



All Local Authority Leaders  
and Chief Executives

09 September 2015

Dear Leaders and Chief Executives

I wrote to you on 28 July 2014 regarding the provision of free learner travel and to request that the decisions you make on which services to retain, remove or change are informed by meaningful impact assessments.

Whilst I am fully aware of the difficult choices facing local authorities in terms of reduced budgets and maintaining services, the Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance 2014 recommends that local authorities should ensure that post-16 learners have reasonable opportunities to choose between different educational establishments, particularly in the case of learners from low-income families or those from rural areas. In addition, Section 10 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008, Promoting access to education and training through the medium of the Welsh language, places a duty on local authorities when exercising their functions under the Measure. It is also a requirement for local authorities to outline in their Welsh in Education Strategic Plans how they comply with the Measure and promoting access to Welsh-medium education.

This month, a new discounted fare scheme became operational in Wales which will go some way to assist local authorities. The scheme provides one-third discounts for all 16, 17 and 18 year olds in Wales on local (public) bus services in relation to all journeys, including those to places of education or training.

*Edwina Hart*