

Department of Children's Services

Travel Assistance Service
Margaret McMillan Tower
Bradford
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Email:
schooltravelconsult@bradford.gov.uk

Date: 14th December 2020

RE: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AMOUNT PAID TO PARENTS / CARERS WHO TRANSPORT THEIR CHILD TO AND FROM SCHOOL USING A PERSONAL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE BUDGET

On 9 November 2020, Bradford Council's Executive made the decision to hold a public consultation on its personal travel assistance budget (PTAB) rate.

A PTAB is the rate paid to some parents / carers who transport their child to and from school and is one type of travel arrangement available for local authorities under Section 508B of the Education Act 1996 (the Act). The Act deals with the duty on local authorities to make such travel arrangements as they consider necessary to facilitate attendance at school for eligible children.

The current PTAB rate awarded by Bradford Council is 75p per mile for compulsory school aged children. The rate of 75p per mile was agreed in 2016 when there were 100 children and young people in receipt of this type of travel assistance. Since 2016 the number of children and young people in receipt of PTABs has more than doubled. We are entitled to consider the Public purse when making these arrangements and must also consider the duty of best value. We have also considered the rates that are applied by our neighbouring authorities. These vary from 45 to 50 pence per mile.

Bradford Council currently awards a minimum mileage allowance of £6 per day for 5-7 year olds and £9 per day for 8-16 year olds.

Bradford Council currently awards parents / carers of pupils who require a shared escort an extra allowance of £1.39 per day and those who require a dedicated escort, an extra allowance of £5.00 per day.

The proposal under consideration is that the new PTAB rate of 45p per mile is introduced to bring it in line with the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) rate. The proposal also includes the removal of the minimum mileage allowance and the shared and dedicated escort allowances.

The consultation will begin at 00.01 hours on 15th December 2020 and will end at midnight on 31st January 2021.

The current PTAB rate of £7.90 per day awarded to post 16 students will be unaffected by this proposal.

It is important to ensure that all interested parties are given the opportunity to provide their views for consideration. I am writing to local MPs, elected members, parish councils, principals and head teachers of all schools across the district to inform them of the proposals. I am also writing to individual parents / carers who are currently in receipt of a PTAB.

I request your assistance in bringing the proposals to the attention of parents / carers of all children attending your school by contacting them and notifying them of the consultation in your usual manner on our behalf.

If you would like to express a view, make a comment or complete a short survey on the proposals, you are able to do so at:

<https://bradford.moderngov.co.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=235>

Alternatively, please email your response to schooltravelconsult@bradford.gov.uk or write to me at the above address before midnight on 31st January 2021.

What Happens Next:

Once the consultation period ends, the feedback received will be reported back to Bradford Council's Executive who will consider all views expressed and decide how to proceed. In coming to a decision about any changes, Executive members will also consider how any changes may be implemented and whether this might affect parents / carers who are currently in receipt of a PTAB, or whether it will only affect parents / carers who elect to receive a PTAB in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Bunting', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Bunting
Strategic Transport Manager – Bradford Council