

## Baugh, Ben

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 January 2014 22:04  
**To:** Baugh, Ben  
**Subject:** Charging policy post 16 sen

Dear Mr Baugh

I am contacting you regarding the above decision.

I understand the scrutiny committee is sitting on 15.1.14

I would appreciate the following comments being made:

**Re 16+ SEN transport charges.**

Why was the comments made/prepared by Herefordshire Carers Support largely ignored in the report that went to the cabinet. ?

Why has there not been a representative co-opted onto the committee from a special school.? All other options of school have been represented?

The children affected have little choice as to which school/college to attend. The council has centralized the provision of SEN education therefore these children have to travel. This is not a parental choice. These families are being discriminated against.

The children affected are unable to use public transport. Many have physical needs that mean they cannot use public transport. Many are vulnerable and would be unable to make their way to/from home/school safely if they used public transport. Many have sensory issues and may panic if they heard a siren, or those with a learning disability may panic if a problem occurred, ie a bus was late/or bad weather meant a service did not run. etc. Many cannot use a mobile phone so are isolated and vulnerable if anything untoward happened.

The children affected are unable to find part time work so are unable to help their family toward these additional costs.

Parents of the children with additional needs have often had to give up or reduce their work to care for their family. They cannot afford the extra costs. This places a great strain upon the family who may already be struggling to cope. These families often have parents who have separated or are under great strain. The siblings are affected too, with less money available. This decision affects the whole family.

Additional costs are already being experienced by these families as these children need additional equipment - ie Crelling harness that costs more than £100, additional clothes, additional medical appointments.

School/college gives them a chance to learn new skills, (So ensuring they become the most independent they can be) , as well as socializing. The children affected are often socially isolated.

I ask that this decision is reviewed and these children and their families are not discriminated against any further.

Regards

[REDACTED]