

Equality Impact Assessment - head of service review

Reference: EQIA235071581

Submitted: 11 August 2020 13:46 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: Education Transport Contingency Fund

Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): Schools and educational settings in Essex will reopen in September and welcome back all children since the Covid-19 closures began. ECC is required to provide all eligible children in Essex with transport to a school or an educational setting.

Education Transport is provided for eligible pupils in Essex to their form of education (mainstream schools, special schools and alternative educational settings). DfE guidance has set a new framework for supporting transport to and from schools from the autumn term 2020.

The proposal is that statutory Education Transport continues to be delivered within existing budgetary envelope and contractual costs in line with DfE guidance.

For exceptional cases, such as specific Covid 19 related medical risks, where ECC cannot deliver the necessary level of service within existing contract costs and budgetary envelope, ECC will establish a contingency fund of £500,000.

This decision asks Cllr Whitbread to approve a drawdown of £500,000 from the General balance for the provision of statutory Education Transport.

The drawdown will fund Education Transport in exceptional cases where we cannot deliver the necessary level of service for children entitled to home to school transport ("entitled children") within existing contract costs due to the impacts of the Covid -19 pandemic and there is no better value for money alternative provision.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: Help people get the best start and age well

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help people get the best start and age well: Help keep vulnerable children safer and enable them to fulfil their potential

Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?: a change to an existing policy, practice or project

Please provide a link to the document / website / resource to which this EqIA relates:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/file/FA2963B1-139A-4E36-84F5-87778BC14118?tenantId=a8b4324f-155c-4215-a0f1-7ed8cc9a992f&fileType=docx&objectUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fessexcountycouncil.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FAver9556-4692-b0d8-db8fd5ba5bab>

Please upload any documents which relate to this EqIA, for example decision documents:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/file/FA2963B1-139A-4E36-84F5-87778BC14118?tenantId=a8b4324f-155c-4215-a0f1-7ed8cc9a992f&fileType=docx&objectUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fessexcountycouncil.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FAver9556-4692-b0d8-db8fd5ba5bab>

Assessing the equality impact

Use this section to record how you have assessed any potential impact on the communities likely to be affected by the policy (or decision): Currently, operators are being asked to deliver education transport within existing contractual costs and budgetary envelope for September 2020- March 2021. However due to the impact of Covid 19, there may be instances where this is not possible due to additional risk/needs (incl medical) of individuals entitled to transport.

The establishment of a contingency fund will have a positive impact to providers and the end users health and wellbeing.

Does or will the policy or decision affect:

Service users: Yes

Employees: No

The wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities: Yes

Which geographical areas of Essex does or will the policy or decision affect?: All Essex

Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?: No

Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?: No

Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies?: No

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Description of impact

Description of Impact. If there is an impact on a specific protected group tick box, otherwise leave blank. You will be given the opportunity to rate identified impacts as positive, negative or neutral on the next page: Age, Disability - learning disability, Disability - mental health issues, Disability - physical impairment, Disability - sensory impairment

I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics: I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics

Describe any actions that have already been taken to mitigate negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics: N/A

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Reduces risk to passengers in this group due to Covid 19

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: If the CMA wasn't greed access to education services would be at risk and the health and wellbeing of other service users would be at risk.

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Reduces risk to passengers in this group due to Covid 19

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: If the CMA wasn't greed access to education services would be at risk and the heath and wellbeing of other service users would be at risk.

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Reduces risk to passengers in this group due to Covid 19

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: If the CMA wasn't greed access to education services would be at risk and the heath and wellbeing of other service users would be at risk.

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Reduces risk to passengers in this group due to Covid 19

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: If the CMA wasn't greed access to education services would be at risk and the heath and wellbeing of other service users would be at risk.

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Please provide more details about the nature of impact: Reduces risk to passengers in this group due to Covid 19

Extent of impact: Medium

Please provide more details about the extent of impact: If the CMA wasn't greed access to education services would be at risk and the heath and wellbeing of other service users would be at risk.

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your EqIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date EqIA completed: 11/08/2020

Name of person completing the EqlA: Victoria Foster

Email address of person completing the EqlA: Victoria.Foster@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Organisation Development, People and Service Transformation

Your service area: Service Transformation

Your team: TDS

Are you submitting this EqlA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: Yes

Name of person completing the EqlA: Victoria Foster

Function: Place and Public Health

Service area: Transport

Team: IPTU

Email address of Head of Service: helen.morris@essex.gov.uk