send in? Everyone should be informed during their EHCP consultation so that should be mentioned too so parents know their rights. All schools and colleges need to inform parents of this post 16 and other travel/fuel cost application.

I chose some impact but not a negative impact as it will give me the choice on how I travel and not to be waiting around as much

Please tell us why you answered this way...

If I have to get my son to college I will have to stop working. Attendance figure doesn't take into consideration time off for medical reasons and it also says nearest appropriate college so SEND kids don't get to choose they have to go to the nearest

My Daughter has had to go to the College she is at at the moment as there was no where else suitable for her to go for her needs. The college is over 10 miles from home and would take 45-60 minutes approx each morning and evening to get her there. As a working Parent this is not sustainable. As a vulnerable young person, other alternatives other than what she is getting at the moment (School/College Minibus with peers) is not an option.

Its a bloody stupid idea as my child would have to be up at 5 am to get to school for 8am n what about winter in snow * when there cancelling all the buses not to mention how full the buses would be not forced to even get on and he cannot travel two buses on his own as he has adha n autism n high anxiety iam 1000 per cent against this idea why dont the invest in school buses

Our daughter has complex needs (but doesn't need an adapted vehicle). Her school is over 30 mins drive away and is the only school that was able to meet her needs. Hugely concerned that a private taxi without chaperone is a massive safeguarding issue. Alternative is for us to drive her ourselves which would mean reducing/giving up work with a huge knock on effect. No suitable public transport options. Unable to care for other children at beginning/end of school day one of whom has a serious mental health condition. This proposal found be disastrous for our family and I am extremely concerned.

Have to move on uc after Christmas

I have 3 children attending 3 different schools.1 being special needs 2 other normal.i will struggle 3 different schools and starting at the same time

We have a 19 year old daughter with complex learning difficulties who attends Kirklees College - she is not able to travel independently and because she is vulnerable we would not be comfortable with her travelling alone in a privately arranged taxi. Therefore the only alternative would be to take her to college ourselves and reduce the number of hours one of us is able to work. This would also severely impact the small amount of independence our daughter is able enjoy while travelling to college with other students. We feel that it would be a definite backwards step for our daughter and would severely impact our family.

As a parent of a child with an ehcp, this is extremely concerning as my child will not be able to access public transport and having to be available to take them to/frok college means work would be impossible

Because my child needs transport to school and back as can not travel independently and with having another child as well having to travel to collect the child with special needs would not be at home for when my other child comes home.

My children both attend 2 different sen schools they be both approaching post 16 come September 2024 and September 2025 They can't travel on their own to school they need full asstiance plus I've got another child to get home for who attends another school I have only 1 car If services was cut back for those who are able to make their own way to school this would help on the those who can't get their child to school and be cost affective to Kirklees.

Motability vehicles are for the use of transportation of the disabled child where they need to go, this includes getting to and from education sites. I use the vehicle for its intended purpose, so mileage allowance is welcomed

I am a single parent of 2 children, one having Down syndrome and ASD, I also work, it would be impossible for me to transport both children to their places of education and have them arrive on time, my sons school is 35 minutes from where we live so if I had to bring him I would no longer be able to work

Please tell us why you answered this way...

My son's disability is profoundly learning delay, he wouldn't be able to get on public transport alone so would require an aid which is significantly more than £300 for the academic year. This is more pressure on parents to safely ensure vulnerable young adults access education and is unacceptable, disabilities vary significantly and as some may be more able than others this is unfair to the ones who have to rely more on others to access education. Personally, I also have other responsibility taking children to school as they are in primary school and I physically cannot be at numerous places at the same time pick up and drop off times. I cannot work due to the incredibly unfair decisions the council is making to reduce costs for the most vulnerable, so I rely on benefits, it would cost me approximately £1500 per year for a taxi and the council would only fund £300 of this which would not be financially possible. But if I lived a 0.6 miles further away the allowance is £1000, that's £700 difference per year. Incredibly unfair for families with low incomes. However a taxi is not suitable for my son as they would not make sure he went into college and he is unpredictable therefore my son would not be safe in this form of travel as he needs constant supervision. If this travel arrangement goes ahead, I would be forced to consider withdrawing him from education, which is unfair.

Many young people post 16 still lack the safety awareness, planning skills, social skills, anxiety etc to use public transport! Many of whom would need an adult to help! Not all families drive or are in a position to drop off/ collect pupils everyday. This will result in many young people not going to college or not able to access the college courses they want to do as the distance would be unmanageable alone on public transport.

Instead of paying to have strangers escort children why not come up with a better solution to offer a position where parents would be paid a normal wage to escort their kids to school this way, it won't have a massive impact on their children's mental health or family's suffering financially on a low income. Other than looking at it as a conflict of interest or giving a set budget which won't be sustainable in the long run.

My child travels a total of 100 miles a week to school there and back and if the funding is not there, then my child simply won't attend school or have no education as this is the only school that has been able to accommodate my child's needs and he won't be changing, he will be there until he is 17/18. If this is cut you're essentially taking away a child's education.

Who is monitoring how the payments are spent? Bus escorts would be needed for most pupils so how is the transport safe? If you are relying on parents to transport pupils, this would impact their ability to work. Transport for post 16 works for families and provides consistency for pupils who were using similar transport pre-16. Changing it would cause so much disruption for very vulnerable pupils and the suitability of transport would be incredibly hard for many families to find - pupils may not be able to travel in taxis alone, drivers would need to be DBS checked, vehicles might need to be adapted for wheelchair users, who is paying for and sourcing all of this?

It's an absolutely ridiculous idea thought up by someone who doesn't live the life we do with a child with complex needs, doesn't have a clue what day to day living is like. Whoever decided this is living on an extremely high wage putting the vulnerable at risk. Putting this into a plan would not work for my family and many hundreds of families. A wheelchair dependent child would not be able to find transport as even vehicle taxis wouldn't be available at school times, plus no escort so parent would have to transport with them making them lose out on hours of their day, meaning they can't work. Same with non-dependent child, a child at Castle Hill cannot travel alone on a bus for their own safety so a family member would have to go with them. I cannot tell you strongly enough how this so-called plan will badly affect a child's well-being and a parent's. I could not take my child to school due to bad health issues caused by looking after a medically complex needs child. After working for a short time I can tell you need to reduce money by looking at the offices, the staff in there and the ridiculous amount of time, wages, money spent on venues, teas, coffees etc for all unnecessary training. Training that could be done online. Most of my wage was earned doing training courses, 2/3 hours wage paid for something that could take 30 mins on a zoom call or computer learning lesson. The amount of uniform provided - then it changing 'colours' so all new uniform had to be re-issued. DO NOT reduce this service look into other ways that money can be found. This is a VITAL service to many parents. To some the access to school gives them the only bit of respite they can get. Listen to people in the know not big wigs in their offices who DO NOT have a clue what is going on in our lives

Please tell us why you answered this way...

