

**EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEE**  
**8<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE EDUCATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

**Written Question to the Education Portfolio Holder received from Eddie Lynch, Bromley Mencap on behalf of a parent**

With regard to Item 9b: SEN Transport Policy Changes Following Recent Consultation:

- 1) Does the Borough think that an 18% response rate is sufficient to implement fundamental changes affecting children and young people and carers; and would it accept that any survey should have included children and young people not currently accessing transport but could be eligible using the full definition of who is eligible?

***Reply:***

The survey was sent to the parents of all the people receiving transport assistance (800+) and distributed to organisations who were able to comment on the Policy from a perspective that would include pupils who would not be eligible. The consultation was also widely publicised via stakeholder websites and Bromley's Mylife portal.

The Council believes that there are very few eligible pupils who have not applied for and accepted the offer of transport assistance and therefore the consultation has reached the target audience and been undertaken appropriately.

The Council would have welcomed a greater percentage of respondents but it is the choice of people as to whether they respond. The responses received were a fair representation of the ages, schools and needs of pupils to which services are provided.

**Written Question to the Education Portfolio Holder received from Yvette Connor**

With regard to Item 9b: SEN Transport Policy Changes Following Recent Consultation:

- 1) Point 4.1.3 'eligibility... will not normally take into account work or other family commitments such as the attendance of siblings at different schools'. How would a parent get their children to school if they have 2 children who attend schools in different parts of the Borough?

***Reply:***

Parents have access to a number of support mechanisms to help balance individual worklife commitments and domestic arrangements but each case needs to be assessed on its particular circumstances. These can be very complex and require a dialogue between the Council and the parent. It is not

a statutory duty to consider these circumstances and therefore they are not included within the policy, however exceptions are sometimes made and transport assistance offered when the parent has demonstrated that they have explored alternative options.