



10 January 2013

## Questions for Scrutiny

### Item: Changes to Herefordshire Schools & Post 16 Transport Policy

- 1) What weight did Herefordshire Council's Cabinet and Senior Management Team give to the report produced by Maggie Atkinson the Children's Commissioner for England, entitled "We want to help people see things our way"?

This report found out that poverty does have a significant impact on the lives of disabled children and their families, greater than in other families due to the additional costs of caring and reduced opportunities of parents to work. The report also identified travel and transport as a key barrier to children with a disability being able to enjoy the same opportunities to cultural, leisure, economic and social activities as other young people.

The Children's Commissioner called on Government and Local Authorities to remedy this situation.

- 2) How can Herefordshire Council reconcile the decision to make 16+ SEN Students pay for school transport with its:
  - a. centralised model of service provision
  - b. Equalities and Human Rights Charter
  - c. Previous promises to minimise the impact of Rurality on the vulnerable
  
- 3) Has the Council considered that if only one family feels unable to cope because of the withdrawal of this support, and the young person has to be 'looked after' as a consequence, then all the savings accrued to this measure will be wiped out?

Herefordshire Carers Support is a registered charity providing practical support and advice to the carer community in the county

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