My daughter has complex needs and needs wheelchair transport and someone to keep an eye on her got all aspects of care and safety but know many families with less complex children that either couldn't afford to be off work to help an older but still unsafe child to school on public transport also many families who have other children and can't be so far away For more than one school

I've got 1 child at Woodley and 1 child at castle hill They is no way I can get to the same school in the time for finishing The queues of the buses and cars causes a huge delays at both schools it be impossible to get from a-b My 2 children need support and supervision at all times, I do understand the reasons but it's need to be based on each family Cirmstance We be lost without school transport

It does not have an impact on my family. However as a retired teacher of high needs SEN students, I feel that the proposal is inappropriate and will not meet the needs of vulnerable young people. I cannot fathom how this is going to save money for the council. I cannot see how it is ethical to reduce support, that is already inadequate, for this group of young people. This is shameful for a Labour run Council who's mandate is to support the vulnerable in society.

My daughter has been going on the school bus and is due to start post 16 in september, for this to be then taken away from her, she will feel like she has less independence at an older age. She doesnt want parents taking her to school she want to feel that she is going to school on her own while still feeling safe

Wheelchair taxis hard to find cannot get on public transport

My daughter can not travel alone due to her needs, i do not drive and have other children to take to school, my husband works. If my daughter didnt get the taxi to college she would have to stop attending as there is no viable way for her to attend college which does help her apart from via taxi as we live so far away

Don't have kids.

My cousin has severe special needs and greatly benefits from free transport as there family income is not privileged enough to pay for it themselves

Our son has very specific needs so a minibus to school is the best option for him. He has no real sense of danger so he needs to be safe travelling to school.

My son, who has an EHCP, travels to a specialist out of area college which is far more than 3 miles away from home

Teaching young people within this group I know this will have an unsettling impact on them and their families. Families find it hard to manage a vast array of budgets and arrangements and this is another element for them to take into consideration - this will be challenging for lots of families. I believe safeguarding will be an issue - if transport is not guaranteed families will experience more anxiety- may chose to spend the budget on other things and the young person may not make it to their place of post 16 as regularly. etc.

I drop off and pick up my mentally and physically disabled daughter to her post 16 provision at Kirklees College. I am fortunate enough to be able to do this. I have any friends who will be completely devastated by the new arrangements that are being proposed causing many difficulties in their lives for themselves and their children. I have recently learned that 'Travel Training ' is no longer available in Kirklees and even if it was there are many young people with complex needs that do not have the mental capacity to be able to do this, no matter how far or near they live to their post 16 education. I think for our young adults to be included in 'Higher Education ' we need to have a total rethink on how they are going to access in an inclusive manner.

In genereal the service kindly offered would help my grandson whom i am sole carer for. He is in Year 11 and has Hydrocephalus and Mysotosis but still wants to try and study further. I say i don't know because i too have a rare condition. My grandson is 6ft 4 with size 17 feet so clothes and footwear alone is quite expensive never mind cost of living etc.

Please tell us why you answered this way...

My son is autistic and is in a routine with his driver and feels independent without us taking him. He doesn't have to rely on anyone else to take him as we suffer from anxiety etc and some days don't even leave the home. He would be stuck, as can't use public transport alone, and he feels grown up going this way. He likes routine and it's been perfect for him since the transport was put in place. He is happy and confident, and it's a great stepping stone for independence towards the future. Also it's helped his transition into college. Please don't take it away from him.

I have not chosen to send my daughter to a college 6.5 miles away. It is the only place that meets need within the LA, and would cost Kirklees a lot more to send her out of the LA. She relies heavily on routine, has very complex needs and requires a lot of support during the journeys to and from school. I work every minute possible between pick up and drop off and am very fortunate to have a flexible employer. Bear in mind I have been forced to take a job on minimum wage to find this flexibility despite having a degree in finance. I would lose 2 hours a day taking her myself - I would lose my job. I have filled in the forms required for the change from school to college and expected to be asked to make a contribution.... But as the post 16 and the school transport teams cannot communicate with each other this hasn't happened. I rang James at transport the day before term started (that's how bad it is when our kids already struggle with transitions) to see what the arrangements for college were and he said "why would they have changed from last year?!!!" So why did I fill in a form!

My son travels 9.9 miles in a taxi with an escort this. I do not know how I could manage this independently.

Reduction in the traffic congestion caused by taxis

I am the sole carer for my only child. I have no family or friends to support me. I am not working because so I can meet my son's needs and be able to take him to his speech therapy and sport and therapy activities. And I am just managing with what is in place already. Another hassle or problem such as school transport would make it more difficult and add more stress and pressure to my son and I. Please consider my circumstances and carry on with your appreciated support. Thank you

My child should be starting a Level 4 course next year so would not receive transport next year. However, there are some potential issues if she were remaining. Most students are attending Kirklees College which is usually one bus journey. However, Taylor Hill is 2 buses which is a more complex journey that might not be achievable by a student who might manage one bus (it isn't possible for mine to manage this). As there are fewer students at Taylor Hill there is less chance of teaming up with other parents to take the children together. Additionally my child does not receive transport assistance although actually they would qualify. I prefer to take myself. I might not therefore be the only parent who would take up this offer of contribution (and so start costing the council money) rather than as now where I take myself at no cost to the council. Separately when I haven't been able to take to college we have used taxis. This is fine when starting at eg 10 or 10.30 but ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE to get to college at 9am because you cannot get a taxi for love nor money that arrives on time for a 9am start.

I know of a family whose children live out of the area and are transported back into the councils and parent address and are then picked up by a taxi and taken to school whilst the parents with a car sit at home - abuse of the system

My son can't travel alone, he's non-verbal autistic, I work at home, I can't take him, yet he has a right to an education, Kirklees shouldn't pull funding from disabled residents, pull it from the people who scrounge, the addicts, the criminals. These children haven't chosen this life.

Because of the total lack of suitable post-16 education available for my daughter in Huddersfield, we have no choice but to apply for a place in Ravenshall school in Dewsbury, a 2-hour round trip from home. We were initially told a bus would be available, but these proposals make that unlikely. You are not considering the impact of these proposals on a parent's ability to actually go to work. We will have to transport our daughter to school ourselves and therefore be unable to start work on time. Kirklees council are failing our daughter in two ways: 1 no post-16 education suitable for her in her hometown (currently attending Southgate and having no similar replacement in Huddersfield, Kirklees College not being suitable). 2 while making her travel to Dewsbury every day, then removing the provision of transport. You are failing the SEND children in your area.

