

Statement from Ms Sorin

I'd like to submit the following statement to the Cabinet meeting on 5 December 2018. I'm unable to attend the meeting in person so can I ask that it be read to the meeting.

Amendment to the SEND Transport Policy

As someone who has worked with pupils with SEND for many years, I'm asking you to vote against the amendment to the SEND Transport Policy.

I'm shocked that there has been no consultation with parents, schools or medical staff. The head of Children's Services is quite right in saying there will be hardship for families as a result of this amendment but at the same time he's trying to dress these cuts up as a way to promote independence. Many children with SEND are only able to do the ordinary things like attending school because they have access to trusted and well trained support and efficient transport services. The Personal Transport Budget will not be adequate for these families and will leave them struggling to give their child the support he or she needs in order to achieve their potential.

This policy is a backwards step when it comes to inclusion and is an unfair penalty on the most vulnerable in our community. Children with SEND and their families are faced with a constant battle to get the support they need and often face extremely challenging circumstances in their day to day lives.

The report, Amendment to the SEND Transport Policy, is vague on numbers of children who will be affected by these cuts but I fear that children with SEND who really need this support to get to and from school will be negatively impacted for what might be a relatively small financial saving for the council.

This cannot be right or fair. Please vote against the amendment.

I'd be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind regards

Claudia Sorin