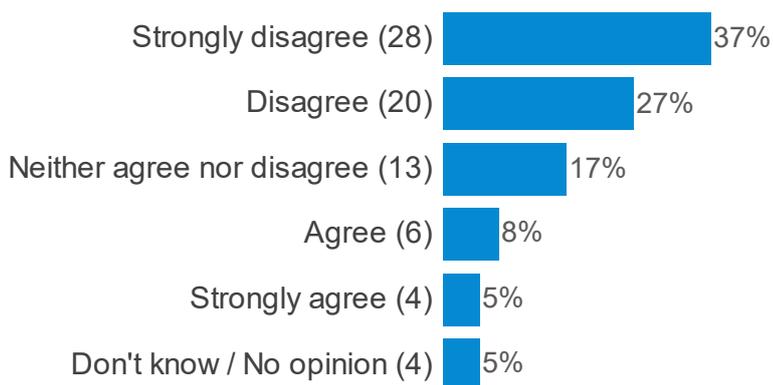


Home to School Transport Survey

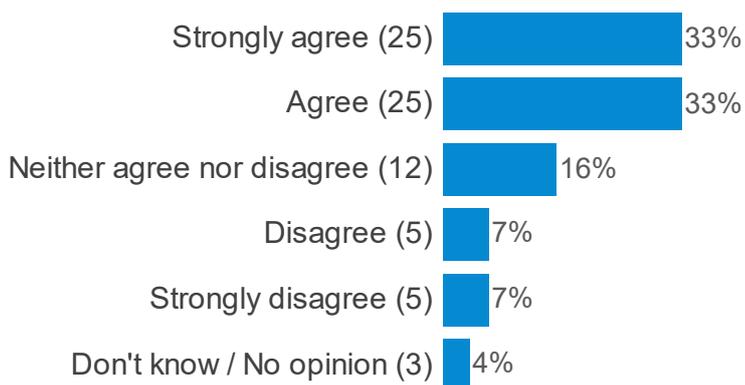
This report was generated on 13/11/20. Overall 76 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

Option 1: The council has the option to cease to provide free home to school transport to an infant or primary school for a child under the age of five, where a child is deemed as eligible once they turn five years of age. To what extent do you agree with this approach?

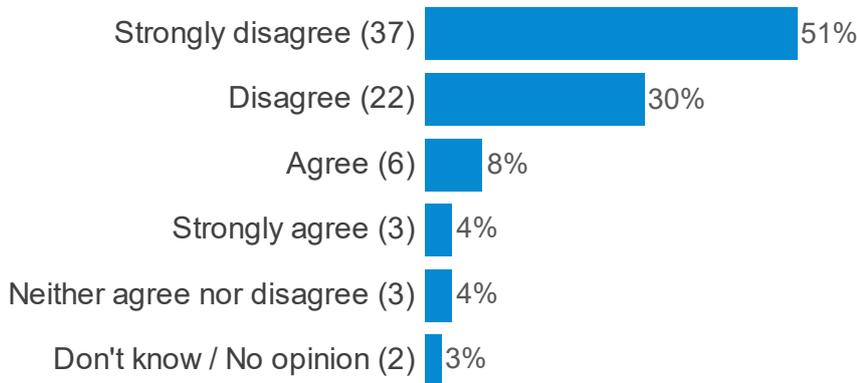


Option 2: Wokingham may continue to provide free home to school transport to an infant or primary school for a child under the age of five, where a child is likely to be deemed as eligible once they turn five years of age. Do what extent do you agree with this approach?

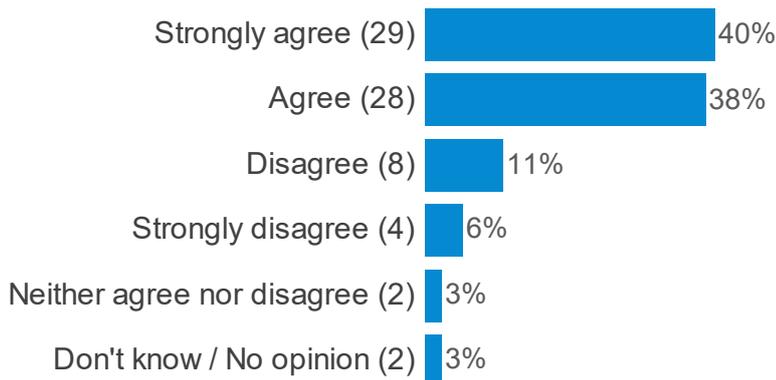


Home to School Transport Survey

Option 1: Wokingham has the option to cease to provide home to school transport at the end of the term in which a child turns 8 where the child has been eligible due to living more than 2 miles but less than 3 miles from their nearest school. To what extent do you agree with this approach?

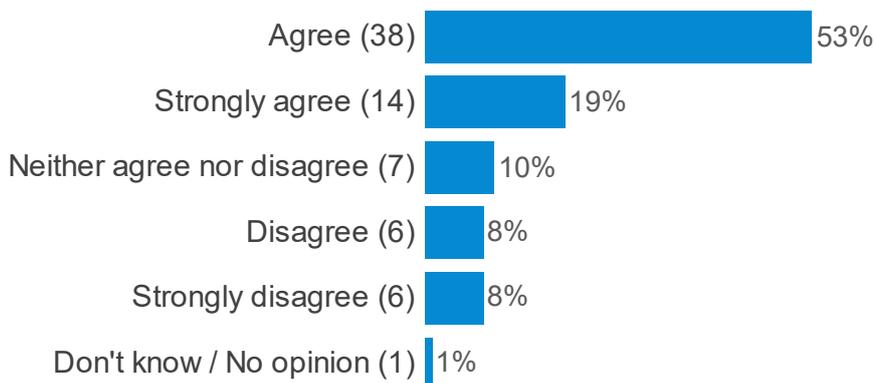


Option 2: Wokingham has the option to continue to provide home to school travel assistance to the end of the academic year in which a child turns 8 where the child has been eligible due to living more than 2 miles but less than 3 miles from their nearest available school. To what extent do you agree with this approach?

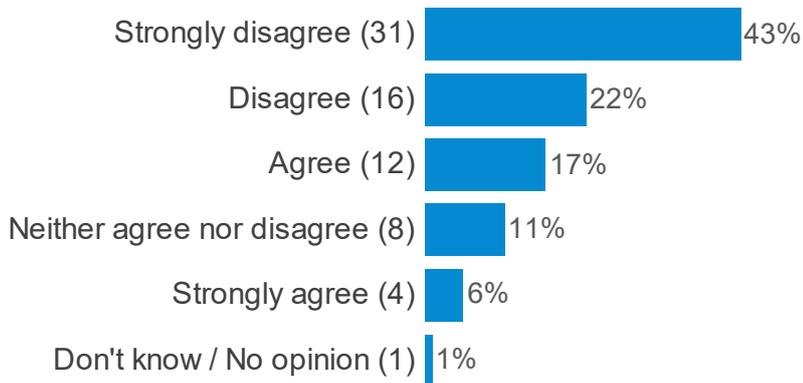


Home to School Transport Survey

Option 1: In line with its existing policies for post 16 home to school/college transport, the Council could continue to provide home to school/college travel assistance for young people ages 17-18 who meet the eligibility criteria under our existing policies. Students will be expected to travel by the most cost-effective means for which they are able which may be public transport or by way of a seat on a contract vehicle (coach, minibus or taxi) at the start and end of the normal school day. The provision of a travel allowance where the parent, carer or young person uses a private vehicle will only be agreed where this is the least expensive option. To what extent do you agree with this approach?



Option 2: In line with statutory responsibilities, the Council has the option to cease to provide ordinarily home to school/college travel assistance for young people ages 17 -18. The Council would continue to promote the use of the Student Fare Card Scheme, 16 -17 Saver and Disabled Person’s Bus Pass Scheme, which offer discounted travel on bus and rail services, to all post 16 year-old students. To what extent do you agree with this approach?



Are there any other comments you would like to make about the proposals or their likely impact?

It should be appropriate to the child/student’s capabilities and the families financial circumstances irrelevant of age.

Students should be able to safely walk to school - why does WBC ignore the Safety Report of April 2020 for Reading Road and not make safe provisions for students?

Perhaps if you didn't fund places at independent schools out of borough you wouldn't have this issue.

Home to School Transport Survey

Are there any other comments you would like to make about the proposals or their likely impact?

If you remove travel for SEND students you will not only effect them, but affect the ability of parents to work. As if it is not currently difficult as one parent most be home when they return from school, a parent would have to take their child to school giving them a very small window to work between 9:30/10 to 3pm. It would be crazy as if it is not difficult and expensive enough to bring up a special needs child you want to make it even worse and stressful!

It would be useful if the bus pass scheme could be adapted so our students can get a bus during peak times. Our students who travel by public bus with a bus pass often arrive as they are not allowed on the bus with the pass until after 9. This also impacts upon students moving into supported internships and paid employment. Without this change a greater number of parents will need to directly transport these young people who should be able to travel independently.

Until Wokingham has a public bus service that covers the whole area with frequent and affordable transport options, the Borough must continue to provide the means for students to travel to and from school/college. Putting the burden on parents is the worst option, both with regards to congestion and environmental impact.