Please tell us why you answered this way...

I am a parent of 18 year old young person with Autism. He attends college in Doncaster, 52 miles away, because there was no suitable provision in the area. He is very settled there and thriving. I am a single parent with a full time job in NHS. I do not drive. Without school transport it would be impossible for my son to attend college as there is no one to take him and he wouldn't be able to travel on his own.

I have a child with Down Syndrome who attends Ravenshall PFA and frankly all this change to special needs transport should not even be up for consultation

It will cost us money as a family as the proposed amount wouldn't cover the costs we would be spending on transport

It is a mile walk to the bus stop, my daughter is vulnerable, finds social interaction extremely difficult so would find using a bus very stressful. If there were changes in any aspect of the route or if the stop was missed she would be unable to manage the change in circumstances making the journey dangerous. There wouldn't be sufficient money for taxis & the route is in the opposite direction to my work at a time that is later than my work. Not having the safety of door to door service would be a massive worry on a daily basis & would seriously impact on my daughter's mental health through endless worry & stress.

The distance my son travels is far but the provision he goes to is excellent for his needs. If this proposal was implemented the proposed travel arrangements would not be possible, leaving him unsupported.

I am a single mum, professional work FT 9-3 to make ends meet and have no other benefits. My son travels to a school in Wakefield in a private taxi which is funded - I couldn't transport him myself, it would cost £50 a day to get him to school and back which is very costly considering the cost of living crisis. He attends 5 days a week. I wouldn't feel assured sending him in an Uber either

I will have to transport 2 SEND kids to different settings on opposite sides of town - on a smaller budget and with only 1 vehicle. This whole exercise is not solely about the cost and never has been, it's about need, (which you can't just slap a price sticker on) and also what's lawfully required. You cannot just stick an arbitrary fix on everyone because every SEND family's need is different.

Unreliability. Having to arrange transport not enough money given

Our son suffers from anxiety and has an EHCP plan and has ADHD and is a vulnerable person. Has been out of education for over a year due to mistakes made by SENCO.

First, the average spend on a taxi with extra support person is £100 per week. Second, a lot of parents transport their own children and do not receive payments for this (even though transport is legally LA responsibility), so saves thousands of pounds. Third, many young people are forced (against their wishes and that of parents) by the LA to attend schools and colleges (instead of EOTAS) due to education system, so legally, LA responsibility to ensure they can get there and back safely. Fourth, these families struggle enough in their day to day lives, so why make it more difficult. Fifth, many young people are already severely suffering with extreme MH problems, associated with their disabilities, stop pushing people over the edge. Sixth, if there is an option for each young person to have a designated PA (or family member) for travel assistance only, and appropriate mileage paid, this would reduce issues. You cannot expect young people with severe MH, LD etc ... to access public transport, nevermind without assistance

What happens if this money you are saying that you are going to pay doesn't cover the cost. In our case it will mean that one of us will have to give up our job to take our daughter to her college. So this will make us in a worst financial state. It is not our fault that Kirklees cannot manage it books. We have to fight for everything for a child with a learning disability so this is one more added stress.

My child can not read even though he is 17 years old, he doesn't have a sense of danger and has to be with an adult at all times when travelling outside. I also have a young child who goes to a local school that I have to drop off and pick up every day. I couldn't do both school runs at the same time, and I'm guessing I will not be the only parent in this situation. The cost of a bus pass wouldn't cover the current price of petrol or finding my own alternate way of transport.

Please tell us why you answered this way...

We have enough to deal with raising a child with a disability and finding support and funding for them. To have to manage transport too and worry that there wouldn't be enough to cover travel costs is too much

My son has a personal assistant and transport. If we were required to sort this ourselves this would be too difficult in terms of all the communication needed between PA and taxi. Also for other people - some of their families may also have additional needs and may struggle to manage the money which means the student may not be able to afford to travel in the end.

A single adoptive father to 6 children over additional complex needs, plus being a foster carer for children with life for limited needs. It is very hard for me to get my children to different educational settings across Yorkshire. I don't know how I'm going to get my son to his new college, plus manage seeing my children off to different schools, including Doncaster school for the deaf, Castle Hill, special school, and Southgate special school. Someone needs to be here for me to take my son to college. And I have no one available, furthermore, it would involve me having to take them to my son, New college Placment, which indeed would make them all late for their transport. By the time I get home, almost an hour later.. it's simply Will not Work. And this plan has left me very very worried for the future.

I have a child with Cerebral palsy due to medical negligence (I could name and shame every hospital and educational professional for major failings when my child struggled without an EHCP and not standing after telling both school and the local authority and the headteacher he could NOT walk. I had to fight for a wheelchair to be given and a school willing to have him. We live on the Kirklees border. We have one bus an hour and my child would not get on it in the morning unless he has travel arrangements in place and a carer. It would take us 45 mins to get to college. To get him up in the morning, he struggles with socks and teeth and routine changes. I had to juggle hospital appointments and hospital appointments and go to work as well. I don't get full rate disability benefits, two appeals to DWP and the stress caused my marriage to break down. I have another son to support through education too! I certainly can not split myself in two and arrange these payments and hope that a taxi will arrive and be within the budget you state. To be very frank, if I am made to be any financially worse off than I am now, I will not be taking my child to college and that will be breaking the law. Also, I want to work and support my poor other son who has had to cope through this, I want to support my other son and don't need the burden of services not working for us. I am not chasing it, if you want my child at college next year then please sort it and take the pressure off me! Politely putting it, before ruining the future of disabled children, Can you stop giving your staff a pay rise? On the grape vine, I know you have given pay rises recently and I might even do a subject access request of this information and give it to the newspaper and MP. If anywhere needs the support it is the disabled, health and social care. Don't punish the disabled and stop giving yourselves pay rises to reduce the local authorities debt! I have anxiety already at the thought of next years travel arrangements. At 18 years of age when my tax credits (the children's element) stops, I will have to work full time. I want to plan and do things now in preparation when I have to increase my hours. I don't need more obstacles hindering this, it is hard enough raising a family but a disabled child too. My son gets travel arrangements now and it has been a life saver.

We will be responsible for sorting out travel arrangements

Please tell us why you answered this way...

