



Home to School Transport Policy including the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement Consultation

Needs Assessment

Introduction

Buckinghamshire Council is committed to providing a sustainable model of transport provision in Buckinghamshire. This includes ensuring that there are effective transport arrangements for sixth form age students attending schools, colleges and other educational establishments.

Context

All Local Authorities must prepare and publish an annual Transport Policy Statement. The Statement must specify the arrangements for the provision of transport, or otherwise, that the Authority considers is needed to facilitate the attendance of all students of 6th form age receiving education or training. This responsibility is extended up to age 25 for students who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and have commenced a course of study before their 19th birthday.

Over the last 5 years (2014-2019) the total number of children and young people (0-25) living in Buckinghamshire with an EHCP has increased by 38.7% (1308) to over 4, 500. During the same period the school population in Buckinghamshire has increased by 7%.

Part of the increase in SEND numbers since 2014 can be attributed to the new EHCP legislation increasing the age range of EHCPs to 0- 25 from 0-19 for statements of SEND.

Assessment of travel needs

Buckinghamshire has a range of travel options for students of 6th form age, including concessionary fares on buses and trains and arrangements made by local colleges. In addition, the Council seeks to encourage students to travel to school independently and to use sustainable modes of travel, such as walking or cycling. These travel options meet the needs of the vast majority of the Post-16 population.

It is recognised that young people with SEND or a disability are more likely to have to travel further to a school or college offering a suitable course due to the number of available appropriate education establishments, and are therefore more likely to have difficulties accessing transport arrangements.

The table that follows provides information on the primary needs of all pupils in Buckinghamshire with an EHCP.

Table 1: Primary Need of all pupils

Primary Need (all pupils)	Dec-19	Dec-18	Dec-14
Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	1323	1128	635
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	974	857	884
Moderate Learning Difficulties	789	722	657
Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH)	680	570	453
Physical Difficulties	305	277	268
Specific Learning Difficulties (SPLD)	173	136	180
Severe Learning Difficulties	171	151	117
Hearing Impairment	100	93	77
Visual Impairment	72	65	56
Profound and Multiple	58	51	32
Multi-Sensory Impairment	23	20	9
Not Recorded / Other	17	4	9
Total	4685	4074	3377

Over the last five years there has been a significant increase in the numbers of ASD plans – 688 (108%) and SEMH with an increase of 227 (50%), whilst there has been a decrease in the number of SPLD with a reduction of 7 (4%)

For the current cohort of children and young people with SEND who have EHCP at Post-16, the primary SEND need has been recorded as follows:

Primary Need (Post-16 students)

The following table outlines the distribution of primary needs across all pupils and students with an EHCP.

Table 2: Primary Need (Post-16 with EHCP)

Primary Need of Post-16 Students	Dec-19	Dec-18	Dec-14
Moderate Learning Difficulties	245	205	110
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	178	117	114
Behaviour, Emotional and Social Development Needs / Social, Emotional & Mental Health	164	111	79
Specific Learning Difficulties	43	34	36
Severe Learning Difficulties	67	53	33
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	369	277	121
Physical Difficulties	80	66	35
Hearing Impairment	23	24	11
Visual Impairment	14	7	7
Multi-Sensory Impairment	1	1	0
Profound and Multiple	10	4	5
Need not recorded	2	0	0
Total	1196	899	551

The previous table shows the scale of the increases in the SEND population and the increase in complexity of demand. Through identifying those children with the highest level of need, we can see that there has been a 129% increase in pupils with physical difficulties since 2014; the provision of transport for this specific group of children is inevitably more complex. Based on this, we need to ensure that our policy and transport services are both appropriate to meet the specific travel needs of the students and sustainable to meet predicted levels of need in the future.

Educational provision for students with SEND

The number of children with EHCPs recorded as attending independent or non/maintained schools has decreased slightly from December 2018, while all other placement types have increased. The number recorded as attending Further Education has increased by 7%.

The following diagrams outline the type of placements that all pupils with SEND in Buckinghamshire are attending; with the majority attending mainstream school and special schools.

