

Baugh, Ben

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 January 2014 20:11
To: Harvey, Liz (Cllr); Millar, Jeremy (Cllr); Seldon, Alan (Cllr)
Cc: Baugh, Ben; Kenyon, Jim (Cllr)
Subject: School transport

Dear Cllrs Harvey, Millar and Seldon

I would be grateful if you could challenge the decision made by Herefordshire Council to change the post-16 transport policy. I am the mum of a boy aged 13 with learning disabilities, dyspraxia and autism, and this decision will directly affect my family. I would like to know....

Has the council properly considered the budgetary implications, looking at the loss of grant income for children with SEN? Children who are assessed as needing banded funding at level 3 bring £1350 and at level 4 £5500 on top of the £6000 allocated to each pupil at secondary school.

Has the Council looked at good practice in other similar local authorities?

Has the Council considered the Disability Equality Duty? Disabled people's needs should be fully taken into account before decisions are made, and this requirement is anticipatory. Families of disabled children already have lower than average incomes and are less likely to be able to afford transport costs. Parents are less likely to both be in work because of the difficulties in finding appropriate child care. Families are more likely to break down because of the stress of looking after a disabled child, and hence have less income. I think this inequality should be taken into account by Herefordshire Council.

I think this decision will adversely affect many families with disabled children in the county. A lot of our children are unable to access public transport, are unable to walk far due to physical disability and/or poor awareness of their own safety. We live in a rural county where our choices are limited anyway and this decision limits us even further.

When the budget cuts were announced I thought the Council were protecting our most vulnerable citizens. Who are these, if not our children and young people with disabilities?

Best wishes

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.