

## **Appendix E**

# **Post 16 Transport Policy for Central Bedfordshire 2012/13 Consultation**

**Full report, July 2011**

## Background

During May and June 2011 Central Bedfordshire Council undertook a consultation on proposed changes to the Post 16 Transport Policy 2012/13 for free or subsidised transport to assist 16-18 year old learners access education.

Copies of the consultation questionnaire and guidance note were circulated to all Central Bedfordshire Upper schools, and Wootton Upper School within the Bedford Borough area. Sufficient copies were provided to be distributed to parents of Year 10 students, as these would be the individuals entering further education in the academic year 2012-13 when the amended policy would be implemented.

Central Bedfordshire Residents and the general public were able to view the proposals and consultation questionnaire on the Council's website and those who have registered interest in school transport consultation were sent an email notification.

## Responses

118 responses were received to this consultation.

In addition to providing overall results, analysis has been undertaken by the following sub groups.

### Respondents' interest in the consultation

- Parent or Carer of under 16 year old - 33 respondents
- Currently receiving free or subsidised transport for Further Education (aged between 16-18 years old) – 25 responses
- Under 16 year old considering free or subsidised transport for Further Education – 20 responses
- Central Bedfordshire resident – 20 responses

### Age

- 13-15 years old – 19 responses
- 16- 18 years old – 32 responses
- 19+ - 67 responses

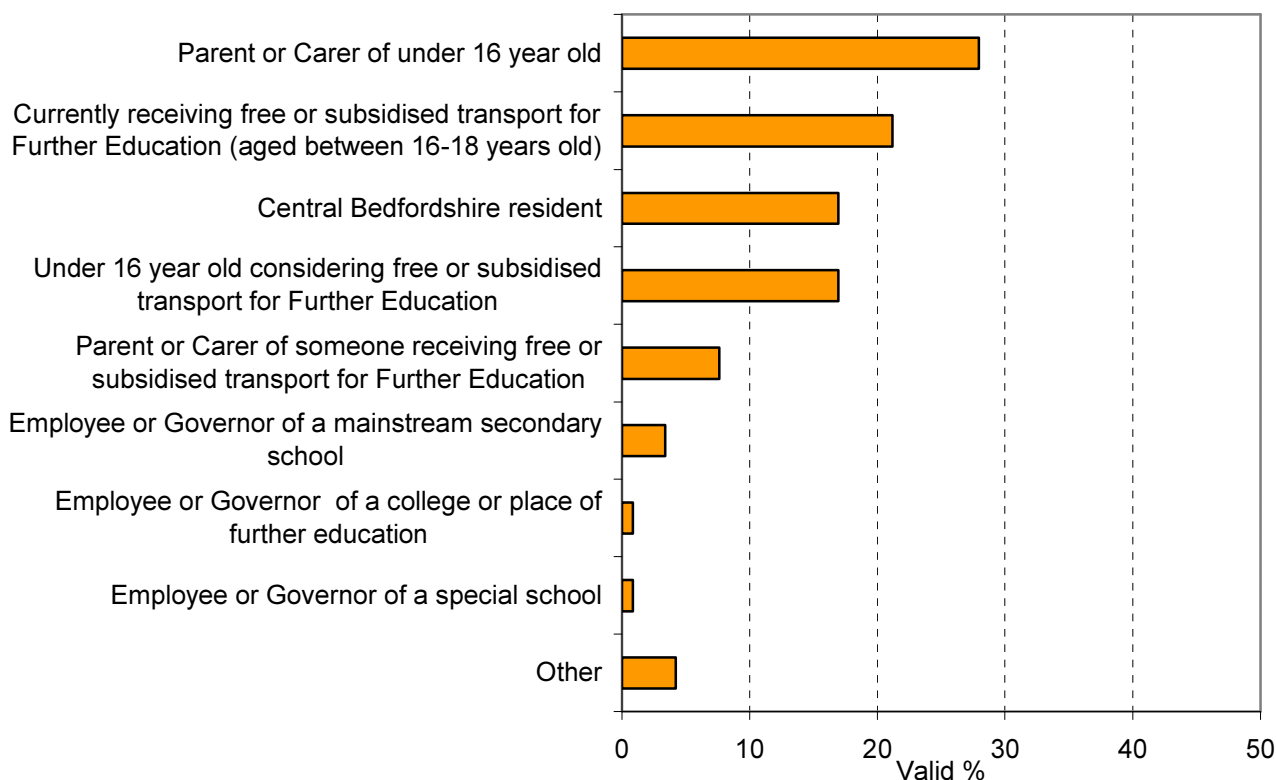
Cross analysis of the results by different groups of respondents will identify the views of these groups, and highlight where contrasts in viewpoints exist. Commentary on results is provided where there are significant differences. Full data tables are provided in Appendix 2.

Due to small number of responses across most of the sub groups for caution must be taken when interpreting results by these groups. For example if one or two Central Bedfordshire Residents responded with a different view, this could change the results for this group significantly.

Respondents' home postcodes have been converted to town level. These is summarised in Appendix 4.

## Respondent profile

### Interest in consultation



The largest level of responses to this consultation were from parents or carers of an under 16 year old (28%, 33 people) and those aged 16-18 years old currently receiving free or subsidised transport (21%, 25 people).

17% of the responses were from Central Bedfordshire Residents and a further 17% from under 16 year old considering free or subsidised transport for Further Education (both 20 people).

5 people specified other reasons for their interest in this consultation. These are provided as verbatim comments below.

