

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – STAGE 1

EIA Ref	PR/12/28	
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SECTION 1 –Context & Background

1.1 What is the title of the policy / practice?

Applying eligibility criteria rigidly for specialised transport services provided for students attending the foundation course at Riverside College, Kingsway site.

1.2 What is the current status of the policy / practice?

Existing ✓

Changed ✓

New

1.3 What are the principal aims and intended outcomes of the policy / practice?

The Council currently operate two minibuses and one taxi service to/from the College, these are used by both eligible students as well as some students who do not meet the criteria for assisted travel due to distance or ability levels. For future academic years (from 2012/13), the Council will have to apply the eligibility criteria strictly and offer the specialised door to door service to entitled students only. This is on the grounds of reduced grants and overall funding levels available for transport.

1.4 Who has primary responsibility for delivering the policy / practice?

Transport Co-ordination Section.

1.5 Who are the main stakeholders?

Halton Borough Council, Passengers and their families/carers, Riverside College.

1.6 Who is the policy/practice intended to affect?

Residents

Staff

Specific Group(s)

(add details below)

There is no change proposed to the service provided for eligible students, only students who fall outside of the Transport Policy. For students who will not be offered the door-to-door transport service, they will be offered independent travel training in order to enable them to use public transport services to access the college. Risk assessments will be carried out for each individual relevant to independent travel training.

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1.7 Are there any other related policies / practices?

Sustainable School Travel Policy.
Adult Travel Policy.
Code of Practice for Passenger Transport.
'Supporting Independence' Halton Travel Training Toolkit

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SECTION 2 – Consideration of Impact

2.1 Relevance: – the Public Sector Equality Duty

Do this policy/practice / service have due regard to the need to: -

- (a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conflict that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between two persons who share a relevant protected characteristic
- (c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Yes (Y) No ()

State reasons below

(Relevance to service users/staff)

All drivers have received relevant training in disability awareness including awareness of specialist needs and conditions. For those students who will rely on public transport to access the college, all bus drivers have received appropriate training in disability awareness as part of the Driver CPC. Travel trainees are issued with identifiable wallets, which alerts bus drivers to the passenger requiring additional assistance, they are also provided with advice on how to avoid potential conflict.

2.2 Has data and information been used in determining the impact of the policy / procedure under review?

Equality Group(s)	All.
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Baseline data and information

Information from Children's and Communities Directorates in relation to specialist conditions of passengers relevant to transport and individuals who are suitable to receive travel training. Information from schools/centres will be used in order to ensure that the most appropriate mode of travel is sought for individuals and to ensure that overall transport is provided safely.

2.3 On the basis of evidence, has the actual / potential impact of the policy/ practice been judged to be positive (+), neutral (=) or negative (-) for each of the equality groups and in what way? Is the level of impact judged to be high (H), medium ((M), or Low (L)?

Protected Characteristic	Impact type +, =, -	Level H, M, L, -	Nature of impact
Age	=	/	The eligibility criteria are 'need' based as opposed to age related.
Disability	=	/	Students with higher level disability and complex needs will continue to access the provided transport services.

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Gender	=	/	No change and no impact on the grounds of gender.
Race / ethnicity	=	/	No change and no impact on the grounds of race/ethnicity.
Religion / belief	=	/	No change and no impact on the grounds of religion/belief.
Sexual Orientation	=	/	No change and no impact on the grounds of sexual orientation.
Transgender	=	/	No change and no impact on the grounds of transgender.
Marital status/ Civil Partnerships	=	/	No change and no impact on the grounds of marital status.
Pregnancy/Maternity	=	/	No change and no impact on the grounds of pregnancy/maternity.
In Halton two further vulnerable groups have been identified: -			
Carers	=	/	Additional support may need to be provided to certain carers.
Socio – economic disadvantage	=	/	No change and no impact on the grounds of socio-economic disadvantage.

2.4 Does the policy/practice have any potential impact upon safeguarding vulnerable people?

No, drivers of specialised transport services have valid CRB clearances and have received appropriate training; drivers of bus services have received relevant training.

2.5 How will the impact of the policy / practice be monitored?

Continual monitoring from Transport Co-ordination.

2.6 Who will be responsible for monitoring?

Lead Officer Transport Co-ordination.

2.7 If any negative impacts, or potential negative impacts, have been identified what mitigating actions will be put in place, thereby eliminating the need for a further Stage 2 assessment. Where none have been identified insert 'no further action required' in the first column

Action & purpose / outcome	Priority	Timeframe	Lead Officer
No further action required	/		

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2.8 Summary of stakeholders involved in this review

Job Title or Name	Organisation / representative of
Transport Co-ordination	Halton Borough Council
Special Education Department	Halton Borough Council
Adult Social Care	Halton Borough Council
Riverside College	Riverside College
Independent Travel Trainer	Halton Borough Council
Individuals/Carers	Affected passengers/their carers

2.9 Completion Statement

As the identified Lead Officer of this review I confirm that:-

No negative impact has been identified for one or more equality groups and that a Stage 2 Assessment is not required Y ☐

Signed:



Date: 17/07/2012

Completed EIAs should be sent to Les Unsworth, Corporate and Organisational Policy, to be given a unique reference number and for inclusion on the central register.