As a council employee working in a SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) school, the impact of the new Travel Statement and the proposed key changes will likely vary based on my role and responsibilities. Here are potential impacts: The implementation of a new Travel Statement and key proposals may introduce administrative changes, such as revised documentation, reporting requirements, and communication protocols. This could impact on workload and necessitate adjustments to existing processes. The proposal to consider individual circumstances for families living less than three miles from the place of study might require additional time and effort to assess and address unique situations. This could lead to increased workload, particularly in roles involving student support, assessment, or advocacy. If the proposals lead to changes in the travel support provided to students with SEND, there may be a need for effective communication with parents, guardians, and other stakeholders. Clear and transparent communication about the new policies and procedures is crucial to manage expectations and address concerns. The individualised considerations aspect of the proposal may require a heightened level of support and engagement with families facing unique challenges. 5. The introduction of new policies may necessitate training and professional development to ensure that staff members in SEND schools are well-equipped to understand and implement the changes effectively. Changes in travel support policies may influence the allocation of resources within the SEND school. This could involve adjustments in budgeting, staffing, or other resources to accommodate the evolving needs of students with SEND, particularly those related to transportation.

young person needs accompanied transport not just catching a bus - otherwise they will likely not arrive sorting the costs and arrangements is too complicated for us we all pay tax to pay for these services - if you continue to cut services we need to all stop paying tax

How are you so incompetent as a service? Take inspiration from the likes of Waves or resign. This situation is a consequence of uncaring buffoonery.

This impact will effect us massively as I don't drive and have no one to take my child to collage, Kirklees are not only killing out town they are now trying to make it much harder for family's with children that needs help it's a disgrace, but even more trying to save money well instead of giving yourselves big pay rises and big bounces maybe stop that and stop messing out children around that need the help with travel, not only do I not drive I also work!!!!

I work full time and have other children to accommodate. My son would not be safe to travel with out his transport.

Bringing a young person to / from College not only has a direct cost (fuel, etc) but has a significant "cost" of the time required. As an example, for us, 5 miles away, and taking into account traffic at the required times, we estimate that it will involve 2-2.5 hours of driving EACH DAY. The cost / loss of potential income is not taken account of. The alternatives are just not practical - paying someone to drop / collect requires someone who has that time available each day, personally arranging shared taxi's requires the sharers to be attending the same centre at the same times and days, bus / walk / cycle are simply not options for students with SEND. SEND students need dropping / collecting at single point, to ensure safe handover to staff. Individuals arranging own transport will substantially increase traffic at college drop off / collection points to unmanageable volumes. Staff will need to be on hand to meet many more individual vehicles. We are not confident that this can be safely managed, either from a road traffic or safeguarding perspective. The increased traffic volumes that will be generated fly against carbon reduction targets, affecting us all.

May need changes to employment, or may limit hours of employment if need to drop and pick up. Would be difficult to find someone able to drop and pick up. Student not able to travel safely on own.

Our daughter has a learning disability and these proposals will make her vulnerable when travelling on public transport (bus). Her vocabulary and awareness has not developed to the level that she is capable of travelling alone to College and would make her a target for abuse and exploitation. The amount being proposed would not cover the cost of providing her a taxi to college. Due to these reasons we are strongly opposed to the new proposals as the safety of vulnerable people is being compromised which will lead to serious consequences.

Please tell us why you answered this way...

I am writing regarding the proposed changes to post 16 transport. I find the changes to be absolutely diabolical. It is unfair and YET AGAIN the vulnerable children/young adults and parents are being penalised. First of all, the proposed offer of financial support is illogical and makes no sense, and it is a total insult. Example- (a young person traveling) my Child if he gets a placement into the college that I believe will be the best one for him and his special needs would be traveling 18.2 miles a day for only 3 days per week for 39 academic weeks a year, based on traveling by our cheapest taxi firm will cost at a minimum £4095. You propose £2000 towards the cost how is a parent/carer/young person supposed to afford the rest of the cost??? Bearing in mind that you are proposing we use Hackney cabs which are the most expensive taxis to use, so the cost will be considerably more (can be almost double of local firms) and does not take into account been stuck in traffic as the meter ticks over. NOT ONLY THAT, but the biggest worry is also that MANY of these children/young adults are extremely vulnerable, AGAIN example – My 18 year old son has the mental age of a 3-5 year old, who has NO sense of stranger danger, he has no road sense, he can't even cross the road by himself or even give concrete directions. My son gets mixed up with his left and right and his speech is not always recognised, especially with those who don't know him. I don't drive and often use taxi's myself, of which many don't know where they are going after repeating my address to them over and over and I must give them directions time and time again due to lack of local knowledge and the language barrier faced on many occasions. IN ADDITION many of the drivers are not the person pictured on the licence dangling in the taxi window. But I and other parents are expected to trust a stranger with our children???? It is "Absolutely unacceptable". Especially when he requires lots of additional supervision when out with the school, so how can he be expected to travel alone with a stranger who probably will not know the way and will struggle to communicate? Another Problem is many parents do not have anyone to help out if this proposal goes ahead, not one single person I know is able to help out, they have their own families /lives to sort out and what about the parents that have children at other schools? Returning to the issue of safeguarding, I as a responsible mother would not be able to escort my child to school in a taxi because it's not rocket science, that would only DOUBLE the costs. Many parents/carers will no longer be able to send their child to an out of area college of their preference and what they believe is the best one for their child, and many areas do not have suitable special needs collages in their area anyway. But the BIG question IS..... How is the only one special needs college in our area going to accommodate for the demand of spaces? It does not seem like this has crossed anybody's mind. We as loving parents have enough challenges in life as it is. We do our absolute best for our vulnerable children, and this is only going to add to the everyday challenges in our lives. We as parents and you as the council are supposed to be encouraging our children/young adults with additional need to carry on with education and try lead as normal and fulfilling lives as possible and this absurd ridiculous proposal does nothing but make them suffer and feel victimised yet again as everything just keeps been taken away from them!!! These special people deserve the best that life can give them!!! PLEASE don't persecute them to save a few pennies in the short term, I am pleading to you for this absolute unfair idea to not go ahead. Regards Gilly Hartley Regards

I feel Kirklees Council could look for cheaper contracts I.E bring transportation in house rather than paying extortionate contractual fees to companies. I live in Oakes and live with my wheelchair dependant wife and the taxi prices vary vastly for us, a standard taxi costing £5-7 or a wheelchair taxi £12+. we use them if we have no other options available but can imagine the headache some families will experience. Kirklees Council appear to be paying excessively high prices for transportation, so I would personally look at cheaper quotations

Students travel to their education setting based on their specific needs and not the distance. Every student has different needs and the most vulnerable children are at risk from these changes and could affect their education based on carers incomes

Having two children with additional needs and been a single parent working part time I wouldn't be able to get them to separate schools and work too I have no other people to help with care

My son has autism and in Sept 24 will be starting his post 16 college. It would be very difficult if he wasn't provided with transport as I have a younger child I need to get to another school. It wouldn't be convenient for me to take and pick up everyday as I need to be available for my younger sons end of school day. My son needs the same routine everyday and catching his minibus to his current school has been brilliant for his confidence. Also I don't have the use of a car everyday to be able to do this.