### Other interest in consultation specified

*Buzzcycles, Leighton Buzzard's campaigning cycle club*

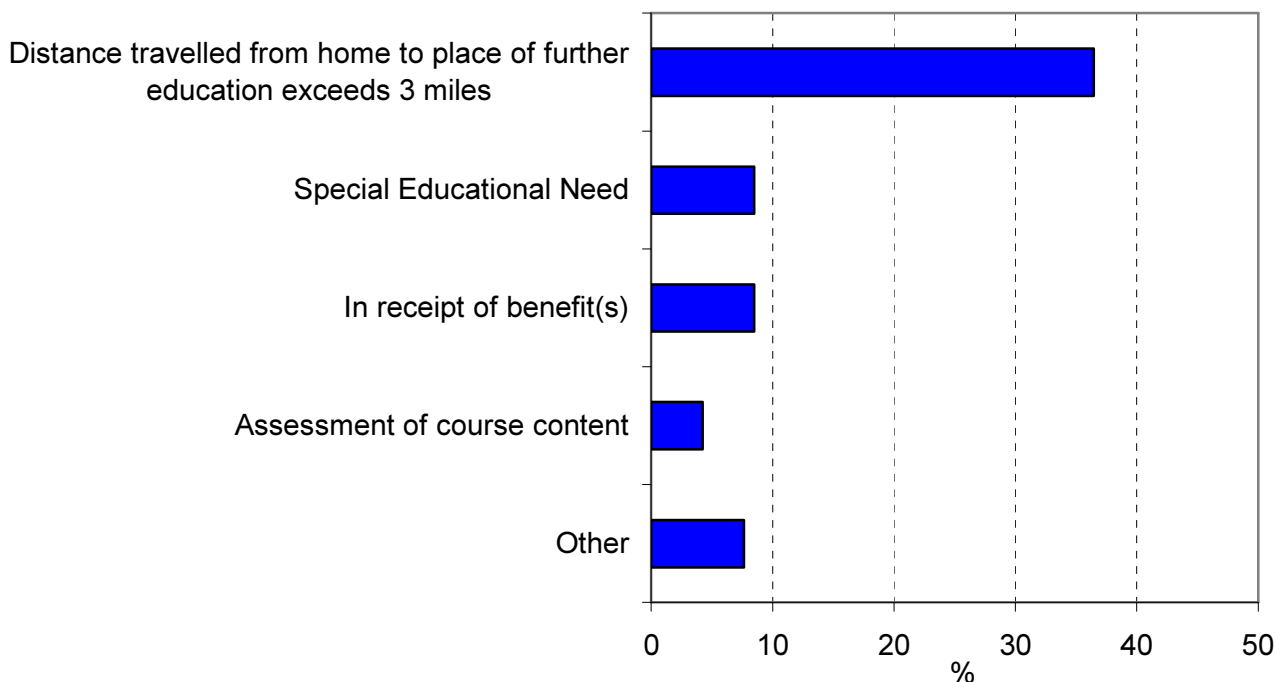
*Have to pay to use the bus*

*Parent of 16 /13 and 12 year olds*

*Parent of a child with SEN due to leave 6th form and parent of a child aged 16*

*Pay for a bus pass*

**Reason child currently receives free or subsidised transport to access further education or post 16 learning.**

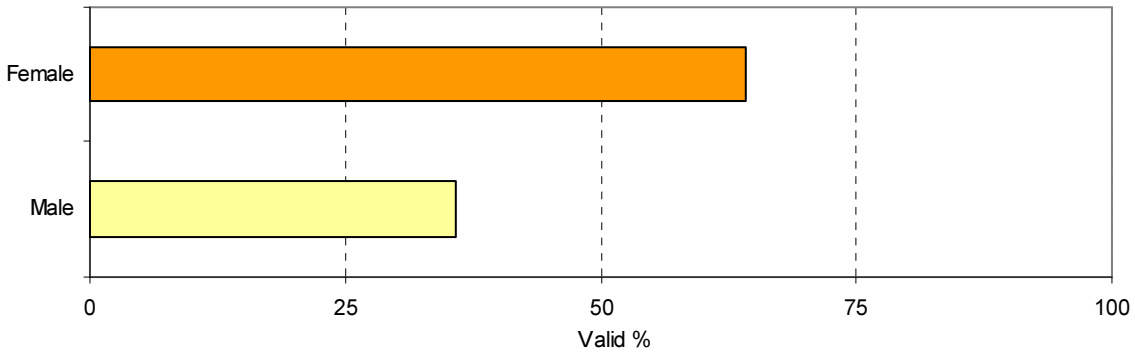


Distance travelled from home was the most common reason for receiving free or subsidised transport amongst respondents (36%, 43 people). Only 8% of the responses were from people who were currently receiving free or subsidised transport on the grounds of Special Education Needs and a further 8% from people in receipt of benefit(s) (10 people).

During the academic year 2010/11, a total of 1,145 Central Bedfordshire learners were in receipt of free or subsidised transport to a mainstream school or college across for further education.

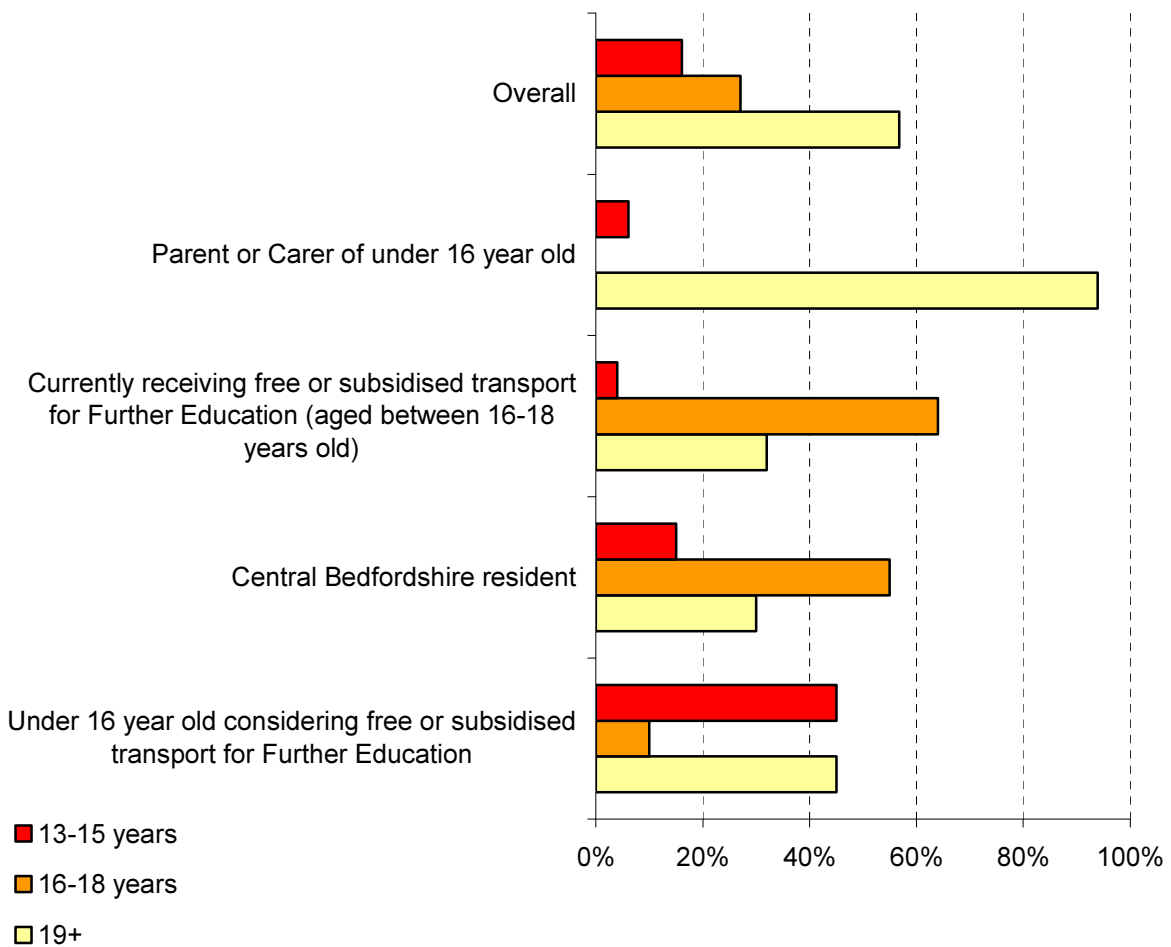
Of these, 156 learners were in receipt of free or subsidised transport on the grounds of Special Education Needs. Only 10 responses were received to this consultation from people in this group, accounting for just 6% of transport recipients on SEN grounds.

## Gender



The majority of respondents to this consultation were female (64%, 75 people).