Figure1: Summary of placements at 31 December 2019 - All ages

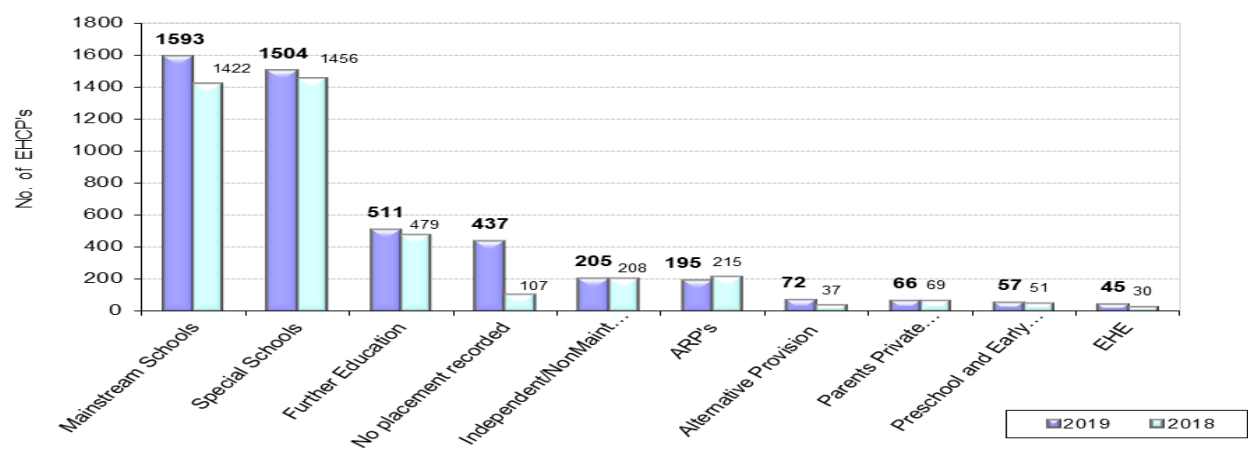
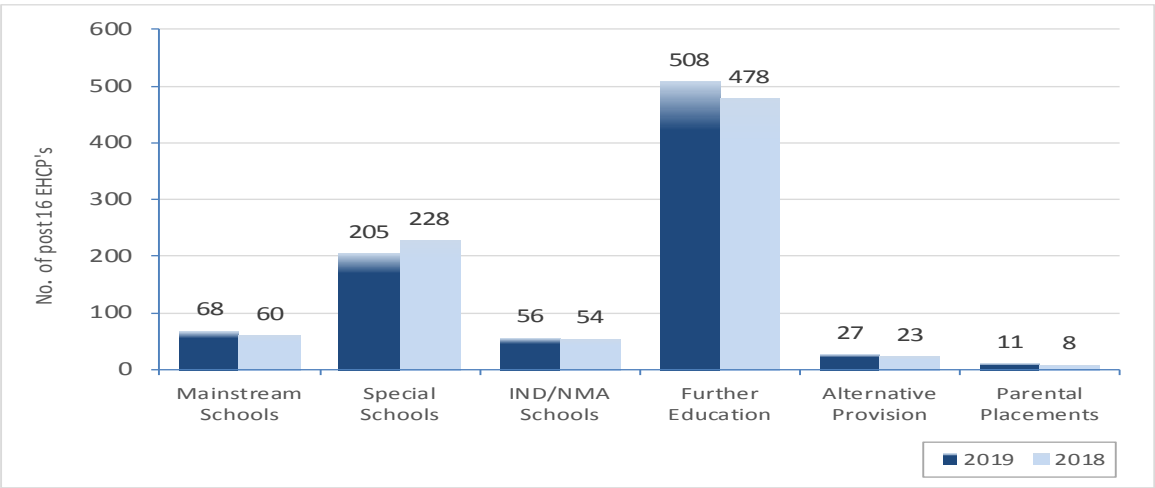


Figure 2 outlines the types of placement taken up by Post-16 students with SEND; Post-16 placements have increased in mainstream schools and further education, but decreased in special schools. The increase in the size of the cohort means there are more students attending overall.

Figure 2: Summary of Post-16 placements at 31 December 2019



Transport provision for students with SEND

In the current year, 494 students with EHCPs are being transported to 6th form, both within and outside the county, in special schools and FE colleges. In addition, there may be students without an EHCP who are unable to access a viable public transport option due to their needs, disabilities or mobility issues.

