

Baugh, Ben

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2014 21:20
To: Baugh, Ben
Subject: (no subject)

To all councillors:

Re: Post 16 SEN Transport Charges

As a parent of a young man with severe and complex needs who attends Barrs Court Special School I am very worried and concerned about the proposal to charge for transport. I have a young family, low income and a very challenging teenage son – maintaining this is a real stress and challenge.

I do not think the consultation has been effective as I never received a letter which apparently was sent out to all affected parents and could not put my views onto the website as it stated the 'web-site is down' whenever I tried.

My question is why is there no reference to parental views that I did finally send through and how can you rely on the consultation feedback as the website was not working?

When you made the decision to charge – did you consider the full impact upon a family such as mine? I have young children who attend a school on the other side of the city from Barrs Court so how can I drop off and pick up from two schools punctually and ensure the safety of all of them? These real practicality and safety issues have not been worked out or thought through. What will happen when I have work commitments or am ill?

What is the criteria for families that will be exempt from paying? This has not been made clear and as a low income earner that is critical for me.

As a low income earner will this additional cost and payment be taken into account and balanced out through other benefits such as housing funding and top-up benefits?

I am concerned that this plan does not take into account the individual needs of the young people with special needs – the legal requirement to keep in education until 18 - or where they travel from. **How can one charge be used when they all travel different distances? And how was the charge of £720 arrived at?**

As a final comment I was concerned to receive a travel warrant for my son on the 11th December which is valid from 17th December 2013 to April 2014. We have never had such an item before and I have been asked to return it as it was issued by mistake by the LA. This was before any decision had been made at the meeting on 19th December. **Had the council already made the decision before this meeting and begun to implement by issuing this pass?**

I am glad that you are looking at this again and ask that you please listen to the real concerns of this family that is going to be hit hard. I am sure we are not alone in that.

[REDACTED]