In option 1 I see no reason to fund the use of a private vehicle as this will be used for work and domestic trips anyway. The additional journey does not warrant public funds being used. Unless there is a case for the impoverishment of the student. Car share with other students needs no funding from public money either. If they can afford a car, MOT and insurance plus lessons and test (s) they can afford the fuel to get to college.

You have to consider that some public transports routes just don't work for getting to some areas of the borough. For example my son goes to Forest so he would have to bus into Wokingham - get the train. Coming home do the same but the bus to NMR from station isn't frequent which would require him then to walk into the town! The public transport routes just aren't good enough.

All children's and young adults situations differ and changes to the statutory obligations will make reviewing individual cases that much harder as it will always be refusal 1st and then justify the case. Generally these children's and parents lives are hard enough and we pay taxes for the system to give back to those who need it the most.

I think when it comes to SEND, unguided/self guided transport should not be promoted as the primary solution

SEND pupils cannot be sent on public transport with no supervision if they are severely impaired. I strongly disagree that this could be offered as a viable option. I don't know if our £70 a month for the service is a subsidised amount as there is no transparency about the costs but the letter about it implied we were paying the cost. If that is true, I cannot see why you would stop the service of the minibus as one or more paying passengers must reduce your overall costs. A severely impaired child's parents would have no choice but to stop working if you could not provide suitable transport.

Home to school/college transport post 16 is essential to many families, not all teenagers with special needs can cope with travel training or public transport, the needs for those with severe anxiety must be considered

Option 2 sounds like there would not even be the current fare payer rate. Option 2 and current policy are at odds with raising participation. Option 2 has an adverse effect on those with the greatest need who are least likely to be able to access public transport or have to travel greater distances.. Students in this age range are unlikely to be able to get any of the qualifying benefits necessary for a student bursary

I have an autistic daughter, who is 18, she has a bladder condition and with her autism alone she would need to be picked up from our home by car, adding her bladder condition makes her life even harder. I am sure she is not the only 18 yr old with complex needs. There would be no way she could travel on a mini bus she would be even more isolated.

Re the last question, how would a child with a learning disabilities be expected to use public transport? This sounds discriminatory as it could effectively hinder such children accessing further education.

Home to School Transport Survey

Are there any other comments you would like to make about the proposals or their likely impact?

WBC should be continuing to provide home to school/college travel assistance for young people ages 17-18 who meet the eligibility criteria. There is concern that provision of a travel allowance for use of a private vehicle is based solely on financial cost without due regard for the environmental cost this would have. Private vehicle use is not a sustainable mode of transport and it should only be entertained in exceptional circumstances.

It's all about cost saving and not considering the benefit of having young people in education

As a single parent who works full time I know that I do not have the means to get my daughter to BCA. My daughter is a wheelchair user and is waiting for an ASD assessment and the thought of trying to get her to negotiate public transport independently fills me with dread. We deal with so much as it is knowing that transport is available for our children means so much.

This whole proposal is based around money saving and budgets with little thought put into the duty of care you have to these children who are vulnerable. The sustainable element is about political promotion disguised as caring for the development of these children. When the under lining theme as I have already stated and is very clear through out is that budgets are more important than these children. The fact that you state that working would not be something that would be considered when making decisions is absurd as this may impact a parent / carers ability to work or the level of their income that will then in turn impact the social economic state of that family adding to their vulnerability.

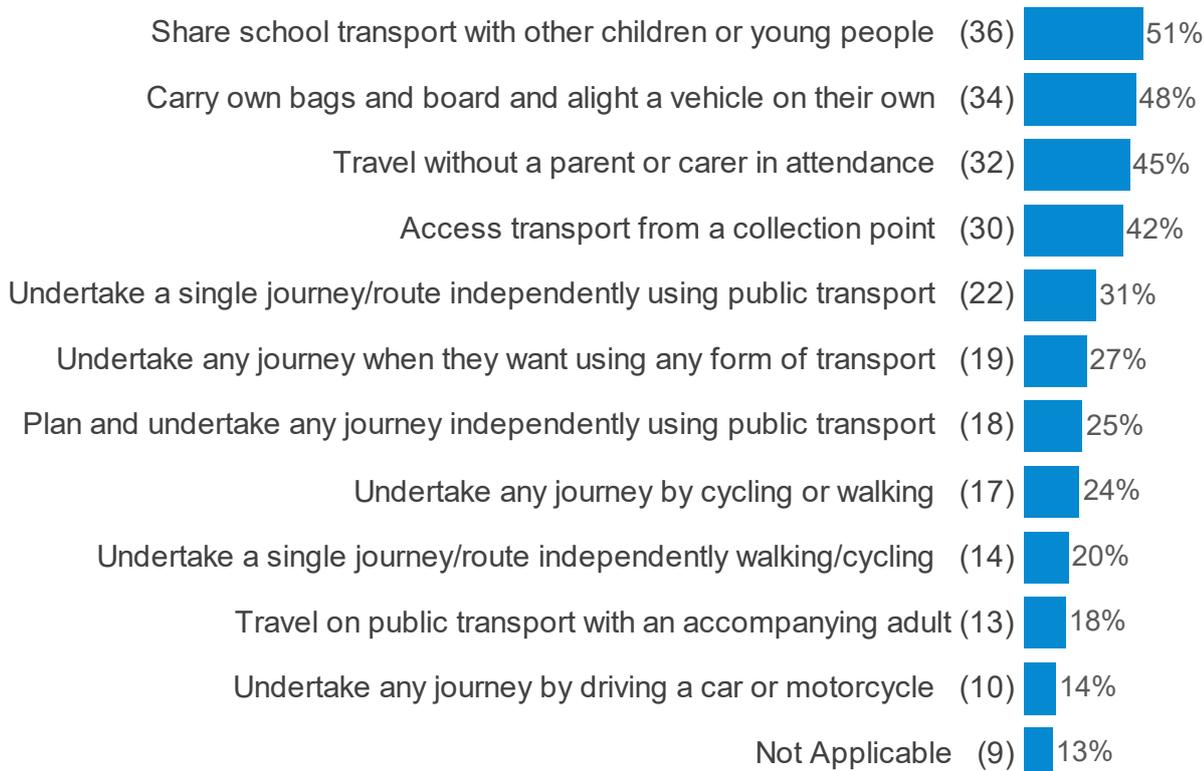
This option is appropriate if there is public transport provision for the required route

Yes my son is 16 next February and even when he is 17 will require school transport. He has down syndrome and autism and cannot talk. Any other form of transport is not suitable.

If an infant/ under 5 child has additional needs that will likely require transport provision from 5 then it seems sensible for continuity, parental support and routine that the transport is implemented at the earliest age it is required, rather than waiting to age 5. Regarding post 16 transport - many SEN students will still be unable to independently access public transport safely. Home/ school travel assistance provision will remain an essential service to them, in order to enable them to continue their education and life aspirations. Removing this service could result in isolation and limitation of their potential, with long term consequences.

Home to School Transport Survey

Being independent is different for everyone. In terms of travel and preparing for adulthood, what is your/your child’s aspiration in terms of how you/ they will travel in the future?



Other, please specify

Managing their finances to pay for the travel journeys and to understand timetables and planning journey times to and from college/home. Learning that you need to allow time to get to the station/stop, waiting time for a canx/late bus/train. Then the directions from the stop/station to College and how much time to allow getting to college and then to class.

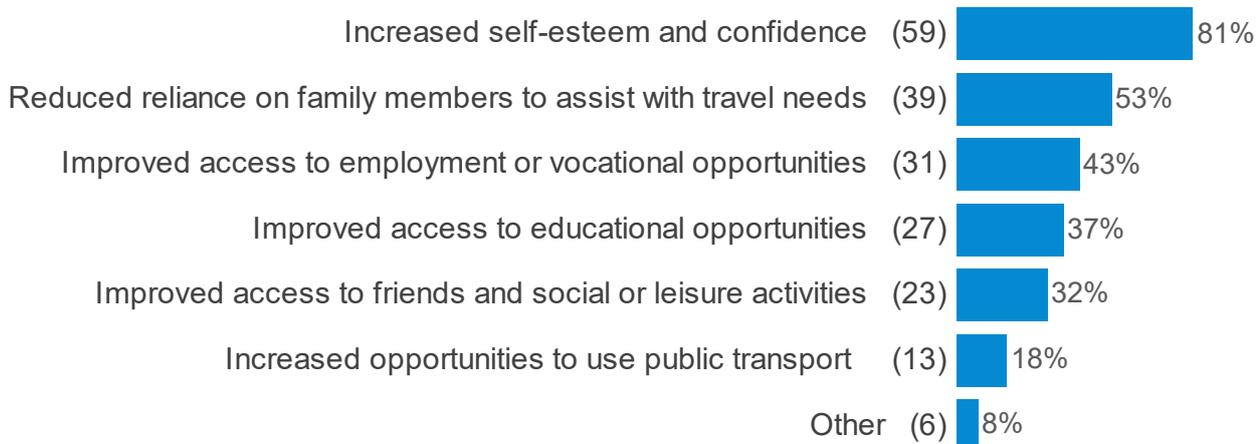
I can't see any of the above ever being an option for the foreseeable future.

be able to access transport which is wheelchair friendly

It should be noted that not all children will be able to travel independently those with Sen needs may always need support

Home to School Transport Survey

What are the three biggest benefits for a young person who is successfully supported to travel independently on public transport, which allows them to access services and activities in the community? Select up to 3



Other, please specify

Safety, Safety, Safety as per the report commissioned by WBC April 2020

My son is non verbal and has no idea of danger! He would just run into the road!! He cannot travel independently!!!