The following table provides information on the current modes of transport used by Post-16 SEND students.

Table 3: Current transport provision for Post-16 SEND

Transport Type		2019 Customer %	2018 Customer %	2015 Customer %
Adapted	This is likely to be a shared or solo taxi/minibus that is wheelchair adapted. A PA may also accompany if loading/unloading help is needed.	12	3	10
Not Adapted but with a personal assistant (PA) –	This is usually a taxi or minibus with Passenger Assistant. The presence of a PA is established through a risk assessment and will be reviewed regularly.	28	9	3
Not Adapted -	May be a school bus or a taxi. More likely to be a school bus if the student is at their nearest mainstream school setting. However for students with SEND attending specialist provision the type is most likely to be a taxi which may be shared but often is solo and door to door.	54	53	22
Rail Passes	Rail passes are only used if they are cost effective for the particular journey	0	3	4
Local Buses –	Purchase of a bus ticket on a local bus – only a possible solution if buses travel the route required and child is capable to manage any changes required	1	13	28
Mileage Claim –	Parents may claim mileage from the transport team. This is only a viable option if it is the least expensive one.	4	7	10
Other Reimbursement ^ Types -	The most common form of this type of reimbursement is for colleges running their own buses.	1	12	13
Grand Total	%	100*	100*	100*

** may not total 100% due to rounding*

^ e.g. reimbursement to college for their transport provision, commercial service provided on an invoice basis, or parent reclaiming taxi fares

Independent Travel Training may be offered to Post-16 students who need help in accessing the public transport network or travelling to their educational establishment independently. Independent Travel Training provides valuable life skills for these students and enables them to develop independence as they transition into adulthood. Some Post-16 students with SEND or mobility difficulties will still need assistance with travel, either on a temporary basis whilst they receive independent travel training or on a longer term basis depending on their ongoing needs.

Availability of educational settings

There is reasonable choice within the County, and there are also opportunities to attend schools and colleges in neighbouring authorities, and these are clearly shown in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 shows the locations of all the Special Schools with 6th forms in Buckinghamshire.

Within Buckinghamshire there are the following specialist provisions for Post-16 SEND students. Please go to <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/> to see latest individual inspection reports.

Table 4: Specialist provision for Post-16 SEND students

Name of school	Designation	Age of pupils	Area
Furze Down	A range of needs	All through	Aylesbury - Winslow
Pebble Brook	MLD	Secondary	Aylesbury
Stocklake Park	A range of needs	Secondary	Aylesbury
Chiltern Way Academy	SEMH/ASD	Year 6/6 and secondary	Aylesbury - Wendover
Alfriston	MLD (Girls)	Secondary	Chiltern & South Bucks – Beaconsfield
Heritage House	SLD	All through	Chiltern & South Bucks – Chesham
Stony Dean	MLD/ASD/SLCN	Secondary	Chiltern & South Bucks –Amersham
Chiltern Wood	MLD/ASD/SLCN	All through	Wycombe

The following table lists the primary and secondary mainstream schools which also have additionally resourced provision to support children and young people with SEND. Please go to <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/> to see latest individual inspection reports.

Table 5: Mainstream schools with additionally resourced provision (ARPs)