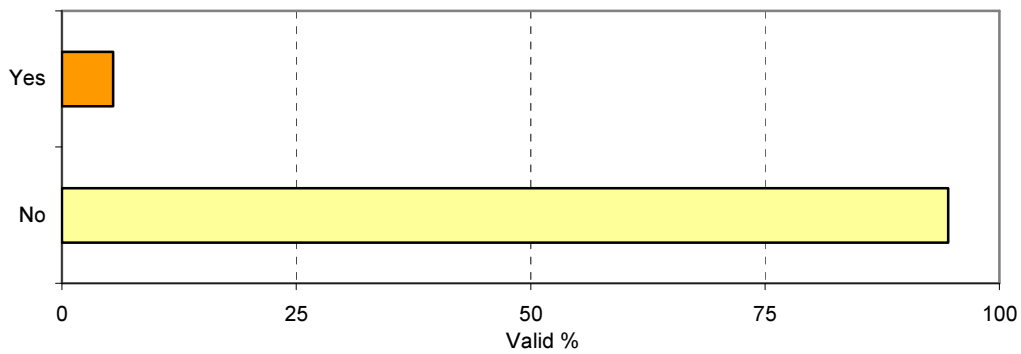
## Age



Over half of respondents overall were aged over 19 years old (57% 67 people), with 16-18 year olds accounting for a further 27% of respondents (32 people).

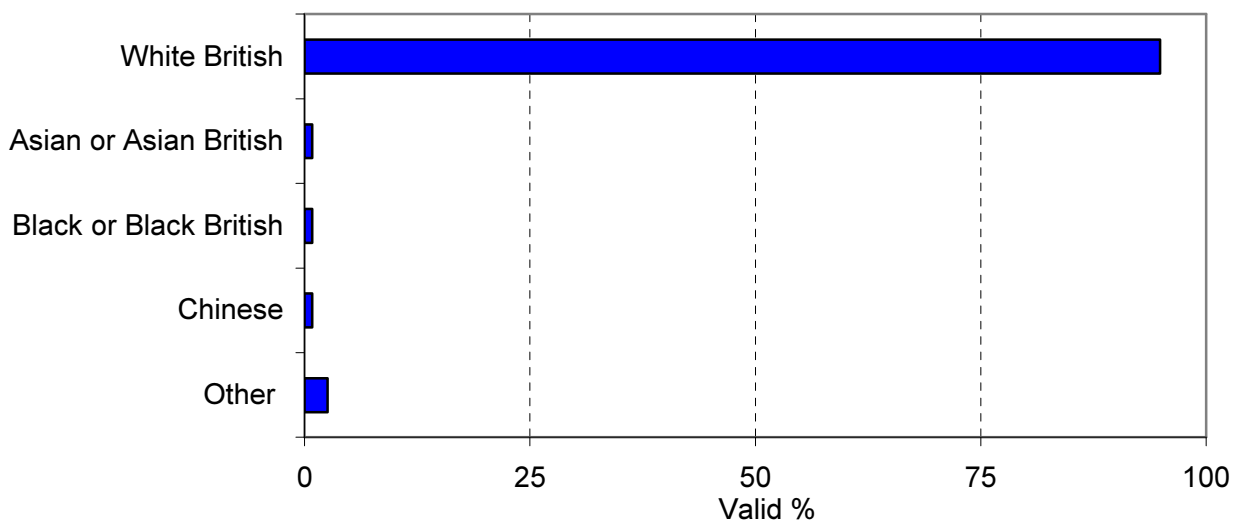
Where respondents have indicated they are an under 16 year old considering free or subsidised transport or are currently receiving free or subsidised transport and have indicated their age being over 19 years old, it can be assumed these individuals are a parent or carer of someone who is under 16 years old considering free or subsidised transport for further education or a parent or carer of a 16-18 years old currently in receipt of post 16 transport.

## Disability



6% of respondents overall considered themselves to be disabled (5 people).

## Ethnicity



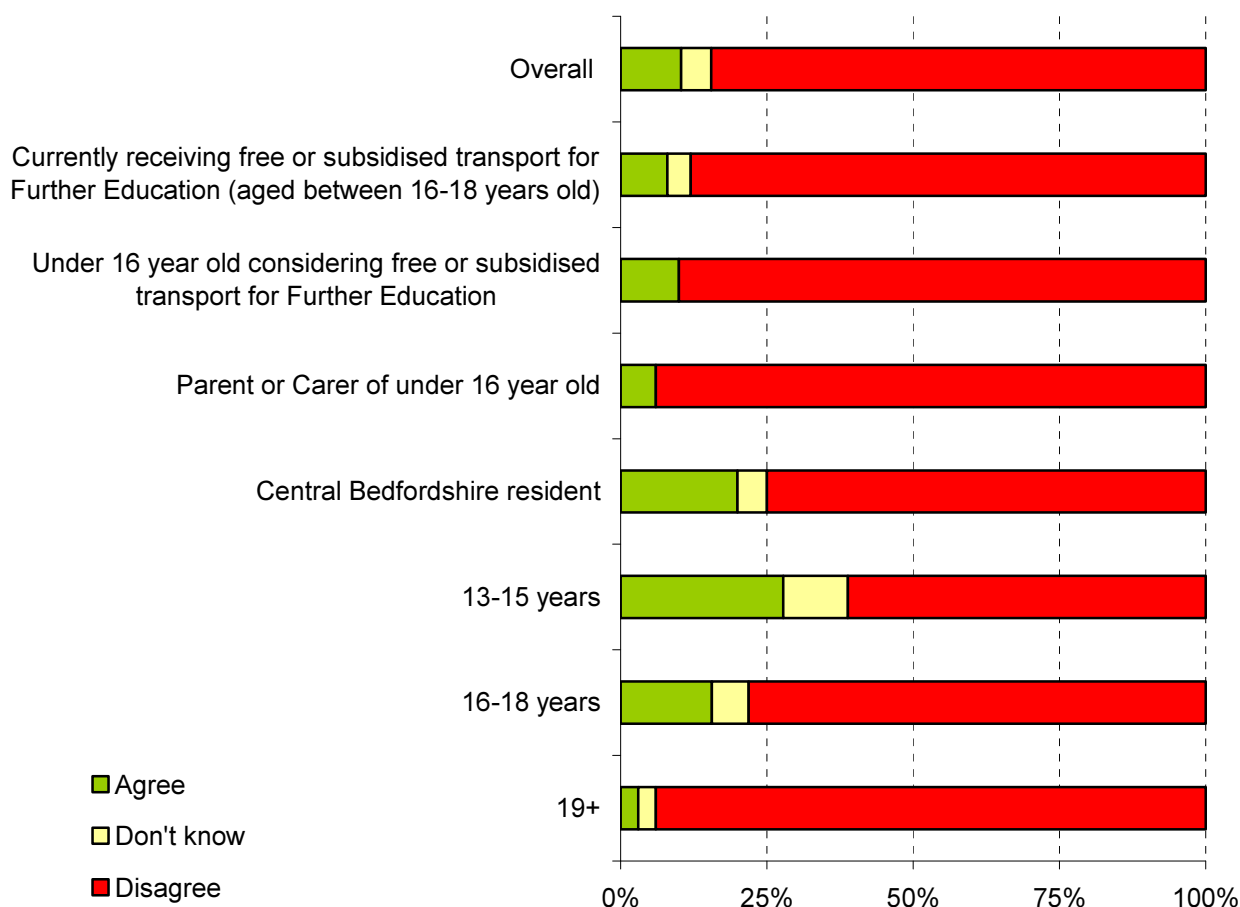
The majority of respondents to the consultation indicated their ethnicity as being White British (95%, 111 people). This is broadly in line with the ethnic population of Central Bedfordshire overall.