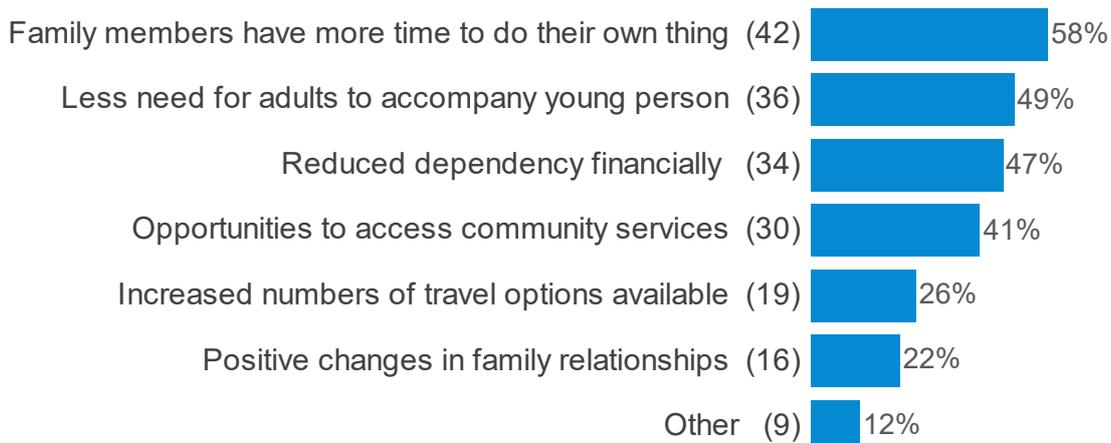
money management, planning, scheduling and time management skills.

unable to know as our child is too young

Reducing the burden they seem to place on society.

This question seems worded towards the fact that all children can be independent and that it is expected. It is not always possible. The question would make me feel a sense of failure as a parent if this was not possible for my child

What are the three biggest benefits for the family of a young person who is successfully supported to travel independently on public transport? Select up to 3



Home to School Transport Survey

Other, please specify

Safety

He cannot travel independently he has severe autism and is non verbal. He has no concept of danger and would run into the road and run away!!

Young person is learning personal responsibility, consequences and coping skills for managing the unexpected.

unable to know as our child is too young

This is completely unsuitable for my child and I feel that I and my daughter are a drain on public funds.

Knowing that the child is developing a form of independence even if that child is unable to walk to school by themselves. For children with Mobility issues this is so important for their overall wellbeing and self esteem. It is imperative these children continue to have the option for school transport to prevent fatigue and for them to feel a growing sense of independence.

None really apply

I would want to know what the “support” is that will be given before I could answer this very leading question !

None we will still worry

What are the three biggest barriers that would prevent your children using public transport independently to access services and activities in the community? Select up to 3



Home to School Transport Survey

Other, please specify

Being able to safely cross the road for the drop off and pick up points are per the safety report April 2020

No safe road crossing areas, speeding cars, narrow overgrown footpaths.

He cannot travel independently he has severe autism and is non verbal. He has no concept of danger and would run into the road and run away!!

Bus pass fayre schemes do not always cover peak hours which is essential for getting to school or work on time

poor transport links mean needing a safe place to store bikes. At unmanned stations (Crowthorne) this doesn't feel safe to do. Are there cameras monitoring theft or vandalism. How is this communicated, reported, and monitored?

All of these except the first one.

What should the Council do to encourage more children and young people to travel on public transport to school or college?

Have a form of security present and visible to those travelling.

Walking should be safe and easy - crossing the road should be safe - no existing walking routes to school - no way to cross the road safely currently.

Listen to the residents and stop being so slow to approve pedestrian crossings. Reduce speed to 30mph on Reading Road.

more buses?

This should be the least expensive option of travelling for them.

Help with costs

They shouldn't encourage them, these are children with SPECIAL NEEDS!! if they can go on public transport they will, don't try to encourage them for your benefit to save money and try to say you are helping them with independence! It's pathetic

Increase the time that reduced price or free bus passes can be used. Introduce a programme of travel training with funding attached. Such as our version of The Lift Programme from Star college.

Put a serviceable public bus system in place

BIKE LANES and eradicate the bullying behaviour of cars in our area.

You have to provide good bus routes which extend all over the borough. And ensure that there are good times for before and after.

provide a more reliable and linked up transport system between boroughs. Time it takes to get anywhere on public transport is also a major issue.

Depends on the level of SEND. My child would never be capable of travelling independently without a trusted adult. She is very vulnerable.

There is no frequent bus facility (not available for school timings) from my location to my daughter's school, as the school is 2 miles away. Though we have few bus services, bus don't have the school route; My children have to walk from some other stops. This is adding risk for us; As a working parent, home to school transport with lower cost / free of cost will be beneficial.

Only if they are older over 16.

Provide free transport to all secondary school pupils we live in lower earley and have to pay for the 202 to emmbrook but all the other people get a free bus

Develop independence skills from an early age. Work with transport providers to help accommodate travel training programmes

Put on special buses/ coaches for the children to access with specially trained drivers and assistants

More public transport, stops by all primary and secondary schools

Home to School Transport Survey

What should the Council do to encourage more children and young people to travel on public transport to school or college?

Provide more information Customised to their journey.

The Council should only encourage this if it is appropriate for the young persons specific needs. It should not be the result of a need for cost savings. The suggestion that children and young people need encouragement suggests that public transport is a viable option. For many children home school transport is a very significant part of their ability to fully access educational opportunities and to develop a sense of independence.

Encourage greater use of public transport and educate in primary school years on using public transport.

MAke travel training widely available for those that it is appropriate to do so. Start with the more able children that need support - these are quick wins and success will breed confidence amongst parents. Recognise that it is very difficult for a parent to teach independence skills to someone who is vulnerable and anxious.

I can not see this being an option for all the children and teens I know with SEN

Accompany them and train them in what to do, if they are able

Travel training opportunities at school or maybe lessons/workshops to parents to help them support their children more

More direct routes to schools. Public transport routes can take significantly longer than dedicated school bus.

WBC needs to invest to provide more public transport facilities across the Borough and across boundaries. In addition to provision of more public transport services, this includes the infrastructure that gets children and young people safely to public transport hubs. The services therefore needs to work closely with highways to not only commission new services and routes, but major upgrades need to take place on the existing walking and cycling network and consideration given to cycle hire schemes (or similar) that allow children to travel to these hubs. Regard also needs to be made for provision for out of hours educational activities that take place in schools and colleges. In addition to better provision, where possible, subsidies should continue to ensure that public transport options remain the most affordable, and additional financial support for low income families. For families severe financial difficulty, consideration should be given to waive the charge completely as this could be a barrier to a young person having an appropriate education.

More direct routes, more support on routes.

No idea really. I have 5 children. The youngest has SEND. My other 4 children have always, and still do use public transport

Get a better, Quicker, cheaper, More reliable and accessible public transport service service

View children as individuals- these questions feel like they are in favour of saving money and not meeting individual needs

The problem is with the provision of schools- there are not enough local school places. Lack of school places is not the driver for my child to become independent!! This is completely irrelevant.

Better bus timings e.g. having to travel from home to Bracknell to Wokingham and making a bus change in Bracknell - the bus to Wokingham used to leave 2 minutes before the bus to Bracknell arrives! Impossible to get to school on time! The number 3 bus which used to go from Reading to Bracknell via the Nine Mile Ride has been cancelled. Can it be reinstated please! To encourage school children to use the bus they really need to make it much cheaper and more convenient than using a car. Perhaps schools and colleges could provide all children in the area a bus pass to all students that would give them a significant discount and could be used on all buses.

wheelchair accessible access to train stations, better bus connections so that it doesn't take so long to get to place

There should be an escort on every bus to offer help and support

Make it safer, cleaner and reliable

Home to School Transport Survey

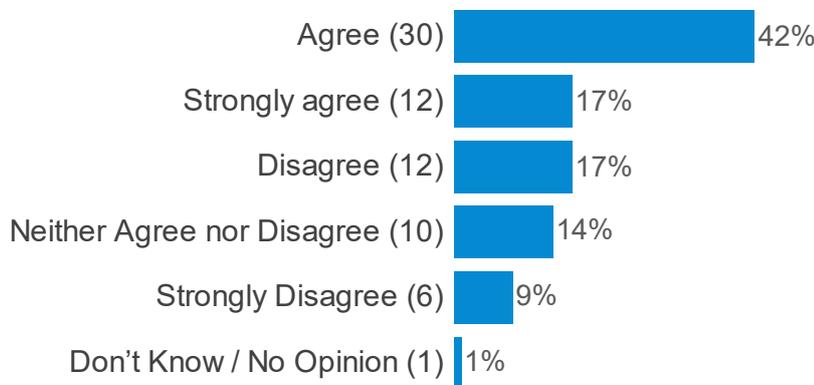
What should the Council do to encourage more children and young people to travel on public transport to school or college?

