



ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
TRANSPORT POLICY FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

January 2018

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that transport is provided consistently and fairly to people who meet the national eligibility criteria for social care and support. The purpose is also to ensure that Leicestershire's operational practice is compliant with the duties under the Care Act 2014.
- 1.2 The provision of adult social care is aimed at promoting the maximum possible independence for the service user. In extending this principle to the provision of transport, this policy sets the criteria that will be used to assess whether the service user's transport need can be best met through independent travel arrangements, privately funded transport or whether Council arranged and funded transport assistance is necessary.
- 1.3 This policy does not describe a major change in approach. Instead the policy aims to clarify existing practice in line with legal duties.

2. Context

- 2.1. Leicestershire County Council has over 600 service users receiving County Council adult social care transport. This costs the council almost £3 million each year.
- 2.2. This policy should be viewed within the context of Leicestershire's Adult Social Care Strategy 2016-2020 which is a key document that describes our vision and aspirations to help people to help themselves by using their own assets along with measures to reduce, delay, prevent, and meet need.
- 2.3. This policy should additionally be read in conjunction with the Care Act 2014.

3. Legal framework

- 3.1. Adult Social Care has a legal duty to provide transport to service users who are eligible for social care support in certain circumstances.
- 3.2. The Care Act 2014 sets out that duty as follows:
- 'The national eligibility criteria set a minimum threshold for adult care and support needs, and carer support needs, which local authorities must meet. All local authorities must comply with this national threshold.'
- 3.3. The Act details that:
- 'Local authorities should consider the adult's ability to get around in the community safely and consider their ability to use such facilities as public

transport, shops, or recreational facilities when considering the impact on their wellbeing.’

4. Scope

4.1. This policy applies to all adults over the age of 18 who are ordinarily resident in Leicestershire and eligible for social care support.

4.2. Where people attend full time education and require transport the responsibility to assess the need for this is with the Children and Families Service and therefore not part of the scope of this policy.

5. Policy Statement

5.1 This Policy is based on the assumption that service users will travel independently except where an assessment shows that this is not possible.

5.2 Transport is only provided to people who meet the Care Act’s eligibility criteria.

5.3 Transport will only be provided where the need for this is clearly identified and documented within the individual’s assessment and support plan.

5.4 The decision to provide assistance with transport will follow consideration of the existing (non-Council funded) transport options that are available. These include using a bus pass, utilising DLA/PIP payments and utilising Motability vehicles.

5.5 An assessment of the risks associated with using non Council funded transport and a person’s mobility will be part of the support planning process.

5.6 Where a person receives a benefit to facilitate their mobility (such as DLA/PIP mobility component) this should be fully utilised to support their transport needs to and from community activities.

5.7 Where a person has a private vehicle (including a Motability vehicle) it will be expected that this is used to access community activities, where possible.

5.8 Exceptional circumstances may arise which would merit the Department funding exceptional assisted transport.

5.9 Transport risk assessments must be reviewed regularly to ensure the ongoing safety of the person travelling.

5.10 Where an individual is provided with a Personal Budget or requests a Direct Payment to meet their assessed needs for care, the same principles will apply as to those people opting to receive support directly from Adult Social Care. The cost of transport will only be included in the Personal Budget or Direct

Payment where no other suitable alternative is available and it is considered that the service user is eligible for this support.

5.11 The provision of Council funded transport is subject to a charge under the Council's 'Charging Policy'.

6 Implementation

6.1. This policy will be applied from December 2017 and will remain in place until there is a need to review, for example following a change in legislation.

6.2. It will be applied to any new adult social care service user.

6.3. It is not currently intended to retrospectively apply this policy to any service users in receipt of transport prior to the policy implementation date stipulated. The Council will review existing people's transport arrangements at the time of their usual review and implement this policy at that time.

7 Monitoring and review

7.1. Travel arrangements and any impacts this policy has had on the ability of vulnerable people to access appropriate services to meet their eligible social care needs, will be considered by assessing officers at a review or reassessment of the individual's needs.

7.2. An individual or their authorised representative can request a review of their social care assessment if at any time they consider their needs have substantially changed.

7.3. At any time in this process the individual or their representative can make a complaint under the Council's Complaints Procedure.

8 Complaints

8.1. Leicestershire welcomes and responds positively to all comments, compliments, and complaints, as a means of demonstrating its commitment to working in partnership with individuals and carers.

8.2. More information is available from: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/contact-us/complaints>

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