

From: Swansea CC

Sent: 22 October 2015 17:08

To: PS Minister for Economy Science & Transport

Subject: FW: Letter to Leaders and Chief Executives re Home to School Transport

Importance: High

Dear Mrs Hart

Thank you for your letter dated 9 October concerning the requirements placed upon local authorities to assess the travel needs of learners by the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.

The current school population in Swansea is 35,500 pupils and of these, free home-to-school transport is provided for just under 5,000 pupils.

The Council's Transport Team is advised annually in the spring term of the intake of new pupils to schools for the following September. Checks are then carried out to establish if pupils live further than the statutory walking distances from their designated school. This assessment takes into account those routes which have been classed as 'unavailable' as a walking route for school transport purposes using the revised guidelines published by the Welsh Government in June 2014. Those pupils that live more than the statutory distances from school or where there is no available walking route qualify for free home to school transport and this is arranged for them for the start of the autumn term.

In addition to assessing the needs of the new intake of pupils each year, the School Transport Team receive updated information from each of the schools on those pupils currently receiving free school transport. These updates highlight pupils who have moved house, or left the school and the School Transport Team reassess their needs and amend the transport provision to reflect these changes.

Pupils with special educational needs or medical conditions have their transport needs assessed by the SEN Panel as part of the statementing process. The school Transport Team then arrange transport appropriate to the children's needs as agreed by the Panel. There is an annual review of transport provision for SEN pupils to reflect their changing needs in conjunction with parents, the school and social workers.

The travel needs of pupils are reviewed whenever they change address, change school or there is a change in their particular needs.

Walking routes are reassessed wherever concerns are raised by pupils, parents or schools and also in cases when for example there is a change to the road layout, footways are constructed or closed or there is a new housing development.

In the last year, the Council has developed a working partnership with South Wales Police in undertaking assessments of the social dangers of walked routes to schools and makes available forms for parents and pupils to give their views on the safety of walked routes.

Yours sincerely

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