Subsidised fares, make routes safe for children and drivers - cctv on buses etc, appropriate departure times and adequate spaces on buses etc in line with school opening/departure times

Employee someone to help children with additional needs to access the bus for example. To stop bullying and having someone that my child can go to on the bus and be told where they are getting off etc....

Funding of 1:1 support workers to facilitate practice of young people to develop these skills Public transport worker awareness training Ensure train stations are always manned Clearer signage - especially for changes such as late platform changes Campaign to improve general public social awareness of others

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: “If a child or young person has the potential to become an independent traveller and would benefit from Independent Travel Training, then they should be expected to undertake the training?”



Please provide any further thoughts, comments and suggestions in relation to Independent Travel Training.

To encourage independence the person has to feel safe.

Yes if it was safe to do so - which it currently is NOT! as per the Safety report April 2020

As every training it would certainly help young person to feel more confident and safe in situations new for them.

They should not be made to attend it should be thier choice

He cannot travel independently he has severe autism and is non verbal. He has no concept of danger and would run into the road and run away!!

As long as the individuals needs are considered as part of a risk assessment process

But this only makes sense if the appropriate public transport system is in place

There will be young people in our community for whom this is essential - not a luxury. Educating YP on safe use of public transport, reading and understanding a timetable, where to get help or assistance, behaviour expected when waiting or travelling on services. How to use aps to find out where the bus is etc.. This could be online with some practical sessions too.

Again there is no point in saying that If in reality the service isn't there by the council!

'expected' implies forced to do or risk of consequences such as withdrawal of funding. This is not acceptable. If a child is able and willing then ok but should not be expected to do it if the facilities are worse or make qulaity of life worse.

whilst independence is a laudable goal, in practice the council has not been as good at making the assessment of potential options when compared to parents

Home to School Transport Survey

Please provide any further thoughts, comments and suggestions in relation to Independent Travel Training.

My daughter is 8 years old and son is 3 years old. I would agree for 8+. I doubted for less than 5 years of age.

This decision should be a collective one not just by officers of the council. Health and education professionals must be involved in the decision making .

I would have to be convinced that choosing who has the 'potential' is not a choice driven by a determination that all disabled children will be suitable. Who decides this? Parents? Young people themselves? Or you? None of these could make an objective assessment.

You should not force a child to undertake travel training even if they have the potential to do it, you could make situations worse especially at home.

Who determines the potential? What is this based on? This is a leading question that provides no context or definition.

Educate about risks and to keep safe. Dangers of criminals etc.

Whilst I agree with the above statement, you do have to provide reassurance to both parents and the young person and not rush this. If you cause anxiety it will never be successful.

My daughter could Not under any circumstances use public transport even with someone . She has to go to toilet just before she gets into taxi as it is. She would never be able to cope. Then there is the noise, smells, lights, this would lead to sensory overload and meltdown. Which she now has with tics both vocal and motor. The idea of her even contemplating going on public transport would mean she would have to stop college.

Re the last question, it really depends on the individual and their needs/abilities

I have spent a considerable amount of time supporting my son to become an independent traveller - the benefits are immense both for confidence and self esteem for his life opportunities and also for the impact on the family (less time running around after them) it is a huge step to take as a parent but just take little steps to start from an early age and I think parents are too scared to do this - I had no support from my son's SEN school but think this would have helped and perhaps running a parents workshop would have given me more confidence earlier on - my son now travels independently on a train to part time work - Something I would never have dreamed possible a few years ago - parents need help and encouragement to see the possibilities and benefits

In whose opinion would it be to decide if that child 'has the potential'? My child does not although sometimes her teachers feel she does ok on a bus. It's her inability to see dangers that's the problem and I can't see that as ever changing

You shouldn't force or expect people with needs to have to do something or undertake training. It should be simply be available if it is a positive life skill that they want.

This is ridiculous - you are moving the responsibility from the councils poorly administered school provision to saving costs in palming our kids off to public transport. The problem lies with schooling and not our children's failure to become independent. There is another issue of the poor transport links in some areas- to travel the 20 mins to school my daughter would need to undertake over an hour's bus journey to get there "independently" ridiculous! Getting her to school is not a training ground for independence.

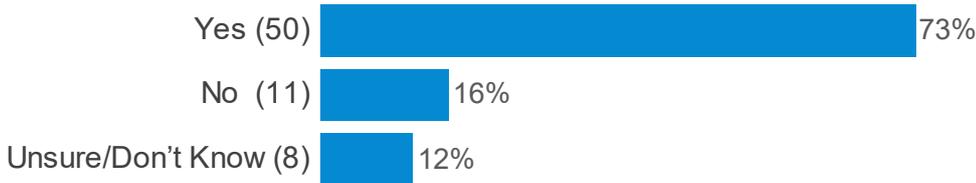
You could travel train my child until you were blue in the face, he would say he understands but would not retain the information.

Some children, especially those educated out of borough, shouldn't be expected to use multiple modes of public transport adding considerable time to a long school day. I would say 1 hour travel each way is the upper limit.

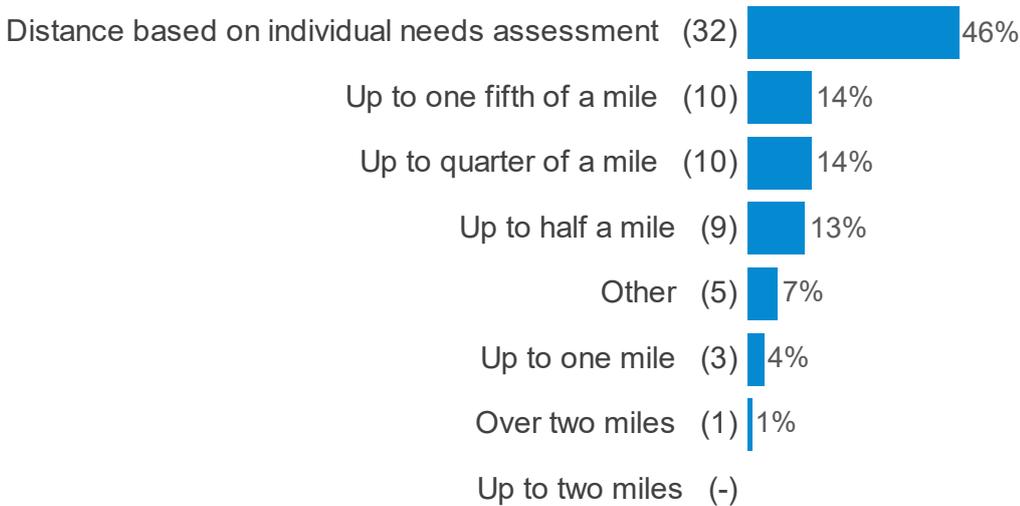
We regularly practice with our son the elements required to access public transport independently - this has been over many years & requires specific 1:1 support. It is intense & he is not there yet. He can now manage reading timetables, planning his route & just about handling money. But any unexpected changes immediately throw him off and can be extremely distressing for him. His social communication limitations hinder his ability to safely ask for assistance.

Home to School Transport Survey

Do you think that the use of collection points for some children and young people would be beneficial?



If collection points were used for some children and young people, how far do you think is reasonable to ask a child or young person to travel to a collection point, accompanied by an adult as necessary?



Other, please specify

None, you are asking Special needs kids to wait around, you clearly have no idea about them

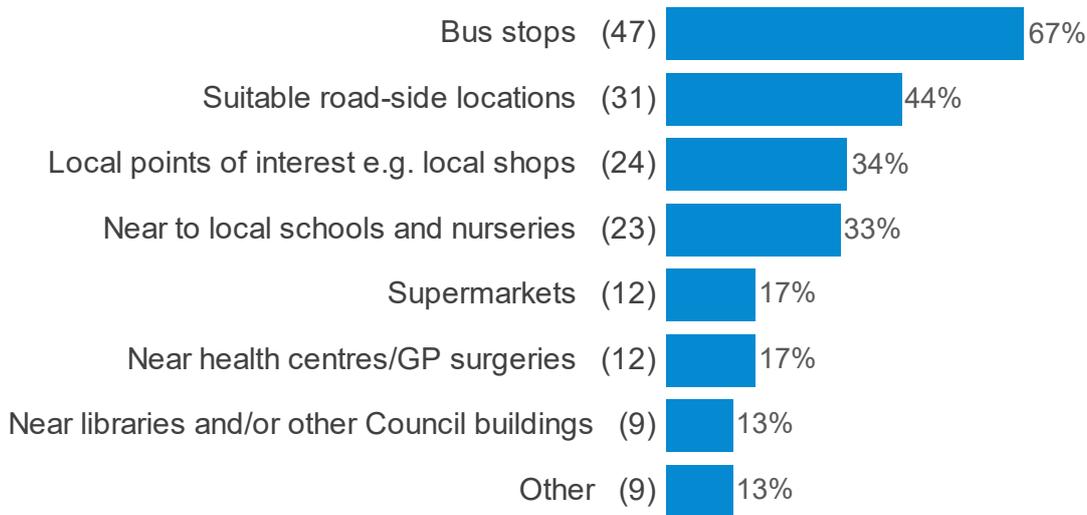
This won't work for children with severe needs.