## Proposal to stop providing free or subsidised transport on grounds of distance

Current Policy: Subsidised transport is provided for Post 16 students who live more than 3 miles and no more than 20 miles:

- to a school where the learner has been enrolled for a minimum of two years and has been eligible for subsidised transport, or
- to the nearest establishment which offers a qualification (s) at the same level and in the same subject area(s) as the course applied for and accepted on to.

The Council proposes that subsidised transport is no longer provided for post 16 students to school or college, based on the distance criteria unless they or their parents meet one of the other eligibility.



The majority of respondents overall disagreed with the proposals to stop provision of free or subsidised transport for post 16 students on the grounds of distance (85% disagreed).

There were higher levels of disagreement with this proposal amongst parents or carers of under 16 year olds and those aged over 19 years old (both 94% disagreed).<sup>1</sup>

Respondents aged 13-15 years old, who we would consider to be the age group that the changes to this policy are likely to affect were more favourable to the proposal to stop post 16 transport provision on the grounds of distance (28% agreed, 5 people)

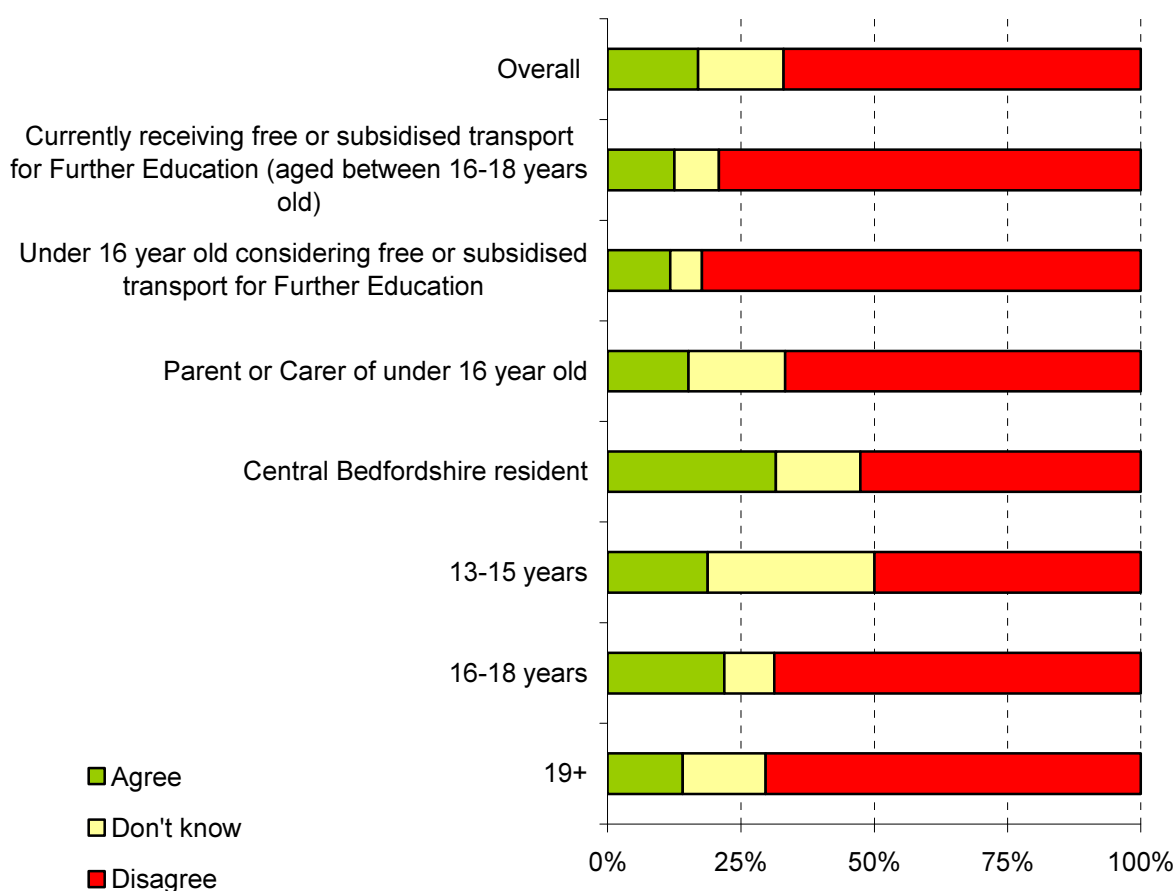
<sup>1</sup> Parents of carers of under 16 year olds account for just under half of the over 19 year old sub group therefore their views.

as were those responding as Central Bedfordshire Residents (20% agreed, 4 people). There was however a higher degree of no opinion from respondents aged 13-15 years old to this proposal.

### Proposal to stop providing free or subsidised transport on grounds of assessment of course content

**Current Policy:** Subsidised transport is provided for Post 16 students who live more than 3 miles and no more than 20 miles:  
 - to the nearest establishment which offers a qualification (s) at the same level and in the same subject area(s) as the course applied for and accepted on to

The Council proposes that subsidised transport is no longer provided for post 16 students to school or college, based on course content criteria unless they or their parents meet one of the other eligibility.



Over two thirds of respondents overall disagreed with the proposal to stop provision of free or subsidised transport on the grounds of assessment of course content (67% disagreed).

