



North Tyneside Council

Freedom of Information Request FOI1837

Request:

This Freedom of Information request is being sent out to all top tier local authorities.

1. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how many children aged 5-16 in North Tyneside have received free statutory home to school transport? And, of these, how many children have received this provision on the eligibility of SEND? Please provide total figures for each academic year including the current academic year.
2. Do you routinely record educational absences due to a lack of home to school transport provision for children aged 5-16 eligible for this provision on the basis of SEND? If so, please provide the data on this for each academic year since 2009/2010 including the current year to date.
3. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how much funding has North Tyneside spent providing home to school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND? Please provide total figures for each academic year.
4. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how many children, aged 5-16, requiring specialist support from a chaperone on their home to school journey have received this support? Please give your answer as a percentage of total children eligible for chaperone support on the basis of SEND.
5. What quality assurance processes do you have in place to ensure that home to school transport provision, including but not limited to training of the chaperone and driver, type of vehicle, length of journey and needs of other children on board, for children aged 5-16 on the basis of SEND is appropriate to meet each individual child's needs?
6. What is your planning process, including timescales, for ensuring the provision of home to school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND, and what data sources do you use to support this process?

Submitted on 15/10/19.

Response:

This Freedom of Information request is being sent out to all top tier local authorities.

1. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how many children aged 5-16 in North Tyneside have received free statutory home to school transport? And, of these, how many children have received this provision on the eligibility of SEND? Please provide total figures for each academic year including the current academic year.

15/16 = 616

16/17 = 614

17/18 = 604

18/19 = 636

19/20 = 650

All children receiving the provision met the policy criteria to qualify. Data prior to 2015 is not held.

2. Do you routinely record educational absences due to a lack of home to school transport provision for children aged 5-16 eligible for this provision on the basis of SEND? If so, please provide the data on this for each academic year since 2009/2010 including the current year to date.

No

3. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how much funding has North Tyneside spent providing home to school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND? Please provide total figures for each academic year.

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The information in the financial ledger is held in financial years not academic years. Please see below expenditure on school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND for the last ten financial years including this financial year to date 2019/20.

2010/11 = £1,345,283
 2011/12 = £1,199,634
 2012/13 = £1,414,461
 2013/14 = £1,537,070
 2014/15 = £1,553,102
 2015/16 = £1,578,643
 2016/17 = £1,625,934
 2017/18 = £1,885,177
 2018/19 = £1,842,039
 2019/20 to date = £999,102

Data prior to 2010 is not held.

4. For each academic year since 2009/2010, how many children, aged 5-16, requiring specialist support from a chaperone on their home to school journey have received this support? Please give your answer as a percentage of total children eligible for chaperone support on the basis of SEND.

There is no eligibility for "chaperone support". The Local Authority request information on whether a passenger assistant would be required. If the Local Authority is advised that a passenger assistant is required then this is always provided. The % is therefore 100% for each of the years from 2015. Data prior to 2015 is not held..

5. What quality assurance processes do you have in place to ensure that home to school transport provision, including but not limited to training of the chaperone and driver, type of vehicle, length of journey and needs of other children on board, for children aged 5-16 on the basis of SEND is appropriate to meet each individual child's needs?

Any special requirements for transport are made from the school/social worker/parents, risk assessments are carried out as appropriate. The size of the vehicle depends on the nature of the school and maximum journey time is 45 minutes. Awareness sessions and parent introductions take place if necessary.

6. What is your planning process, including timescales, for ensuring the provision of home to school transport for children aged 5-16 eligible on the basis of SEND, and what data sources do you use to support this process?

Planning starts at the end of February, in order to have the transport in place for September, planning includes liaison with our Special Educational Need & Disability (SEND) Support Service and Schools regarding pupils leaving/joining. Also, once any new routes are established these need to be tendered in accordance with legislation and liaison with contractors regarding schedules and times confirmed.

Data Sources used are Access Database and QRoutes.