Not suitable for SEN

they should be picked up from house.

Home to School Transport Survey

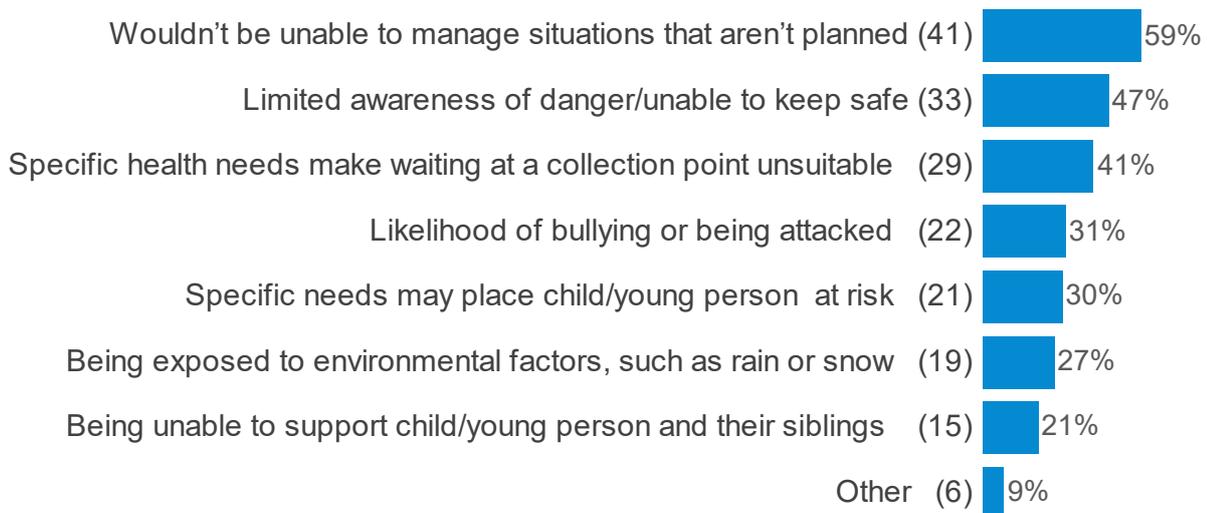
When planning routes with collection points which three location types would be most suitable for a collection point, subject to a location being identified as having suitable facilities for boarding, alighting and waiting? Select up to 3



Other, please specify

- None it's a crazy idea
- Not near fast food outlets
- the locations would have to be were the risk of abuse or other was minimised.
- The nearest other child is 2 miles away. How can we group anywhere?
- The use of a collection point should be based entirely on individual circumstances.
- Not an option
- Away from collections of other groups where's their a risk of being singled out or identifiable

What are the three biggest barriers to a child or young person accessing their school or college transport from a collection point? Select up to 3



Home to School Transport Survey

Other, please specify

Safety

No pedestrian crossings anywhere on the very busy Reading Road. Narrow overgrown footpaths.

Ability to follow guidance on masks, distancing and symptoms especially in cold weather conditions.

Too much administration and extra cost to the council

Point 6: Should read 'Wouldn't be able..' rather than 'Wouldn't be unable..' I would chose that too

Location

Please provide any further thoughts, comments and suggestions in relation to the use of collection points

Please read the Safety Report April 2020 for Reading Road students it has all the details already.

He cannot travel independently he has severe autism and is non verbal. He has no concept of danger and would run into the road and run away!!

I think this is a good idea, it could be that the parents of children waiting at that stop take it in turns to wait with the children. This would only suit certain pupils.

sufficient space needs to be allowed for groups of YP to wait for the bus/coach. I have noticed there are no markers or information about this at the current pick up/drop off sites.

Too much administration and extra cost to the council. Improving public transport and investing in proper policing and public safety is much better.

This is such an individual issue so I have picked the 3 most common reasons in my opinion but each child is different. The biggest issue (as with all transport arrangements) is the logistics of getting multiple children to different places all on time.

This idea in my opinion is ludicrous, I do not know a SEN child or adult that would benefit from this. This would also increase anxiety for carers as the meltdowns to the change in transport would be unbearable.

I have had to use collection points in a supermarket for 1 year - this was ok but did require support from friends to help with other siblings - i think generally not only do we teach children learnt dependence but also families learn dependence by supplying door to door Service. Pickup points support the policy of independent travel not door to door service. Work with schools to assess what the child is capable of with regards to pickup points and travel training - needs can change quickly as child grows up But schools can play big role with teaching independent travel and showing parents what their child is capable of

Collection points need to be in safe locations. This means they can't be hidden away, but they also need to avoid locations with heavy traffic usage. A supermarket car park could potentially be dangerous if it is heavily trafficked. Equally, a collection point on a heavily trafficked road would have high levels of pollution which have huge detrimental impacts on children and young people, potentially stunting their lung growth. Consideration also needs to be given to having some form of shelter to protect children and young people from various weather patterns whilst they wait for their transport. These locations also need to be easily accessible by adequate walking and cycling infrastructure, potentially with bike locking facilities depending on how far children/young people are being asked to come from. Barriers to using a collection point are going to be different depending on the child. All of the options in the list above are possible, particularly for a children/young person with SEND. This will need to be assessed on an individual basis.

please bear in mind wheelchair users, if you are asking a wheelchair user to get to a collection point that might not be as straightforward as an able bodied person. Pavements are not always accessible for them to travel along, crossing busy roads in the morning is not always safe

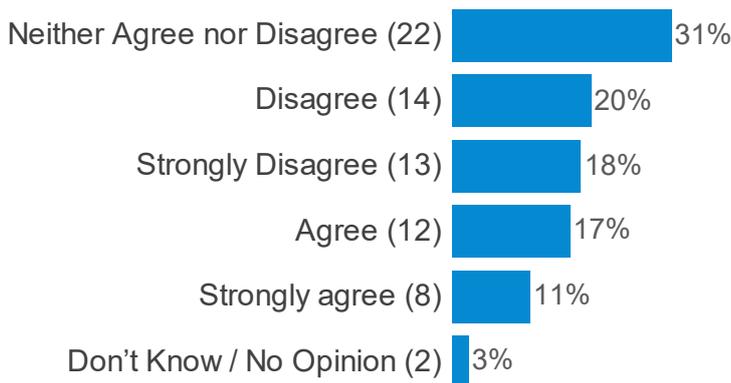
A child that has autism would not understand if transport would arrive early or late as they take things so literally. Also waiting near busy roads is really not a good idea for those that can't cope with danger.

Home to School Transport Survey

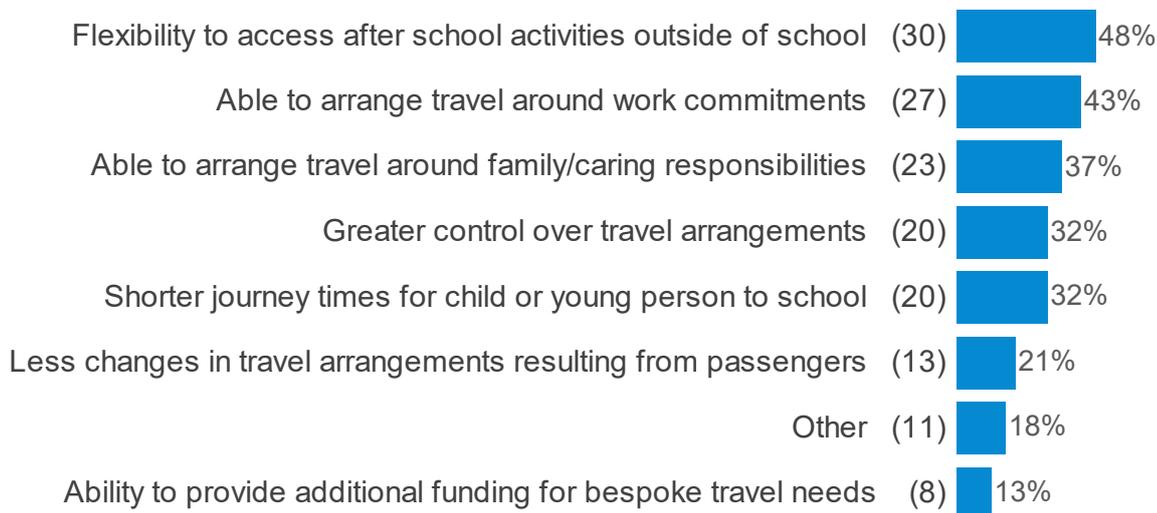
Please provide any further thoughts, comments and suggestions in relation to the use of collection points

If a collection is too busy eg supermarket, other schools the this may be overwhelming whilst waiting for collection If other siblings then difficulty for parents to enable SEN child to be waiting in one outdoor place, whilst attempting to get other children to school. Home collection is a safe indoor place for waiting and also close to school for siblings to access their school. Transport regularly runs late due to traffic/ roadwork/ bad weather delays - practicality of safely waiting for a long period at a collection point is limited

To what extent do you agree with the statement: “The Council should encourage more young people and families to use a travel allowance to make their own travel arrangements to school or college.”