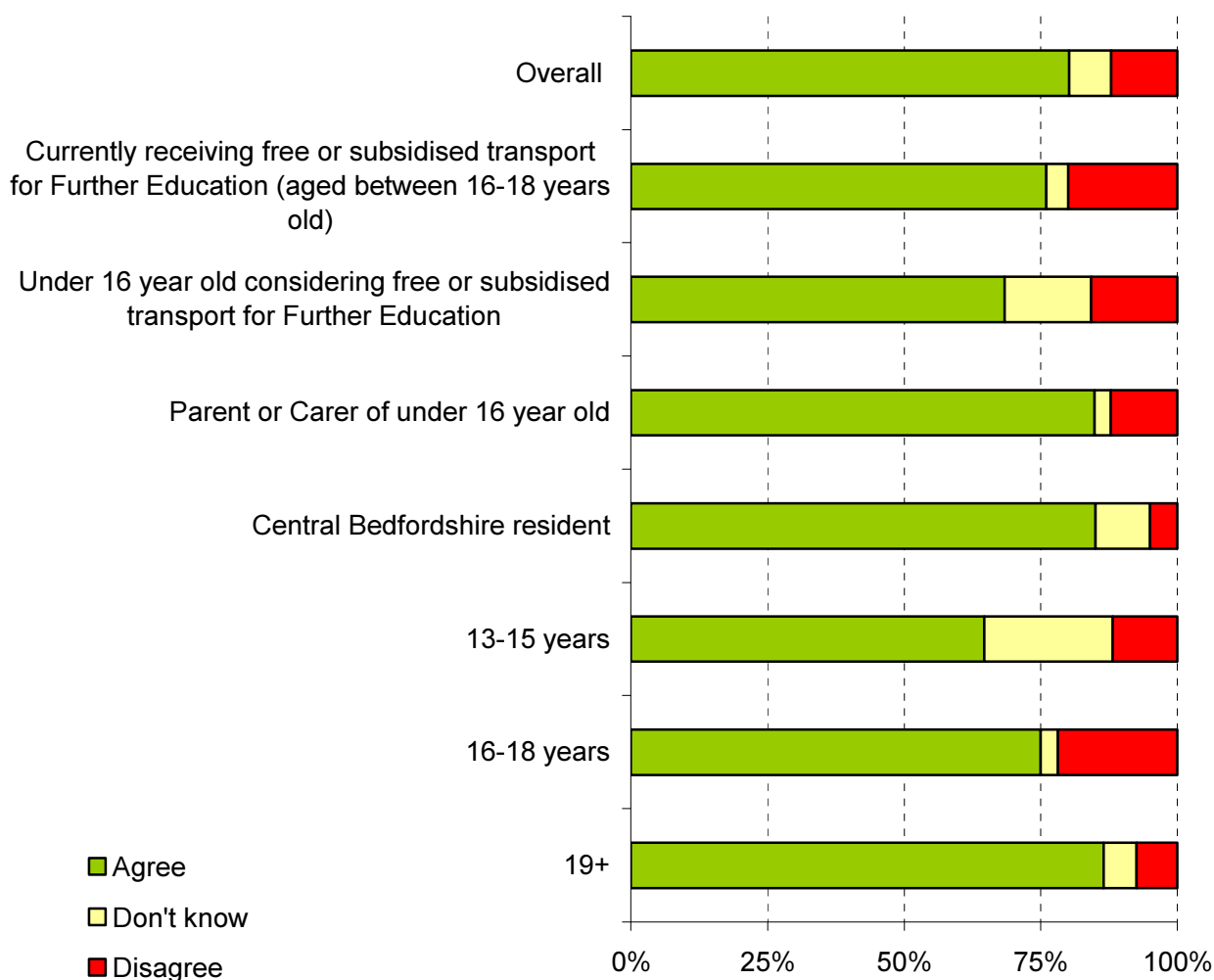
Under 16 year olds considering free or subsidised transport for further education and those currently receiving free or subsidised transport were even more likely to disagree with this proposal (82% and 79% disagreed respectively).



## Proposal to continue to provide free or subsidised transport on grounds of low income

Current policy: Where eligibility criteria are met, students living in families in receipt of certain benefits are provided with free transport. This includes families in receipt of Income Support, Maximum Working Tax Credit, Pension Credits, Employment Support Allowance or Income Based Job Seekers Transport will be provided to the nearest school or college offering the course of choice that is more than 3 miles and up to a maximum of 15 miles from the students' home address.

The Council proposes that the current eligibility criteria continue.



There was a strong level of overall agreement for the proposal to continue the provision of free or subsidised transport for students from low income families (80% agreed overall).

Younger respondents were less likely to have an opinion on this proposal with 24% of 13-15 year olds (4 people) and 16% of under 16 year olds considering free or subsidised transport for further education (3 people) responding don't know.

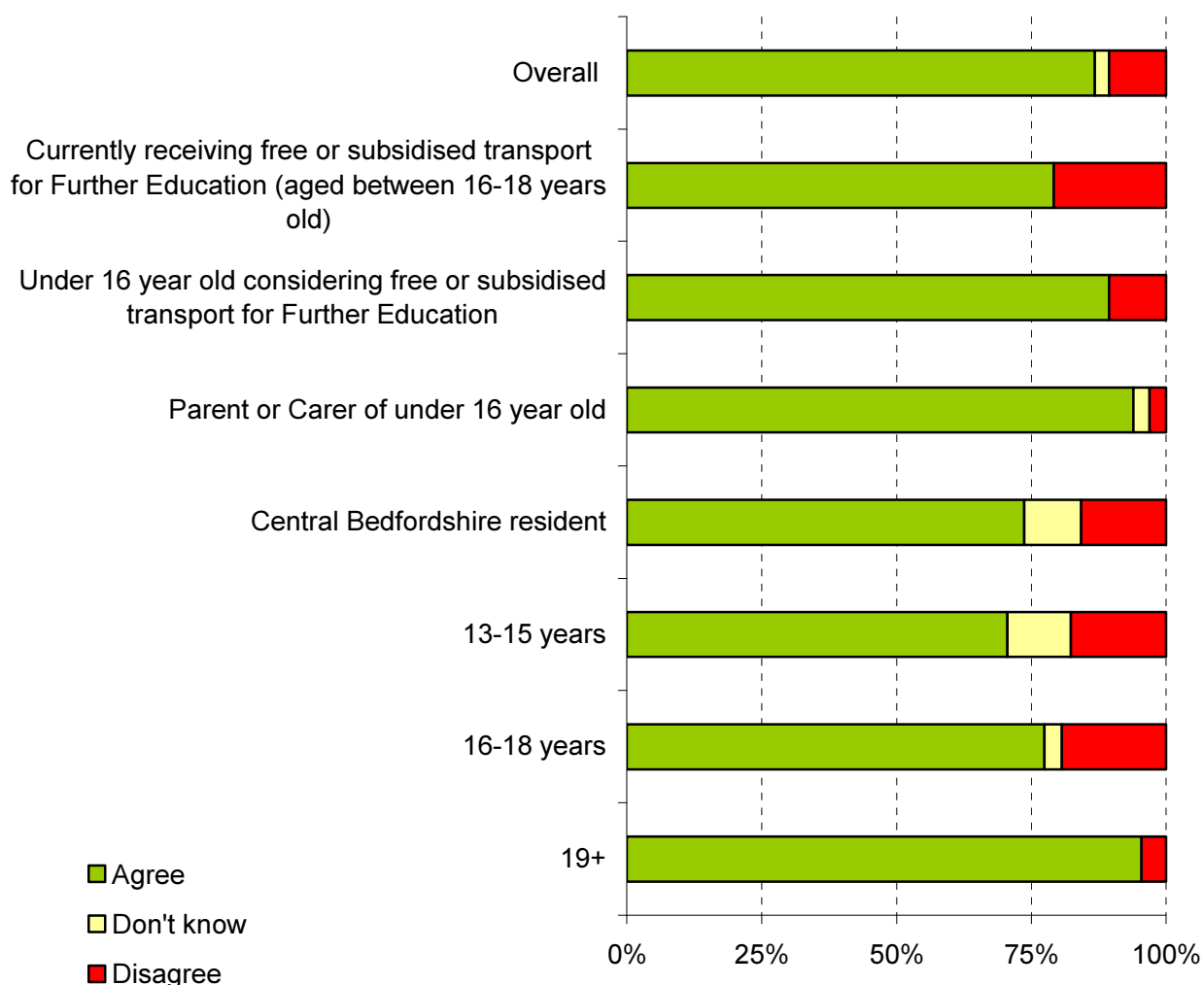
This could suggest a lack of understanding around the aspects of this proposal amongst these groups of respondents.

