



Post-16 Transport Consultation

December 2023

Speaking with Foundation Students about possible
changes to the Post 16 Transport Policy

College Transport

Who, What, Why, When and Where?

Eleven young people aged 16-25, who currently use Post-16 College Transport, volunteered their time to share their views about possible changes to the transport policy.

To make sure the group had time to think about their answers:

- the questions and infographic showing how the transport policy currently works and explaining the alternate model (to the left), were sent a week in advance of the session.

To try and familiarise the group with who they would be speaking with, Harry and Martin's pictures were sent in advance too.

On the 6th December 2023, the engagement took place at Kirklees College Waterfront Campus. There was a group discussion about the questions to make sure everyone understood them and had extra time to think about their answers. There was a break and then everyone took turns to give feedback. The whole session lasted two hours.

We have collated the young people's feedback on the following pages.



This is Martin from School Transport



This is Harry from Our Voice

Questions to think about before the session...

How do you feel about your current taxi's/transport?

How do you feel about the idea of your family organising your transport?

How might you travel if this happened?

Are there good/bad things about this idea?

Now...

A taxi collects students from home and brings them to college.



At the end of the day a taxi comes to college to take you home

What about?

Your family receiving money to...



Book your taxis



Pay for a bus pass



Buy Fuel

You have a choice to arrange your own transport

What did we hear?

How do you feel about your current taxi's/transport?

"Most of the time it's not late to college"

"Taxi is good at picking me up"

"I don't like sharing with some people."

"It's forgot me sometimes."

"The driver smokes while waiting and when we're driving, WITH the window UP."

"It takes too long to pick me up."

"It's always late!" (this was the experience of 4 young people"

"I don't know if they're coming. Once they came at 8:45 and I had to be in college for 9!"

"Some people take ages and then we're late."

"I'm always on the bus with someone who annoys me, and I have to put up with her for over an hour."

- "Traffic can mean it takes forever."

- "I don't like the traffic."

- "My escort is more interested in his phone than this job, but he will answer me if it is important."

- "Switching drivers all of the time."

- "Not enough space for all the passengers- It's a squeeze- trip over the people."

"I Get home late because I finish at 3 O'clock but don't get home till 5 as I am waiting for someone who finishes school at 4:30."

Suggestion for improvement- Make sure that everyone who is on the taxi finishes school at the same time and are all living in a similar area, so the taxi doesn't take forever.

How do you feel about the idea of your family organising your transport?

- "I can travel with who I want."

- "I can be more independent and book it myself."

- "I wouldn't need to worry about anyone else in the taxi."

- "If I organised my own, I'll get there without any fuss."

- "Ok- There would be no panic- book it all myself."

- "I'm not bothered. As long as I get to college".

- "I like the idea of my carers paying for my transportation."

- "Kirklees council are being lazy. They should be the ones organising this. If my parents got money for petrol, my mum's car is broken so my parents need to get to work themselves"

How might you travel if this happened?

- "I would get a taxi on my own."

- "Sometimes my mum would take me and sometimes I would get the bus on my own."

- "It might be a bit of both, may bring in if same working day."

- "I'd get a bus."

- "Taxi"

- "I'd get dropped off."

What did we hear?

Are there good things about this idea?

- "Don't have to pick others up."
- "I would get home at a decent time."
- "I know I'd be on time and the taxi would turn up on time."
- "I'd get home quicker less stress for my mum as she worries current taxi setup is not going to come."
- "Good when classes finish earlier so they can leave earlier" x2.
- "More independence"
- "Parents can take me."

Are there bad things about this idea?

- "I might not feel scared being on my own."
- "I might get scared on my own."
- "Might cause stress for parents."
- "Might not be anyone home."
- "Parents work full time- They wouldn't be able to bring me in."
- "I can't travel on public transport."
- "Public transport would take longer for me."

Key Learning

- Punctuality, Reliability, Consistency and the Duration of Journeys are issues highlighted in the current offer
- Independence, flexibility and the chance to reduce travel time were all positives about a direct payment style offer
- Anxieties around safety and independent travel skills were raised as concerns around moving to a direct payment style offer

In Summary

Young people told us, that they travelled to college in a variety of ways. Most commonly by taxi or mini bus, shared with other young people. Some young people highlighted how their transport was adequate and would in most cases get them to college on time. There were some discussions around difficulties and suggestions for improvements.

Young people spoke about transport arriving late or at irregular times in the morning. This meant they would sometimes be late to college or would not be ready and needed to rush to get out in time. There was one instance where a young person was picked up at 8:45 am when college started at 9 am. Due to the shared nature of the transport offer, young people described finishing college at 3 pm but not leaving until 4:30 pm, as they would be waiting for other students to finish their learning. Their journeys took longer to get back home because the transport would have to drop other students off on the way home first.

Some young people spoke of distress caused by the lack of consistency when it came to the timings of picking up and dropping off and the constant changing of drivers. At times young people spoke of experiences of traveling with who didn't get on with. Sometimes the transport was not adapted or large enough to accommodate the variety of needs of the young people. The quality of the transport itself was discussed by one young person, where a minibus was missing seats so everyone had to squeeze onto the remaining seating.

The young people generally saw the alternate, direct payment style offer as positive. They identified how this could address some of the issues that they had raised.

- Young people spoke about how the new offer would allow them to travel in ways they prefer. That could be with people they choose, or they could travel on their own.
- Travelling on their own or with people who lived nearby, meant that they would be able to get home much sooner than they currently do. They felt their journey would be shorter.
- One young person spoke about how the new offer would allow them to travel more independently. They currently get a taxi into school every day but said that the new offer would allow them to pay for a bus pass, would let them plan their journeys and gain independent travel skills. They felt this would take some of the pressure off of their parent to drop them off every morning.

It is important to note that some young people spoke about how the opportunity to travel more independently would cause them more distress. Fears around traveling alone in a taxi, or arriving home with no parents or carers in to meet them, were all raised as concerns.

Overall, young people offered suggestions about how the current offer could be improved. They also spoke quite positively about the new offer saying how it would offer more independence and overcome some of the issues raised with the current offer.



Want to know more?

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