Based on what you currently know about Wokingham’s Travel Allowance, what do you think are the three biggest benefits for families using a Travel Allowance to make their own travel arrangements? Select up to 3



Home to School Transport Survey

Other, please specify

it should be safe to walk to school

more cost effective

There would be no benefit for my son

I don't know about the travel allowance

None.

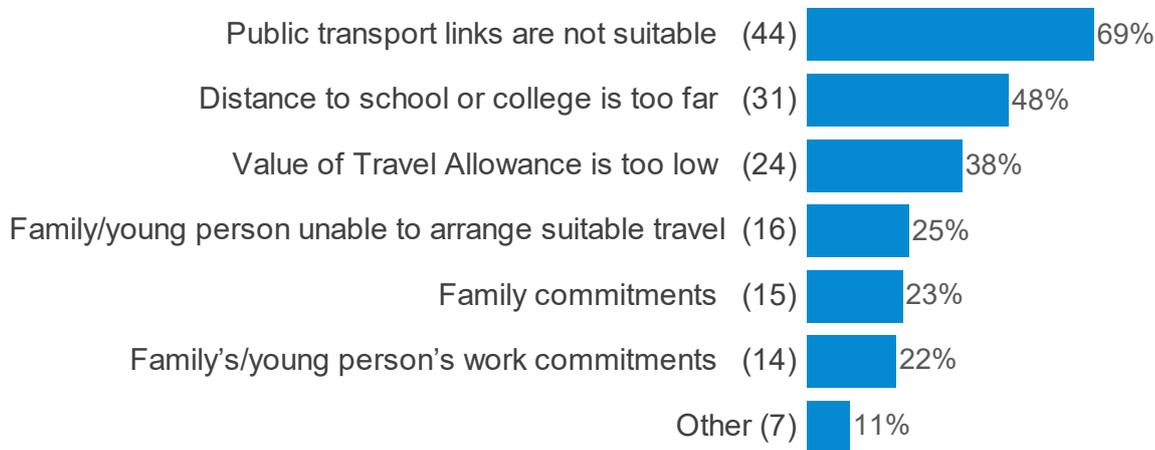
I don't know anything about it

I don't know what the policy allowance is

None- money doesn't help people to access what isn't there!

It will be less environmental friendly to arrange individual transport for pupil

What would do you think are the top three barriers stopping a young person or their family using a Travel Allowance to make their travel arrangements for accessing school or college? Select up to 3



Other, please specify

not safe to walk to school or even cross the road.

family not wanting to put themselves out

You stop parents from working

It is just not an option as daughter is more or less disabled with sensory overload and urinary inco

Don't know what the allowance is

Covid 19 guidelines

Please provide any further thoughts, comments and suggestions in relation to Travel Allowances.

see above

Interviewing appropriate families for a forum discussion would be helpful to you here.

arranging individual travel adds stress and planning to an already stretch situation. Having the travel arranged by a council means situations and issues can be addressed by an authority rather than an individual and therefore any travel arranging company would resolve issues correctly.

Centralised transport provides cost saving options not available to individual parents

Home to School Transport Survey

Please provide any further thoughts, comments and suggestions in relation to Travel Allowances.

I could not carry on teaching if I had to get my daughter ready and take her to a pick up point. Also I have never heard of any travel allowance. We pay for the transport and £70 per month does not seem cheap.

Near to bear in mind that not all special needs children are schooled locally to their home, for instance my child would have to take two buses to be able to get to his school and that would mean over an hour traveling to and from school/ home

Issues with siblings is probably the biggest barrier

I think you need to employ companies that are not run by people that know nothing about SEN. The trouble I have had with a previous transport company should NEVER have happened. The companies you use need to be vetted well and checked on regularly.

Parents will go with the easiest option if you give it to them - i did! However much more beneficial in long term to family and child to get them to take some responsibility for travel arrangements - it is amazing what you and your child can do when they have to - parents should try and look to long term benefits not the here - however if another parent had told me that when my child was younger and i as struggling with their behaviour I might not have given them a polite response !! I wish now the old me could go back and tell the young me when my son was at primary and early secondary school it would be ok - have faith, its ok to make some mistakes Or have mishaps on public transport - just keep going try again, or try a different way. With regards to travel allowances i think they are a good way to start training parents to make independent steps

A travel allowance should be based upon the individual circumstances. If a travel allowance is used to cover the cost of private vehicle travel, then this is something that actively goes against the council's climate emergency agenda. If a travel allowance gives a family the flexibility to put towards public transport or purchase of a bike for example, it is a good use of funds.

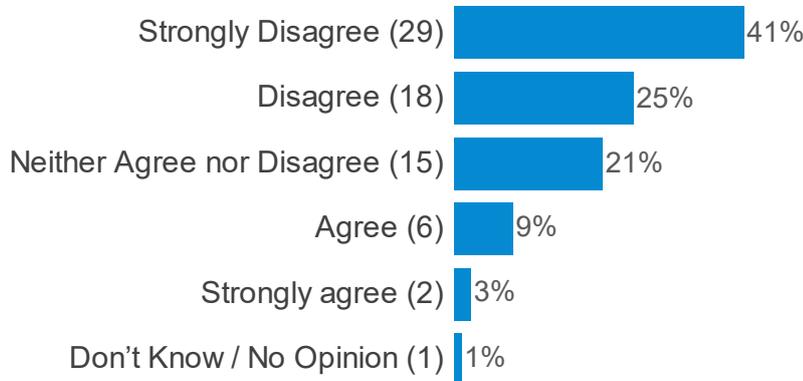
Not aware of Travel Allowance

Travel allowance would enable us to transport our son to school rather than in a shared taxi where, due to collecting other students, what should be a 20 minute journey each way takes over an hour each way - this significantly extends the school day & affects concentration levels & behaviour etc If transport is running late due to delays it can be very stressful waiting for the taxi to arrive in time to get a younger sibling to their school on time. A travel allowance would enable better time planning for the whole family. However, due to public transport limitations we would have to drive to our son's school as it is not near a transport route, which affects the environment and for those without access to a car would likely significantly adversely affect them.

Home to School Transport Survey

Wokingham Borough Council’s expenditure on home to school or college transport for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities is over £3.5 million this year.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Council should take reasonable steps to limit spend on this service?



If you have any suggestions on how the Council could take reasonable steps to limit its expenditure on home to school or college travel assistance, please provide these.

Safety has no cost!

Travel assistance for young people should be top priority, cut backs should be made else where

Stop funding places at mainstream independent schools without checking their finances, it is disgrace you are funding children at HawleyHurt/Hurst Lodge (whatever name it has changed to since going into admin) .

Work with other councils for travel to same school

It shouldn't be limited! A modern caring society does not look at the most vulnerable and needy and say "they are costing too much, let's cut back the services they need" they are the people that need help, not to be forgotten about. It is this council's responsibility to provide the help that people in their area require and help them!

This figure on its on is hard to make a judgement on. It would be useful for the figure of £3.5 million to link to how many children this affects and what a per child cost is. This would give parents a better idea of whether they could support those costs and how good it was on a value for money basis.

The drivers used on our route are paid less than minimum wage. (They have to pay for their own DBS checks and other qualifying credentials, which reduces their pay to less than minimum wage.) So any attempt to make further savings will impact these already underpaid employees even more negatively.

The idea that every family becomes responsible to driving their kids to school would be a total nightmare in terms of congestion, pollution, increased number of journeys. Mental health issues with drivers and their lack of time management/ aggression and child safety on school grounds/drop off zones near schools. To leave travel arrangements to families to source would make cycling/walking to school more unsafe and parents in walking distance less certain this is a safe option for children learning to go independently.

When I went to school our transport was paid for up until the age of 16. It was some time ago, but children should be allowed to attend ANY school within our catchment area regardless of distance if parents feel they would benefit from that one against another!

It should be increased. All spending on SEND facilities needs increasing. There are insufficient or suitable schools or funding for the growing number of children with needs.

My view is that it costs what it costs.... cutting back provision is not the answer, efficiencies within the provision are the right answer

Home to School Transport Survey

If you have any suggestions on how the Council could take reasonable steps to limit its expenditure on home to school or college travel assistance, please provide these.

Start independent travel training wherever possible earlier than currently proposed (post 16?) Have more SEN specialist settings within Borough Consolidate travel routes and avoid single person journeys Have clusters of families with disabled children with same disabilities using common collection points

Without travel assistance we would have to stop work in order to get our daughter to and from school. She cannot travel alone and there is no public transport anywhere near our home so we would have to stop work and drive her to and from school. We don't have the means to pay for taxis and to pay for an adult to accompany her.

Build more suitable special needs school's, there was no school in wokingham that could cater for my child's needs

If there were more suitable school places within a smaller radius children and young people would not have to travel as far for suitable school placements.

