

Home to School Transport Policy consultation



Central
Bedfordshire

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny
Committee
3 September 2013

Cllr Sue Clark
Deputy Portfolio Holder Children's Services

Why change?

- New DfE guidance and best practice means we have to amend our policy
 - To change our appeals process
 - To reflect the evolving education landscape
- An opportunity to improve/clarify the policy
 - For parents/schools
 - For Council staff

Background

- The current Home to School Transport Policy was adopted in 2009
- The Council has a statutory requirement to meet the transport needs of eligible children
- Current budget £7.2m
- Achieved £2.25m efficiencies
- 6,267 pupils travel on 350 routes per day

Proposed changes/improvements

- Improved appeals process
- Clearer explanation of “*qualifying school*”
- Clearer definition of eligibility
- Clearer application/review process
- Focus on medical needs and SEN
- Align timescale for withdrawal of transport with best practice
- Support for 4 year olds

Consultation timescale

To ensure the Council complies with DfE guidance and timescales:

- Consultation to start 30 September 13
- To run for 28 school days
- Final policy to Overview & Scrutiny Dec 13
- Approval by Executive February 14
- Implementation September 2014