Those currently receiving free or subsidised transport and the 16-18 year old age group were more likely to disagree with the proposal to continue provision on the grounds of low income (20% and 22% respectively).

## Proposal to continue to provide free or subsidised transport on medical grounds

Current policy: Where a student attends the nearest school or college, transport is currently considered on medical grounds irrespective of distance between home and college. The medical condition can be temporary or long term and each application is considered on an individual basis. An application for transport has to be supported by a GP or medical consultant. Charges are made on a pro rata basis, dependant on the timescale for which transport is required.

The Council proposes that the current arrangements continue, with the most cost effective transport being provided for a maximum of one term at a time and subject to the Council discussing with GP commissioners regarding the level of appropriate transport for each student.



The majority of respondents overall agreed with the proposal to continue the provision of free or subsidised post 16 transport on medical grounds (87% agreed).

Parents or carers of under 16 year olds and those aged over 19 years old were even more likely to agree with this proposal (94% and 95% respectively).

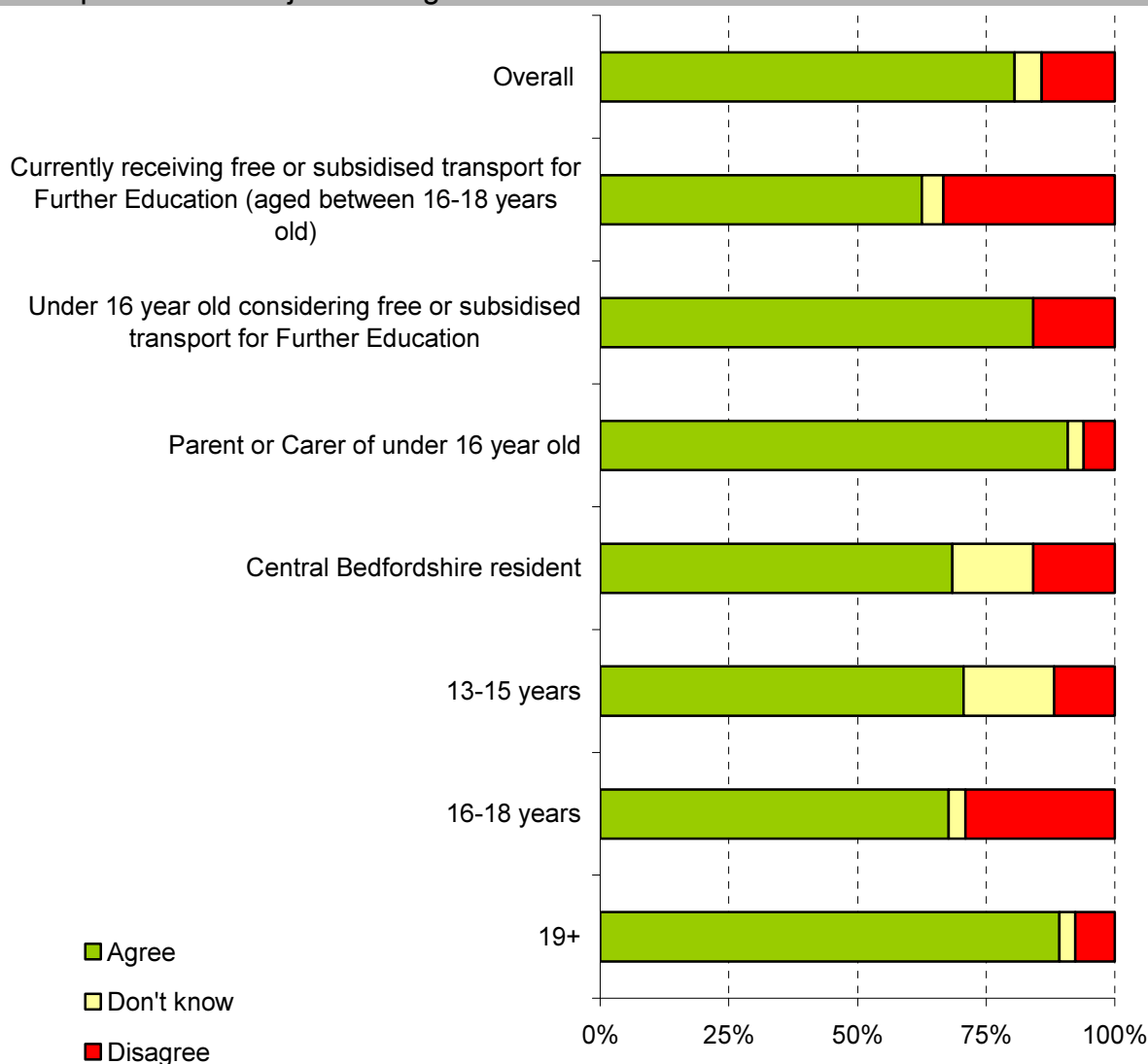
There were larger proportions of respondents expressing no opinion to this proposal within the 13-15 age group (12%, 2 people) and amongst Residents (10%, 2 people).

## Proposal to continue to provide free or subsidised transport on Special Education Needs grounds

Current policy: Students with special educational needs are eligible for transport if they attend the nearest school or college that is more than 3 miles from their home address or they have transport needs specifically identified in their statement of special educational need or when a student leaves a local authority maintained school to attend a Further Education establishment and their statement ends they will be assessed under the statutory duties stated in the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act (2009).

Where a student remains in education, free or subsidised transport is provided up to the age of 25.

The Council proposes that students will be eligible to receive transport if they have transport needs specifically identified in their annual assessment. This could be the statement of special educational needs or when a student leaves a local authority maintained school to attend a Further Education establishment and their statement ends, the assessment completed under the statutory duties stated in the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act (2009). The most appropriate mode of travel will be agreed as part of the annual assessment process. Entitlement to transport will be subject to a rigorous annual review.



4 in 5 respondents overall agreed with the proposal to continue to provide free or subsidised transport on the grounds of Special Education Need (81%).

Parents or carers of under 16 year olds and those aged over 19 years old were even more likely to agree with this proposal (91% and 89% agreed respectively).

