

EXECUTIVE AND RESOURCES PDS COMMITTEE

8TH JULY 2014

EXECUTIVE AGENDA ITEM 13: INVEST TO SAVE – TRAINING STATEMENTED PUPILS TO TRAVEL INDEPENDENTLY

(Additional information requested by Environment PDS Committee on 2nd July 2014.)

The potential for a pupil, in receipt of council funded transport, to be trained to travel independently is dependent upon many factors. The proposed number of 20 pupils becoming independent travellers during the 2014/15 school year was carefully chosen in consideration of:

- Success during 2013/14
- The number of 'new' pupils each year who schools believe would be suitable (from an age and ability perspective)
- Recognition of the fact that an element (following commencement of training) will ultimately prove unsuitable for independent travel
- Journeys that would be undertaken independently remain in accordance with statutory requirements (travel times etc.)
- Parental and school engagement – which is crucial to success

In consideration of the request by PDS for SEN Transport to identify the maximum number of pupils who could potentially be trained, early scoping suggests that, of 825 pupils being transported, approximately 60 pupils may be receptive to travel training in 2014/15 and a similar number in subsequent years. Naturally, as the more receptive pupils become travel trained, the pool of potential trainees will reduce as remaining pupils, with more complex needs, may be less receptive to the opportunity for travel training.

Experience gained during 2013/14 suggests that approximately a third may ultimately prove unsuitable and this would leave a stretch target of approximately 40 pupils to become independent travellers during 2014/15. SEN Transport would be very keen to pursue the training of further pupils who may potentially be suitable if PDS and Executive are willing to increase funding above the level requested for training 20 pupils.

Colin Lusted, Business and Planning Manager,
Education, Care and Health Services