Please tell us why you answered this way...

Hopefully the money saved can then be diverted elsewhere

My daughter attends an educational setting around 10 miles away (c.45 minute drive door-to-door) and the intention is that she stays there post-16. The proposals would make transport organisation very complicated for the following reasons: - the complication of organising transport ourselves (there is no public transport route available). - the cost and complication of having to pay for a chaperone to accompany her (would we have to employ a chaperone?). - the additional cost to the family beyond the amount included in the payment plan, especially including the chaperone. - the potential that one of us (her parents) would have to give up work/reduce working hours to meet her transport needs.

Child not 16 yet

I work with SEN children, so in this respect the proposal does not affect me BUT while I fully understand that the council needs to make cost savings I am wary that while it all sounds good on paper, the reality maybe very different. For example- Families need to spend the money in the correct way. The budget needs to be enough to allow the young person to access all they need to. They can't be at home purely because families have spent the money elsewhere or there isn't enough money to cover the costs. There are people who need adapted vehicles which I appreciate you have acknowledged but what about those people with challenging behaviour and what about those that need the support of a passenger assistant??

It's so difficult already to find the correct support for our children. Literally one option for school, so hard to get a decent PA for respite hours. Now we'd need to find someone to assist with school run as well. It would be so stressful and detrimental to my mental health. I only get 6 hours respite for a child too complex for most people to deal with. We have a nice routine in place with the school transport system as it is. Disruption could lead to regression and school refusal

Please tell us why you answered this way...

This reply is on behalf of multiple members. Some received this proposal positively as felt that the proposals gave a flexibility that was lacking. Some were not concerned as they currently took their child to college or made private arrangements to do so and this would continue (in fact some had not bothered with transport at all even though the child qualified). Some suggested that maybe their child should be travel trained in advance of college so could get the bus in future - the journey from home to college was a more straightforward one than the one to school and they felt it was something that their child was moving towards being able to do. Some raised issue of the location of Kirklees college which had to cross very busy roads worried some - could college provide someone to walk students to and from the bus station if the child could travel on the bus? Issues with problems at the bus station worried parents (there have been some issues resulting in police involvement to sort out anti-social issues at the bus station. Some parents were wondering if college could provide a breakfast club which would mean parent would be able to drop off in the morning? More parents had issues or concerns or were flatly opposed though. Many were concerned that there will be a significant impact as the cost will be more than the current contribution they pay for post 16 transport (although our members tell us that this has not been requested lately). There were concerns about young people travelling alone about their safety in taxis (although some did not realise that this might be the case anyway once they move from school minibus to college transport which is often taxi based not minibus). Concerns their child not ready to use the bus yet and that the contribution made covered only a bus which child could not use. Parents were thinking practically about this proposal and how they might make it work but also said there was little chance of getting in touch with other parents to share taxis as there wasn't the same connection with other parents that there is in school. If parents wanted to taxi share how would they go about this? Sharing taxis might work but if children were not on same course they would not have the same timetables. Impact on parent choice of post 16 - many wanting to remain at post 16 school as transport would likely be offered rather than college where it wouldn't. Significant concern from those who use adapted vehicles or escorts as the process for getting this in future is simply hinted at rather than explicit and parents did not want another "fight" for services which they felt their child should be entitled to. It would be difficult to arrange an adapted taxi individually especially at that time of day when they are all used for school runs to special schools. Escorts are arranged and vetted by the council and aren't something you could privately arrange. Cost raised by many as amount given would not cover cost of a taxi or mileage allowance some already received. Issues raised about specialist places which might be outside Kirklees but the only one which was suitable for a child's education. Allowance would not cover this cost in any way yet children may have no choice of where they are educated as it might be the only place that meets the needs of that child. What process would be in place to ensure these children got the education they had a right to? Impact on child who might be more stressed at beginning of school day if eg taxi late (they often are if you try to get one for 9am). Impact on parental finances. Impact on attendance and children becoming NEET - currently Kirklees has low NEET figures for 16 to 19. Possible issues with abuse of funds - need a process to identify any issues asap and resolve. Taking away allowance if fair enough but there should be a mechanism to ensure child gets to college as well. Some families are very stressed and have multiple responsibilities and it is yet another one to put on families who then have to arrange transport as well as everything else. May be many reasons why a parent might struggle; mental health issues; unwell; simply overwhelmed. Issues raised by parents included: Lack of understanding of the post 16 bursary schemes offered by colleges and how this worked eg which benefits did child need to be on to apply. (Parents might need to take benefits advice as child applying for UC at 16 affects parents own UC). Can parents have the bursary from college to top up the transport contribution? Many parents seemed unaware of what might happen next September so there needed to be some form of activity with special schools and provisions to highlight awareness. How does it work depending on number of days child is in college? Most are 3 days so is it £300 for a 3 day week? What if child is in 4 days or even 5 (this can happen with timetabling especially when a child is doing a Level 2 or 3 course rather than Foundation). How would parents know if their post 16 child will be able to use the minibus to special school or not and when would they know this? Is it paid in advance or in arrears? How can I be sure the taxi is safe? and what do I do if something happens which isn't right - ie who do I complain to?

