

## Appendix 2

### Southwark school travel assistance policy: summary of changes

Below is a summary of the key differences between the Council's current Home to School Transport Policy and the new School Travel Assistance policy.

- The new policy changes the emphasis from transport to travel assistance tailoring the type of assistance offered to the specific needs of the young person, with the council focusing on giving young people more independence and preparing families for their transition to adulthood.
- All children will apply using the same application form to capture all the information necessary to make an initial decision of the family's circumstances and assess against the eligibility criteria.
- The application process has a clear timeline making the process clearer for applicants.
- An in depth assessment will be carried out for each applicant which may include a home visit in some cases.
- Appeals will be dealt with in two stages, initially by a head of service and then externally.
- Where travel assistance is agreed, Southwark Council will decide which solution to provide. Priority will always be given to solutions that develop independence.
- Greater school choice and lower distance requirements are available for children from low income families.
- If the LA has agreed to name an out of borough provision based on a parent's preference and the parent has agreed to make transport arrangements, should the family's circumstances change and they require additional support, the LA may consider a change of placement.
- The Council will use pick up points for some journeys which require children to walk a short distance to be picked up. A responsible adult must be available at the pick up/drop off point to receive the child.
- Pupil Support Assistants will not automatically be provided in every vehicle, it will only be where it is deemed necessary for the child's safety.
- Travel assistance will be reviewed at least annually at the child's school and parents must attend the review.
- The type of provision put in place will be reviewed as each child gets older and becomes more independent.
- Seats on buses may be made available to parents of children not eligible for travel assistance for a charge.
- Where a family is in receipt of a motability vehicle for the benefit of the child, this may be taken into account during the assessment process.