In order to take a view it would be better if the Council was transparent re the alternative options for reducing its expenditure. Where there is a need for school transport to support these young people with very specific needs there should be no question re maintaining the service. This is another leading question citing high sums of money with no comparison to enable an informed response.

Changing the criteria is likely to have a negligible effect on the budget and a disproportionate impact on our most vulnerable families. The most effective method of reducing the transport budget is to ensure sufficient, good quality local provision. This would also have a positive impact on the SEND budget as a whole.

Is there a way that families ay have the option of moving house nearer the schools or colleges. I know some one who particularly won't move nearer their child's school because they will lose their free transport. Perhaps if housing associations have offered a move and its turned down then you could look into this and say if you move you move nearer the school. Not further away just to keep free travel.

Support should be dependent on need not on budgets

Join up with other LEAs To share transport to schools - my son went out of borough for education for a few years and we drove past pickup points in other leas boroughs of children going to his school in half empty taxis. Also not sure why some SEN schiols have numErous school minibuses tgat could be run by school to pick up children must be cheaper than Private companies - if school coukd run them using existing staff LEA pay school at cost price for this service or even with a small markup so financial benefit to school to do - much better seeing money going back into school than companies trying to maximise profit

The term 'reasonable' is the crucial word. In order to limit spending on this service, this should not be achieved by limiting the eligibility criteria further. WBC should lobby the government for appropriate funding in line with the legislation to ensure this vital service can continue. In addition, the service should consider working with other departments that the policy affects to find other ways of getting value for money. For example, sustainable travel for the policy links in with WBC's climate emergency agenda and highways.

It is an extremely important service. My child goes to Addington school. I don't drive. Public transport is negligible. No other option. She would not have been able to attend the school best suited to her without it.

If there isn't adequate educational provision for children within the borough then the council should be paying these cost so that children with Sen have the same access to education as all other children. I find the suggestion that the council wants to reduce this offensive. All children have a right to an education

Build more schools!! Allocate school places more sensibly- for example children in Risley and Swallowfield having access to Bohunt school rather than those children in the town centre who are close to numerous schools

plan a mileage for children and give us in fuel vouchers or another mean of support

Home to School Transport Survey

If you have any suggestions on how the Council could take reasonable steps to limit its expenditure on home to school or college travel assistance, please provide these.

i appreciate how expensive this is, it is unfortunate that private taxi services have to be used as they charge so much I am assuming that the council do not have their own transport themselves. Services for children with additional needs are always being cut and families with children with SEND have so much that they have to deal with including services being cut that another cut puts even more pressure on these very vulnerable families.

The health safety and well being of these children should not be impacted by budgets

If there was more appropriate provision for special educational needs in borough this wouldn't be so much of an issue. I am aware of very capable families of children without any additional needs who could easily drive their children to school who have taxi provision. I believe this is where the cost-saving focus should be.

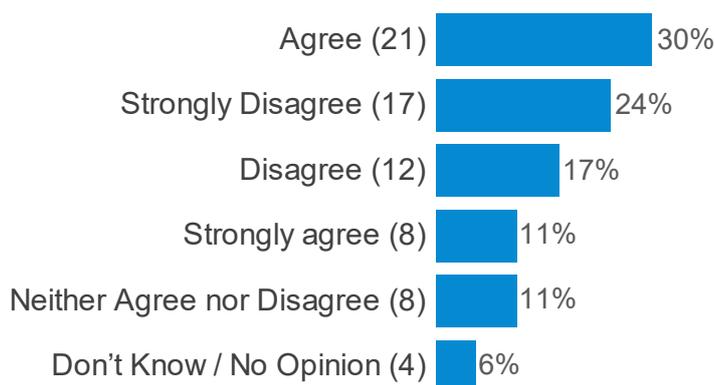
This is a basic need and should not be stopped

Have one school bus going to each school that only children with additional needs can go on.

Continued enablement of access to education for SEN students and safety must be the priority for the council. The council could consider providing funding to the individual school to run a minibus style pick up in an area - parents could take their children to a central pick up point, school staff would have sufficient knowledge and training to support a larger group of the children to travel together safely, less likelihood of the service to be affected by travel delays encountered on taxi circuitous routes. As part of EHCP plan discuss transport requirements and funding. This would ensure transport appropriate to student's need & parents could hold an agreed budget to fund the travel. Are shared taxi costs more economical than individually funded private transportation with a mileage rate? Taxi funding could then be focused on those without private access to cars and/ or pupils who are unable to access their education setting via an easily accessible public transport route.

Children and young people may be receiving Disability Living Allowance, a Personal Independence Payment or another form of travel benefit or concession. Ordinarily the purpose of this benefit is to provide support with travel and access to services and activities. With this in mind, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following:

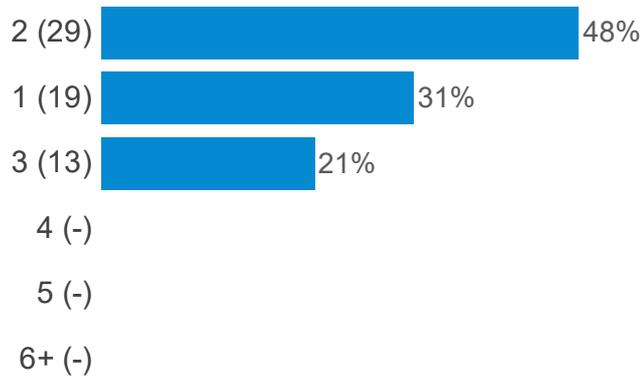
“Existing travel benefits or support should be one of the factors taken into consideration when assessing if a young person over the age of 16 needs additional support with travel to their education placement.”



Are you a parent of school age children?



If yes, how many?



If yes, which school year(s) will they be in as of September 2021?

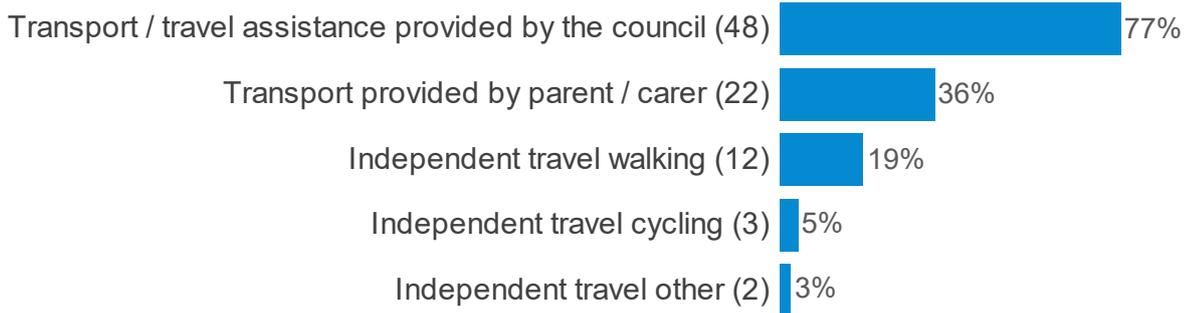
Y8 & Y12	Will have finished school
Bohunt	3 and 6
11 and 13	4 and 2
13 and 10	4
year 8	8
10, 3, 1	8, 11
8 & special needs 9years old	13, 10, 5
3 and 7	11
Year 10 and year 6	3
7	5, 12
11 and 13	2 & 5
The Forest	Year 1, Year 7 and Year 10
10, 12, 7	4 and 7
year 8	8, 6
Year 8 and Year 10	Will have left
Years 9,7 and 5	y7 y9
year 5 and year 8	5,9,10
13, 10, 9	Year 10
College level 3	6, 3 foundation
College of further education	11
10	2, 7 and 9
11	7, sixth form
6	Yr9 yr5

Home to School Transport Survey

If yes, which school year(s) will they be in as of September 2021?

4,8,10	years 4, 9 and 11
2	will be age 16.
Year 12	5 and 6
YEAR 1 AND YEAR 9	13, 11 & 3
7 & 4	the coombes coe primary school
Year 7 and Year 11	

If yes, how does your child / children currently access their place of learning?



If transport provided by the Council, what type of transport/travel assistance do you currently access?

- Shared Taxi with escort
- Taxi
- Taxi
- bus
- Minibus collection
- School van
- School bus year 5 currently walks to school with me
- Minibus
- we do not receive any financial assistance - we are fee paying on the school bus
- Fare Payer - I pay for my son to get to school!
- taxi
- Taxi
- Home to school taxi
- School bus for secondary school
- Taxi
- Minibus with adult supervision.
- School taxi that he shares with others
- taxi to school
- Taxi
- Taxi
- Taxi
- Home to school Transport, special needs

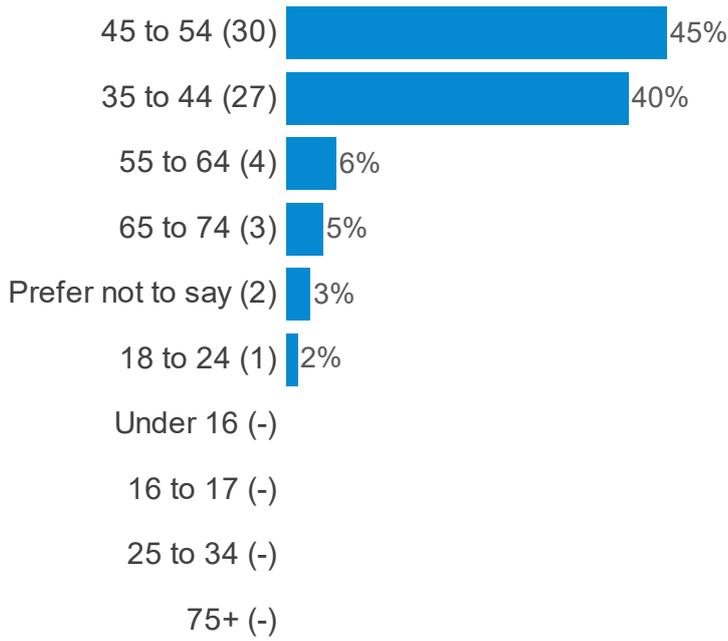
Home to School Transport Survey

If transport provided by the Council, what type of transport/travel assistance do you currently access?