I am a Kirklees resident

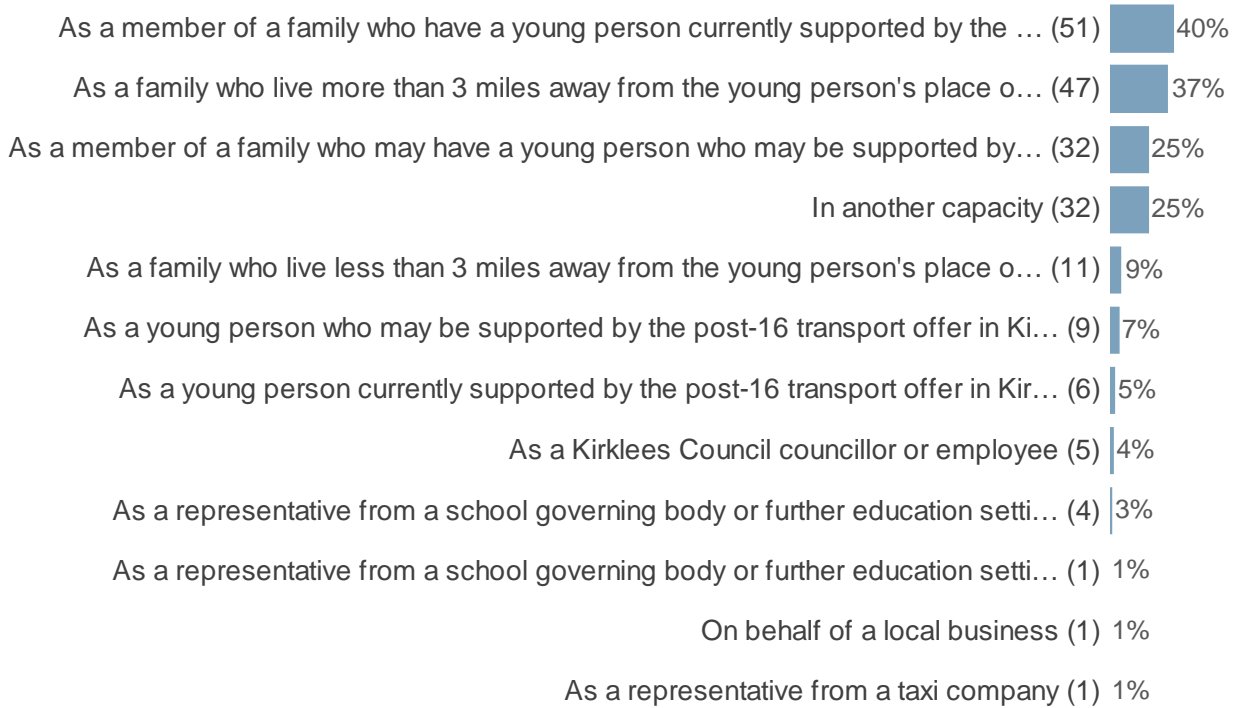
Please tell us why you answered this way...

Our son is a full time wheelchair user and he can't access buses etc. Our current arrangements work perfectly for him getting to college and he can amend his taxis through college and the staff at his college can help him if there are any problems and staff wait until his taxi arrives for safeguarding. We are really worried that we won't be able to book a wheelchair accessible taxi for every day that my son needs it and that will subsequently affect him getting to college on time and back home. It is not easy for anyone in a wheelchair to manage these on their own and to us is a major safeguarding issue

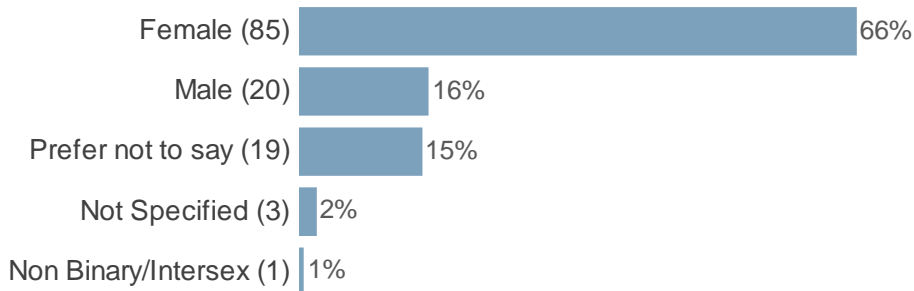
This has been filled in to sum up the findings of PCAN. The previous answers have outlined the concerns of parents which can be summed up by : The impact on family finances (personal budget doesn't cover cost). The impact on choice of post 16 institution. The impact on the child if the taxi's are late. We also see issues with poor attendance and dropping out of courses. Questions also about the date the funding is to be paid? Would it be September 1st rather than the 30th? What if a child is in college 4 or 5 days as opposed to the standard 3? Would they get more funding? How do I know that the taxi is safe? Parents may push for their child to go to a special school post 16 which they don't need but now want because of transport. The elements that parents like are the fact that there is the flexibility to use the budget to organise transport to suit your circumstances, eg for your child to be taken somewhere else other than home after college or pay a neighbour petrol money to take your child. It could be used to cover cost of putting other children into breakfast/ and or after school club enabling parent to take post 16 child to college /pick up. Depending on cost or number of children this was a calculation some hadn't done yet. Many have issues with current system and these proposals help some. Overall it is clear that some parents oppose and some have no view at all (neither oppose or support) and some parents are quite keen on some elements of the new proposal if not all. As an organisation PCAN does not completely oppose the proposal although we do have concerns (see the answers previously) PCAN feel that many parents do not yet realise the full implications of the proposal and as September comes about and people start to realise the implications there may be huge issues. Issues raised: Mention made of a possible breakfast club at Kirklees college and parents did comment that the ability to drop off children at other times than just 9am would be welcome. When does travel training take place? A child might be able to get a bus but would require travel training over the summer. Currently travel training is only to the school and current school is not suitable to travel to by public transport but Kirklees college in the center of town would only be one bus journey. Can there be a Buddy system to help students travel together either on bus or taxi? The post 16 bursary scheme that all colleges offer is not well understood. Can this assist topping up the personal travel budget? Students need to be on certain benefits to apply for the bursaries and not all students are for various reasons. Additionally there is impact on the family budget if the child moves to universal credit at 16 as it affects the parents working benefits. PCAN suggests that if the proposal goes ahead in this or similar form work will be needed with the special schools so that the scheme is understood. Some parents might struggle organising this for their children, especially if they have disabilities themselves.

Kirklees College did not offer a place to our son. Therefore we were forced to send our son to Calderdale College which is much further away, and we would not be able to arrange a safe/cost effective manner of transport to accommodate this. If a suitable course had been offered at Kirklees College (much closer as we live in Huddersfield), then we would not have needed this essential transport. We fought hard to keep our son in Kirklees College, but Kirklees said there was no suitable course, so it would not be fair to remove the transport that takes our son to Calderdale (as we cannot take him to Calderdale). And given Kirklees cannot offer him a suitable course, the removal of current transport, would leave him with no College in 2024-2025. We also know some other people in the same situation, so it would not be fair on us or them. Ultimately, we think your new policy does not take individual circumstances into account, and the new blanket approach is not satisfactory.