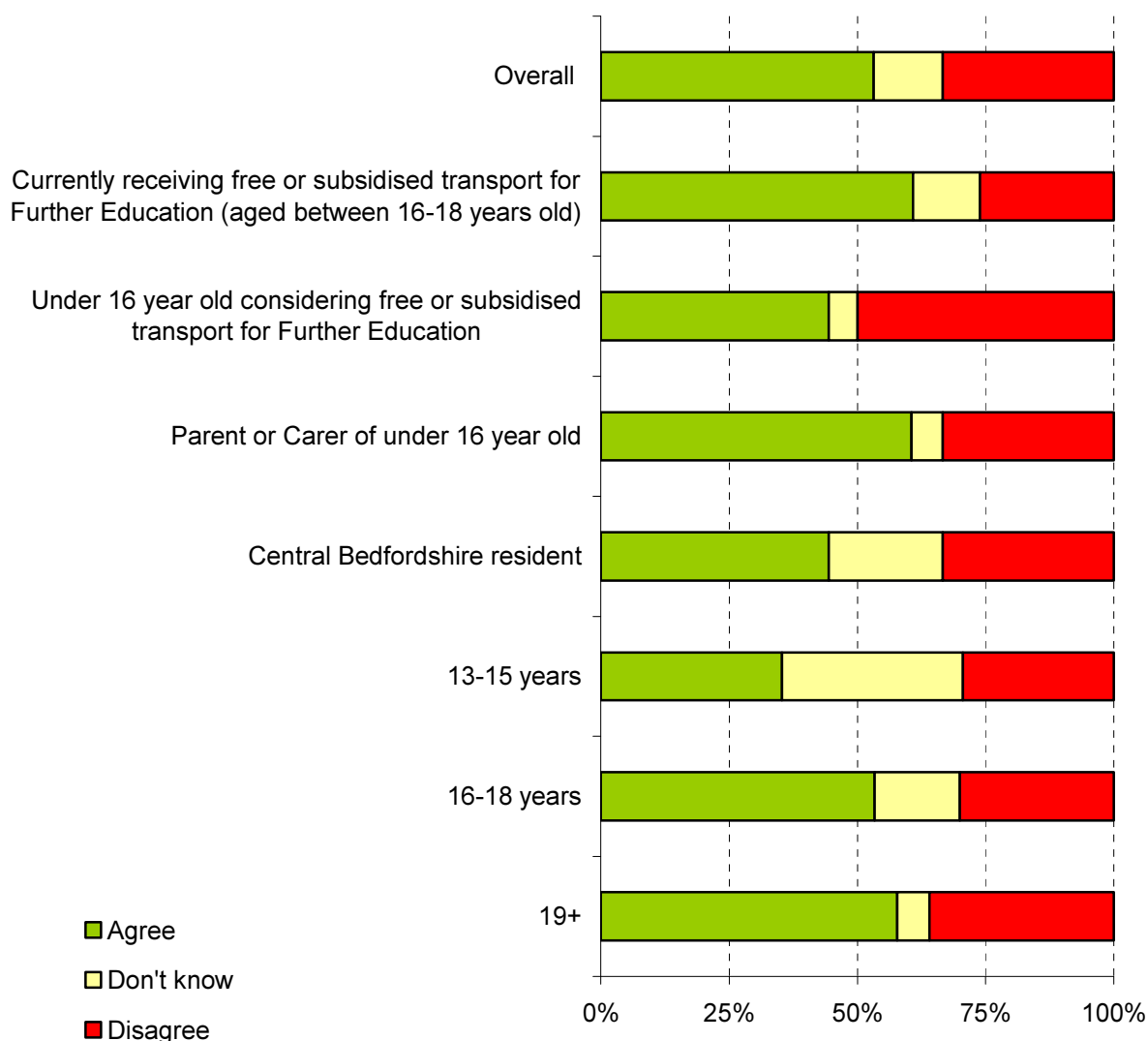
There were lower levels of agreement to this proposal from those currently receiving free or subsidised transport and those aged 16-18 years old (63% and 68% agreed respectively).

Whilst there were also lower levels of agreement with this proposal amongst Residents and 13-15 year olds, these groups expressed a greater level of no opinion (16% and 18% respectively responded don't know).

**Proposal to continue to provide free or subsidised transport where the Local Authority is the corporate parent (for looked after children, unaccompanied refugees and asylum seekers)**

Current Policy: As Corporate Parents, Central Bedfordshire Council will ensure that free transport will be provided for students to attend the most suitable establishment to meet their individual needs, irrespective of distance.

The Council proposes that the current arrangements continue to ensure that students can attend the most suitable establishment to meet their individual needs, irrespective of distance.



Just over half of respondents overall agreed with the proposal to continue free or subsidised transport where the Local Authority is the corporate parent (53%).

Residents and under 16 year olds considering free or subsidised transport for further education were even less likely to agree with this proposal (both 44% agreed). Moreover, Residents were also less likely to express an opinion to this proposal (22% responded don't know, 4 people).

Similarly, 13-15 year olds were much less likely to have an opinion on this proposal (35% responded don't know, 6 people).

## Comments about the proposed change to the provision of free or subsidised transport for 16-18 year old learners

54 respondents made comments about the proposed changes to the provision of free or subsidised transport for 16-18 year old learners. These comments have been grouped into common themes and are summarised in the table below.

	Count	%
Charging for transport will discourage further education	14	12
There will be an adverse impact on low income families not in receipt of benefits/ consider individual circumstances	14	12
All young people in further education should have access to free transport / one policy for all	11	9
Proposals would be disadvantageous to students living in rural areas	10	8
Need for improved and safer cycling/ walking routes	5	4
Continue transport on distance criteria	3	3
Post 16 Transport Policy to be linked with the Local Sustainable Transport Policy and Local Transport Plan	3	3
Would find it difficult to transport child to Further Education if free/subsidised transport was removed	2	2
More checks to make sure those using free/subsidised travel has a pass	1	1
Provide affordable and accessible local public transport services	1	1

## Data Tables

### Over results tables

#### Q1.Please indicate your interest in this consultation

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Parent or Carer of under 16 year old	33	28	28
Currently receiving free or subsidised transport for Further Education (aged between 16-18 years old)	25	21	21
Central Bedfordshire resident	20	17	17
Under 16 year old considering free or subsidised transport for Further Education	20	17	17
Parent or Carer of someone receiving free or subsidised transport for Further Education	9	8	8
Employee or Governor of a mainstream secondary school	4	3	3
Employee or Governor of a college or place of further education	1	1	1
Employee or Governor of a special school	1	1	1
Other (please specify below)	5	4	4
Total	118	100	100

**Q2. If you or your child currently receive free or subsidised transport to access further education or post 16 learning, please tell us why this is.**

	Frequency	Percent
Distance travelled from home to place of further education exceeds 3 miles	43	36
Special Educational Need	10	8
In receipt of benefit(s)	10	8
Assessment of course content	5	4
Other	9	8

**Q3. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to stop free or subsidised transport on the following grounds:**

**Q3a.Distance**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Agree	12	10	10
Disagree	98	83	84
Don't know	6	5	5
Total	116	98	100
Missing	2	2	
Total	118	100	

**Q3b.Assessment of course content**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Agree	19	16	17
Disagree	75	64	67
Don't know	18	15	16
Total	112	95	100
Missing	6	5	
Total	118	100	

**Q4 Do you agree or disagree that free or subsidised transport should continue to be provided on the following grounds:**

**Q4a.Low income**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Agree	93	79	80
Disagree	14	12	12
Don't know	9	8	8
Total	116	98	100
Missing	2	2	
Total	118	100	

**Q4b.Medical grounds**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Agree	99	84	87
Disagree	12	10	11
Don't know	3	3	3
Total	114	97	100
Missing	4	3	
Total	118	100	

**Q4c.Special Education Needs**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Agree	91	77	81
Disagree	16	14	14
Don't know	6	5	5
Total	113	96	100
Missing	5	4	
Total	118	100	



**Q4d.Local Authority is the corporate parent (looked after children, unaccompanied refugees and asylum seekers)**

	Frequency	Percent	Percent
Agree	59	50	53
Disagree	37	31	33
Don't know	15	13	14
Total	111	94	100
Missing	7	6	
Total	118	100	