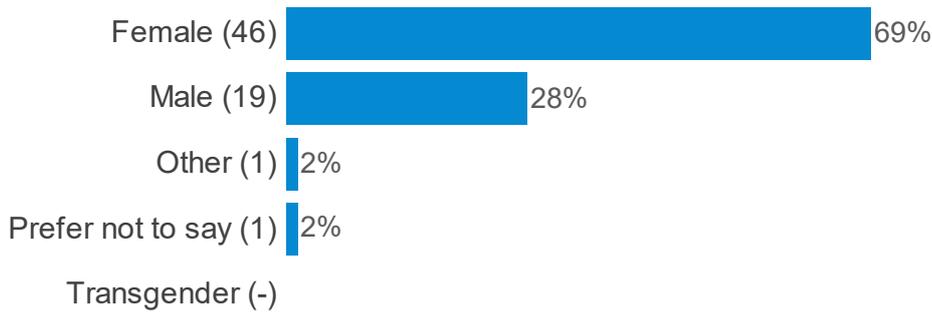
- Mini bus with escort and driver pick up/drop off at home
- SEND son (profound) has school transport from home to school in Maidenhead.
- I pay the council for a seat on a dedicated bus service
- 1:1 solo transport
- Taxi
- Shared taxi
- Travel is funded through ehcp
- taxi (shred) to and from school
- Taxi
- special access vehicle
- School bus
- Taxi with escort
- Taxi
- taxi
- minibus
- Taxi with driver and support carer
- Council minibus
- Taxi
- taxi
- Taxi service with others
- Taxi
- Shared taxi to specialist out of area school
- taxi

Home to School Transport Survey

How old are you?



What sex / gender to you identify as?



Please specify

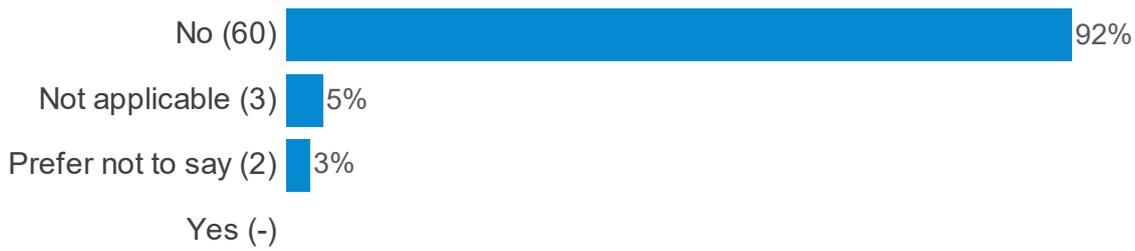
I have female reproductive organs I assume I am female. Girls and women can't id out of abuse & FGM

Have you undertaken any form of sex / gender reassignment?

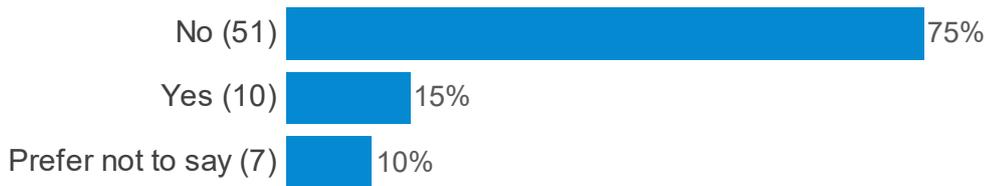


Home to School Transport Survey

Are you currently pregnant or have you given birth within the last year?



Do you have a disability, long-term illness, or health condition?



Would it be helpful if you could indicate the nature of your disability? If so, please do.

diabetes type 2

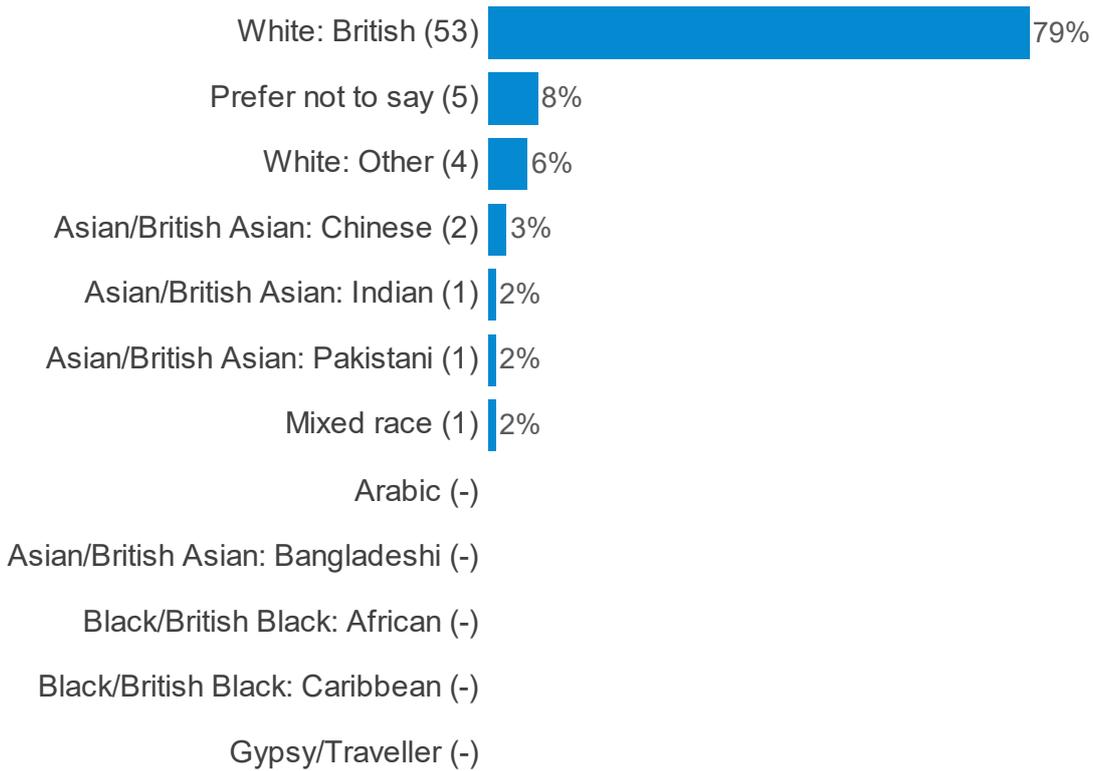
Two total knee replacements, and fatigue due to a blood disorder and a couple of bulging discs in lower back

Type 1 Diabetic for last 37 years

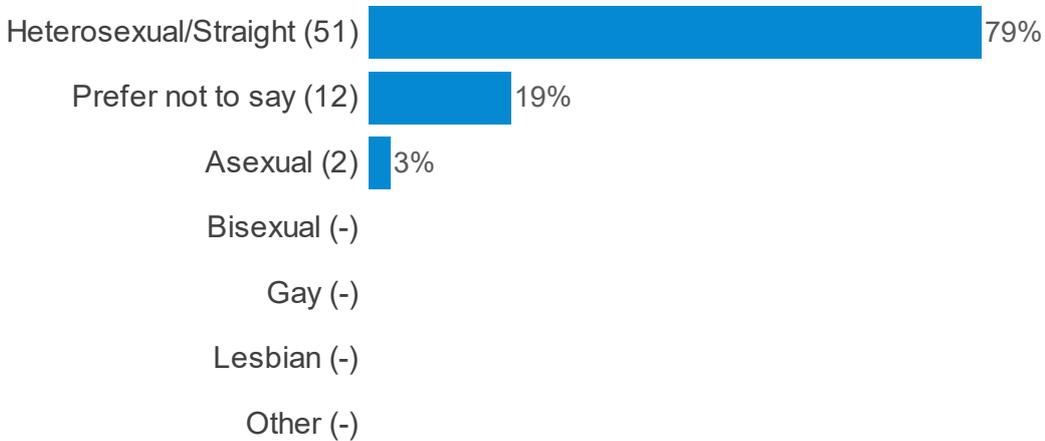
high blood pressure

Asthma Alopecia

What race of ethnicity best describes you?



Which of the following terms best describes your sexual orientation?



What do you consider your religion or belief to be?