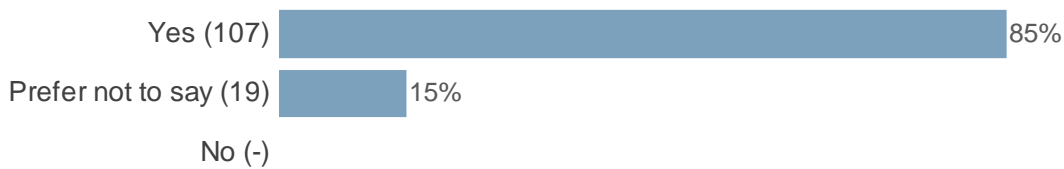
Are you completing this questionnaire [please tick all that apply]:



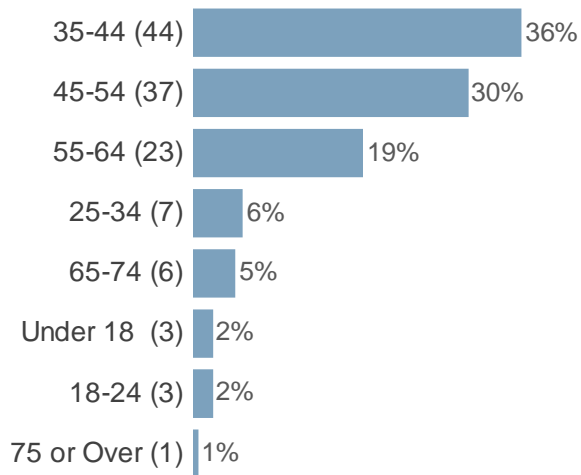
How would you describe your gender?



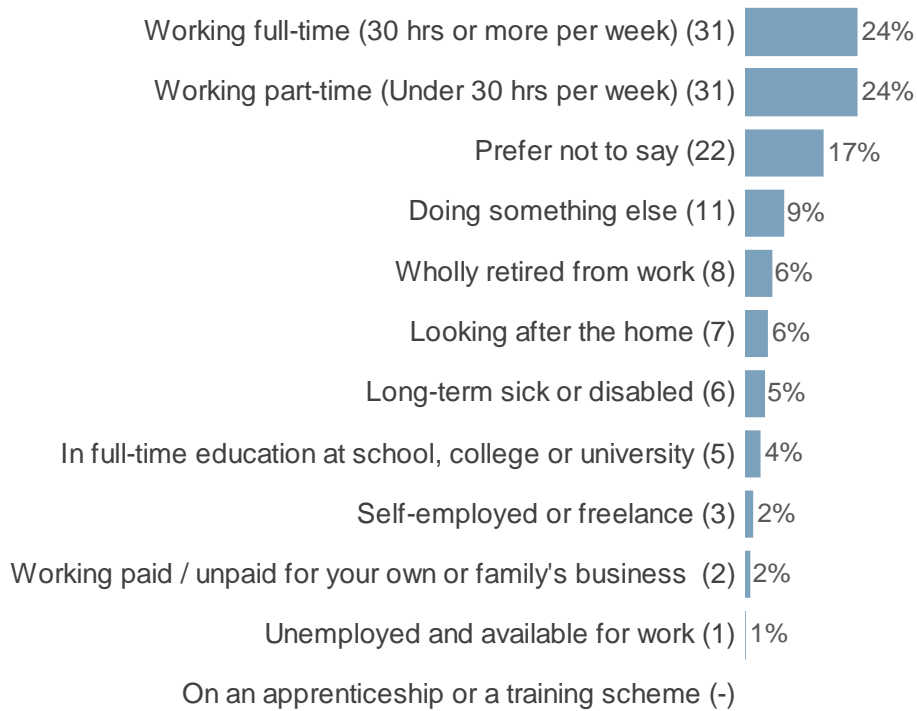
Is your gender identity the same sex as you were registered at birth?



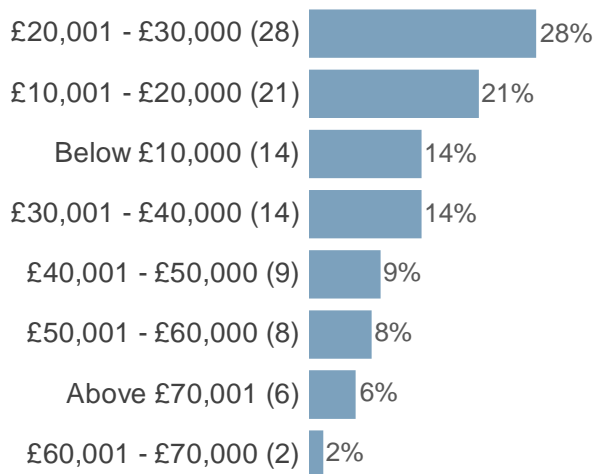
What is your age group?



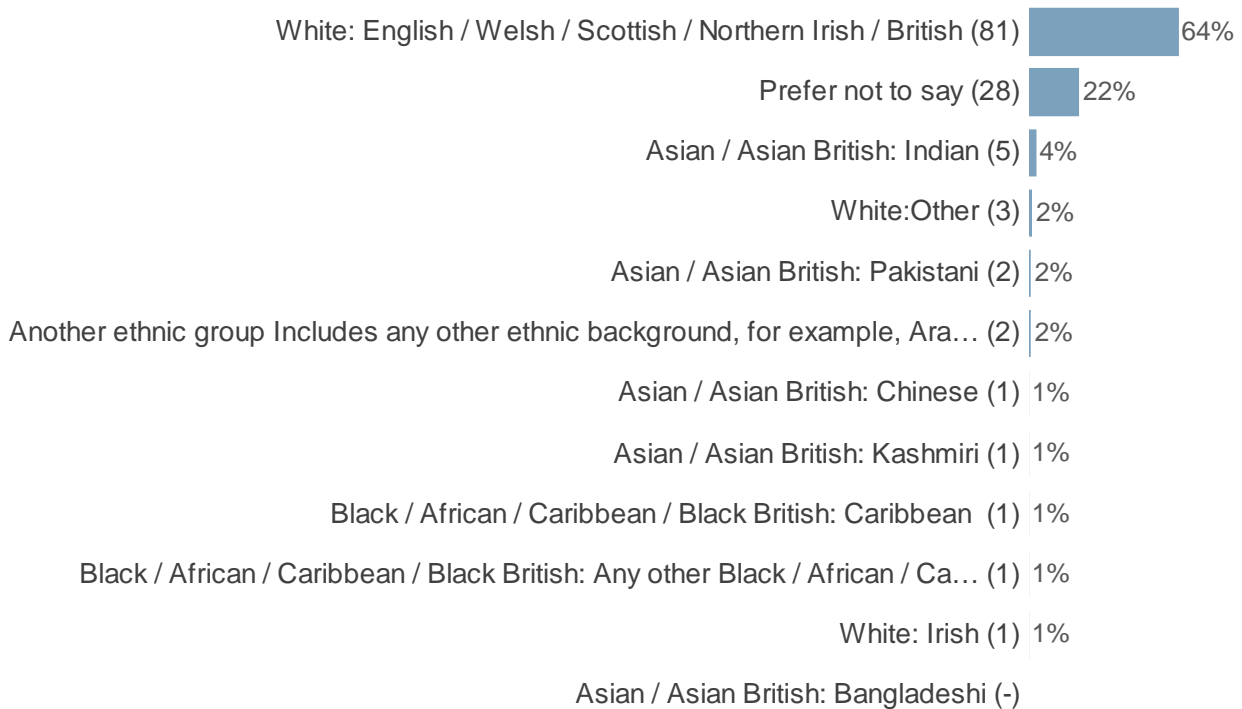
Are you currently:



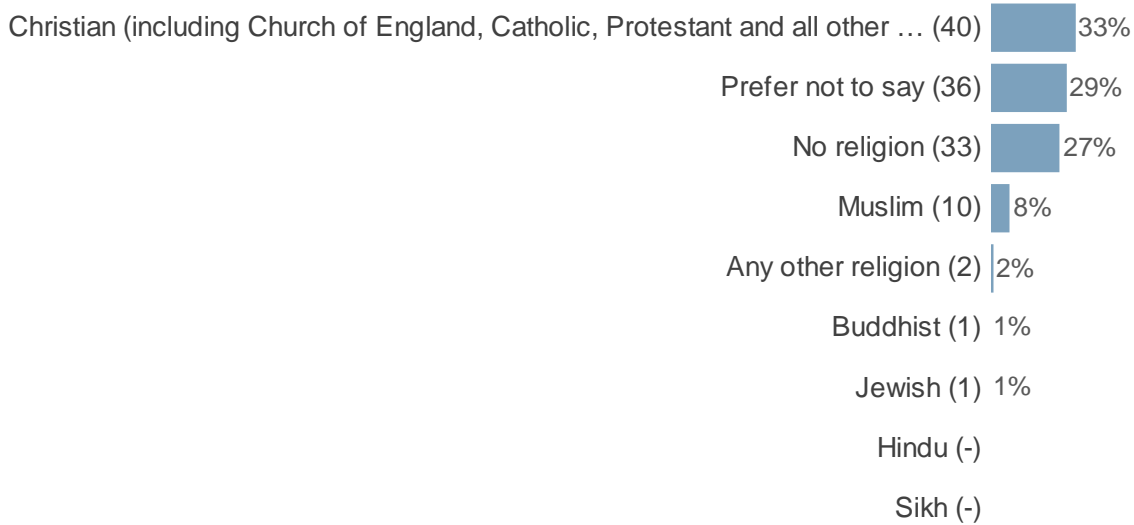
Please tell us the total annual income of your household (before tax and deductions but including benefits/allowances)



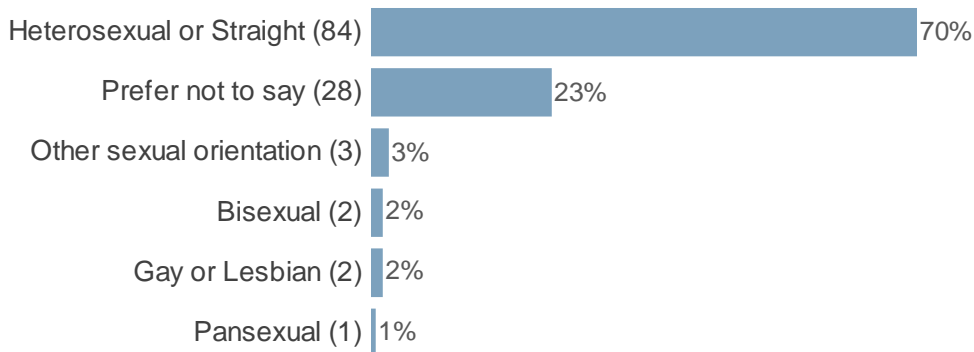
What is your ethnic group?



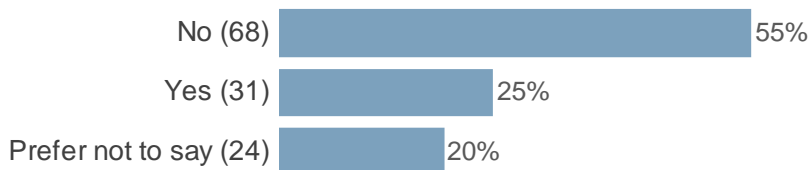
What is your religion?



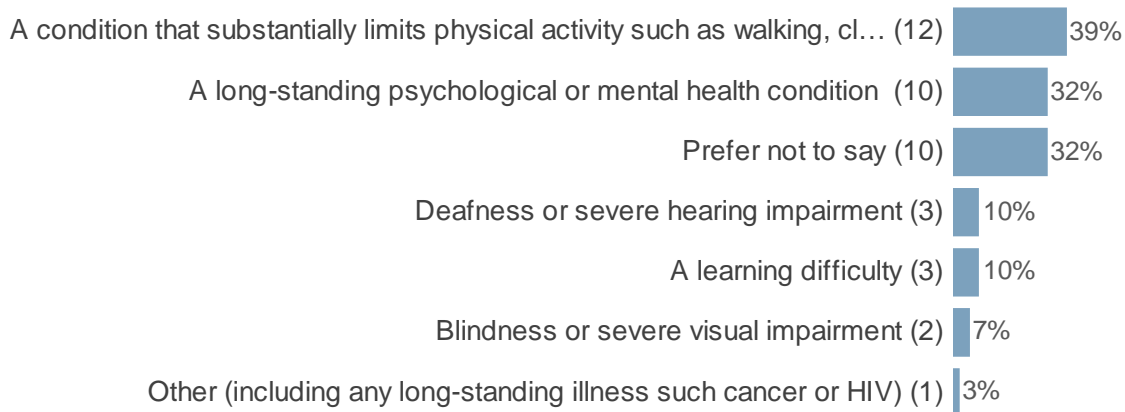
Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?



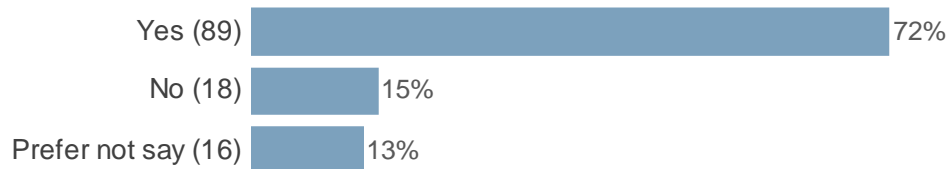
Do you consider yourself to have a disability and/or long-term health condition?



Which of the following best reflects your disability and/or long-term health condition?



Do you have any caring responsibilities for a child/children and/or another adult/s?



Please select all that apply:

If you share care responsibilities equally then please answer as the primary carer.

