

Follow Up Audit Objective

To provide assurance that agreed actions to mitigate against risk exposure identified within the 2020/21 Limited opinion audit of School Transport have been implemented.

Follow Up Progress Summary

Priority	Complete	In Progress	Not Started	Summary
Priority 1	3	1	0	4
Priority 2	5	1	0	6
Priority 3	2	0	0	2
Total	10	2	0	12

Follow Up Assessment

The original audit of School Transport was completed in July 2020 and received a Limited assurance opinion.

It is pleasing to report that the follow up audit has found that services have been proactive with ten of the twelve actions having been completed. Work to implement the actions has been undertaken within a short time scale. The remaining two actions are in progress and are planned to be implemented by 30th April 2021 which we will monitor through the Council to ensure they are completed.

Key Findings



The SEND Travel budget is assigned to a responsible officer in Children's. A SEND Travel Finance Monitoring Group has been established to jointly monitor costs on a monthly basis with representation from Place, Children's and Accountancy. Recharges of passenger assistant costs are being processed by Accountancy monthly and checked by Children's. A decision has been made to cease consolidated billing and revert to invoicing but this will take time to implement.



A review of the suitability of Trapeze has been undertaken by Place and concluded that it is not deemed fit for purpose. A system procurement workstream has been added to Place's transformation programme of work to procure an appropriate replacement. In the meantime, data has been cleansed on both Trapeze and Synergy.



There is a draft SEND Travel Commissioning Agreement in place which will be finalised by the end of February clearly setting out roles and responsibilities for Place and Children's Directorates. The EHCP process has been amended to help identify travel requirements at an early stage.



A SEND Task and Finish Group has been established as a short-term measure to ensure that improvements are embedded successfully. Members and Senior Officers of the Council attend this group.

Follow Up Scope

Testing has been performed in relation to all actions and supporting evidence obtained to support implementation of all actions. Responses and supporting evidence has been provided by Children's, Place and Accountancy staff.