**Q6.Are you male or female?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Female	75	64	64
Male	42	36	36
Total	117	99	100
Missing	1	1	
Total	118	100	

**Q7.What is your age?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
13-15 yrs	19	16	16
16-18 yrs	32	27	27
19-29 yrs	1	1	1
30-44 yrs	20	17	17
45-59 yrs	42	36	36
60-64 yrs	3	3	3
65-74 yrs	1	1	1
Total	118	100	100

**Q8.Do you consider yourself to be disabled?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
No	104	88	95
Yes	6	5	5
Total	110	93	100
Missing	8	7	
Total	118	100	

**Q9.To which of these groups do you consider you belong?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
White British	111	94	95
Asian or Asian British	1	1	1
Black or Black British	1	1	1
Chinese	1	1	1
Other (please specify below)	3	3	3
Total	117	99	100
Missing	1	1	
Total	118	100	

## Respondents interests cross tabulations

### Proposals to stop free or subsidised transport on the following grounds:

#### Q3a.Distance

			Currently receiving free or subsidised transport for Further Education (aged between 16-18 years old)	Under 16 year old considering free or subsidised transport for Further Education	Parent or Carer of under 16 year old	Central Bedfordshire resident
Q3a.Distance	Agree	Count	2	2	2	4
		%	8%	10%	6%	20%
	Disagree	Count	22	18	31	15
		%	88%	90%	94%	75%
	Don't know	Count	1	0	0	1
		%	4%	0%	0%	5%
Total		Count	25	20	33	20
		%	100%	100%	100%	100%

#### Q3b.Assessment of course content

			Currently receiving free or subsidised transport for Further Education (aged between 16-18 years old)	Under 16 year old considering free or subsidised transport for Further Education	Parent or Carer of under 16 year old	Central Bedfordshire resident
Q3b.Assessment of course content	Agree	Count	3	2	5	6
		%	13%	12%	15%	32%
	Disagree	Count	19	14	22	10
		%	79%	82%	67%	53%
	Don't know	Count	2	1	6	3
		%	8%	6%	18%	16%
Total		Count	24	17	33	19
		%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Proposals to continue free or subsidised transport on the following grounds:**

**Q4a.Low income**

			Currently receiving free or subsidised transport for Further Education (aged between 16-18 years old)	Under 16 year old considering free or subsidised transport for Further Education	Parent or Carer of under 16 year old	Central Bedfordshire resident
Q4a.Low income	Agree	Count	19	13	28	17
		%	76%	68%	85%	85%
	Disagree	Count	5	3	4	1
		%	20%	16%	12%	5%
	Don't know	Count	1	3	1	2
		%	4%	16%	3%	10%
Total		Count	25	19	33	20
		%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Q4b.Medical grounds**

			Currently receiving free or subsidised transport for Further Education (aged between 16-18 years old)	Under 16 year old considering free or subsidised transport for Further Education	Parent or Carer of under 16 year old	Central Bedfordshire resident
Q4b.Medical grounds	Agree	Count	19	17	31	14
		%	79%	89%	94%	74%
	Disagree	Count	5	2	1	3
		%	21%	11%	3%	16%
	Don't know	Count	0	0	1	2
		%	0%	0%	3%	11%
Total		Count	24	19	33	19
		%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Q4c.Special Education Needs**

			Currently receiving free or subsidised transport for Further Education (aged between 16-18 years old)	Under 16 year old considering free or subsidised transport for Further Education	Parent or Carer of under 16 year old	Central Bedfordshire resident
Q4c.Special Education Needs	Agree	Count	15	16	30	13
		%	63%	84%	91%	68%
	Disagree	Count	8	3	2	3
	%	33%	16%	6%	16%	
	Don't know	Count	1	0	1	3
	%		4%	0%	3%	16%
Total		Count	24	19	33	19
		%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Q4d.Local Authority is the corporate parent (looked after children, unaccompanied refugees and asylum seekers) \***

			Currently receiving free or subsidised transport for Further Education (aged between 16-18 years old)	Under 16 year old considering free or subsidised transport for Further Education	Parent or Carer of under 16 year old	Central Bedfordshire resident
Q4d.Local Authority is the corporate parent (looked after children, unaccompanied refugees and asylum seekers)	Agree	Count	14	8	20	8
		%	61%	44%	61%	44%
	Disagree	Count	6	9	11	6
	%	26%	50%	33%	33%	
	Don't know	Count	3	1	2	4
	%		13%	6%	6%	22%
Total		Count	23	18	33	18
		%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## Age cross tabulations

### Proposals to stop free or subsidised transport on the following grounds:

#### Q3a.Distance

			Age			Total
			13-15 years	16-18 years	19+	
Q3a.Distance	Agree	Count	5	5	2	12
		%	28%	16%	3%	10%
	Disagree	Count	11	25	62	98
		%	61%	78%	94%	84%
	Don't know	Count	2	2	2	6
		%	11%	6%	3%	5%
Total	Count	18	32	66	116	
	%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

#### Q3b.Assessment of course content

			Age			Total
			13-15 years	16-18 years	19+	
Q3b.Assessment of course content	Agree	Count	3	7	9	19
		%	19%	22%	14%	17%
	Disagree	Count	8	22	45	75
		%	50%	69%	70%	67%
	Don't know	Count	5	3	10	18
		%	31%	9%	16%	16%
Total	Count	16	32	64	112	
	%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

### Proposals to continue free or subsidised transport on the following grounds:

#### Q4a.Low income

			Age			Total
			13-15 years	16-18 years	19+	
Q4a.Low income	Agree	Count	11	24	58	93
		%	65%	75%	87%	80%
	Disagree	Count	2	7	5	14
		%	12%	22%	7%	12%
	Don't know	Count	4	1	4	9
		%	24%	3%	6%	8%
Total	Count	17	32	67	116	
	%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

**Q4b.Medical grounds**

			Age			Total
			13-15 years	16-18 years	19+	
Q4b.Medical grounds	Agree	Count	12	24	63	99
		%	71%	77%	95%	87%
	Disagree	Count	3	6	3	12
		%	18%	19%	5%	11%
	Don't know	Count	2	1	0	3
		%	12%	3%	0%	3%
Total		Count	17	31	66	114
		%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Q4c.Special Education Needs**

			Age			Total
			13-15 years	16-18 years	19+	
Q4c.Special Education Needs	Agree	Count	12	21	58	91
		%	71%	68%	89%	81%
	Disagree	Count	2	9	5	16
		%	12%	29%	8%	14%
	Don't know	Count	3	1	2	6
		%	18%	3%	3%	5%
Total		Count	17	31	65	113
		%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Q4d.Local Authority is the corporate parent (looked after children, unaccompanied refugees and asylum seekers)**

			Age			Total
			13-15 years	16-18 years	19+	
Q4d.Local Authority is the corporate parent (looked after children, unaccompanied refugees and asylum seekers)	Agree	Count	6	16	37	59
		%	35%	53%	58%	53%
	Disagree	Count	5	9	23	37
		%	29%	30%	36%	33%
	Don't know	Count	6	5	4	15
		%	35%	17%	6%	14%
Total		Count	17	30	64	111
		%	100%	100%	100%	100%