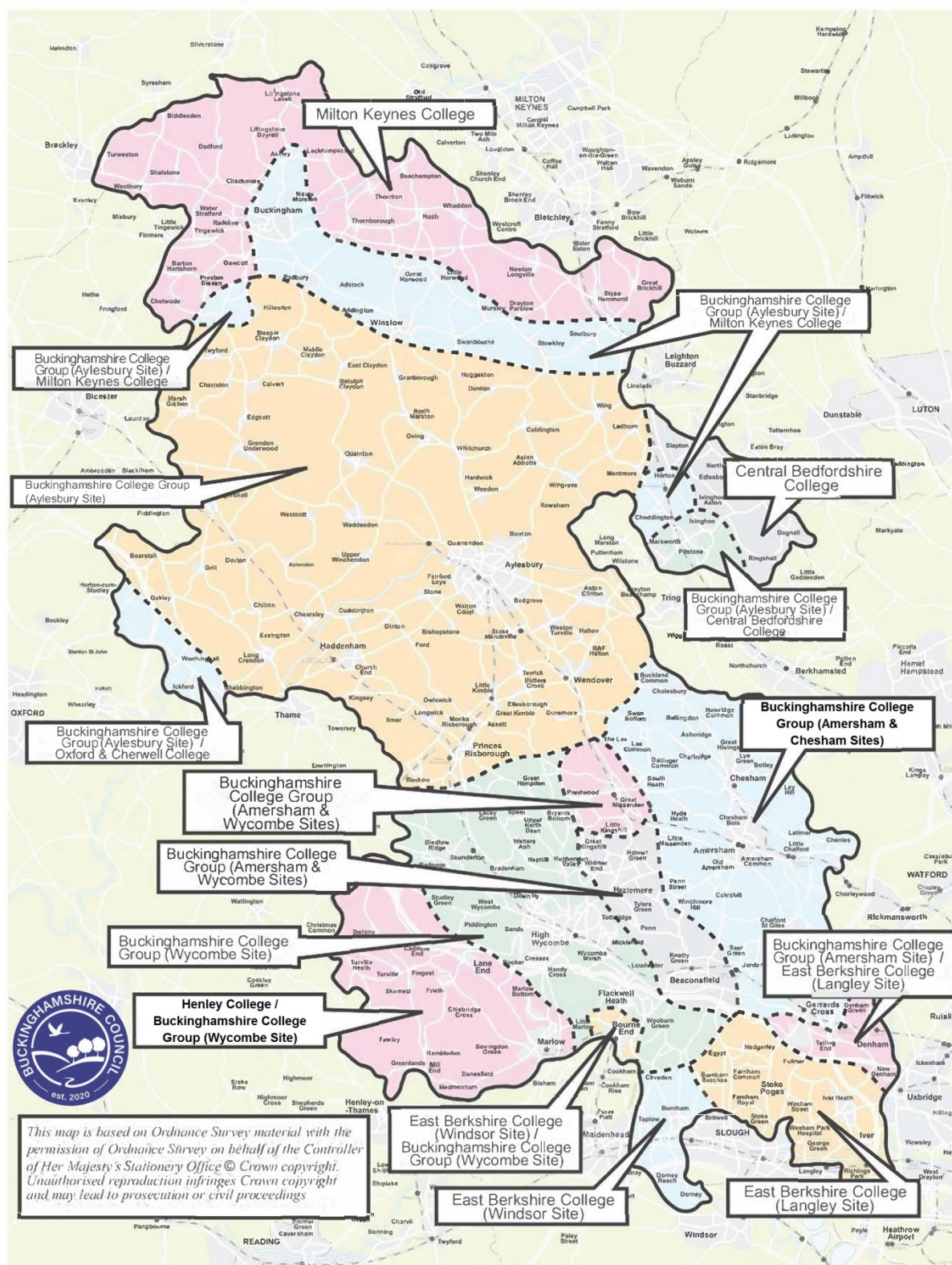
Name of School	Age of pupils	Area
Carrington Infant School	Primary	Wycombe
Carrington Junior School	Primary	Wycombe
Claytons Combined School	Primary	Wycombe
Disraeli Combined School	Primary	Wycombe
Oak Green School	Primary	Aylesbury
Princes Risborough Primary School	Primary	Wycombe
Bourne End Academy	Secondary	Wycombe
Misbourne School	Secondary	Chiltern and South Bucks
Princes Risborough School	Secondary	Wycombe
Highworth Combined School	Primary	Wycombe
Sir William Ramsay School	Secondary	Wycombe
Stoke Mandeville Combined School	Primary	Aylesbury
Aston Clinton School	Primary	Aylesbury
Elmtree School	Primary	Chiltern and South Bucks
Holmer Green Senior School	Secondary	Chiltern and South Bucks
Holtspur School	Primary	Chiltern and South Bucks
Kings Wood School	Primary	Wycombe
William Harding School	Primary	Aylesbury
Chalfonts Community College	Secondary	Chiltern and South Bucks
Juniper Hill School	Primary	Wycombe

Provision is spread throughout the county. There is little specialist provision in the far north or far south, with the majority of specialist schools based near to the largest population centres.

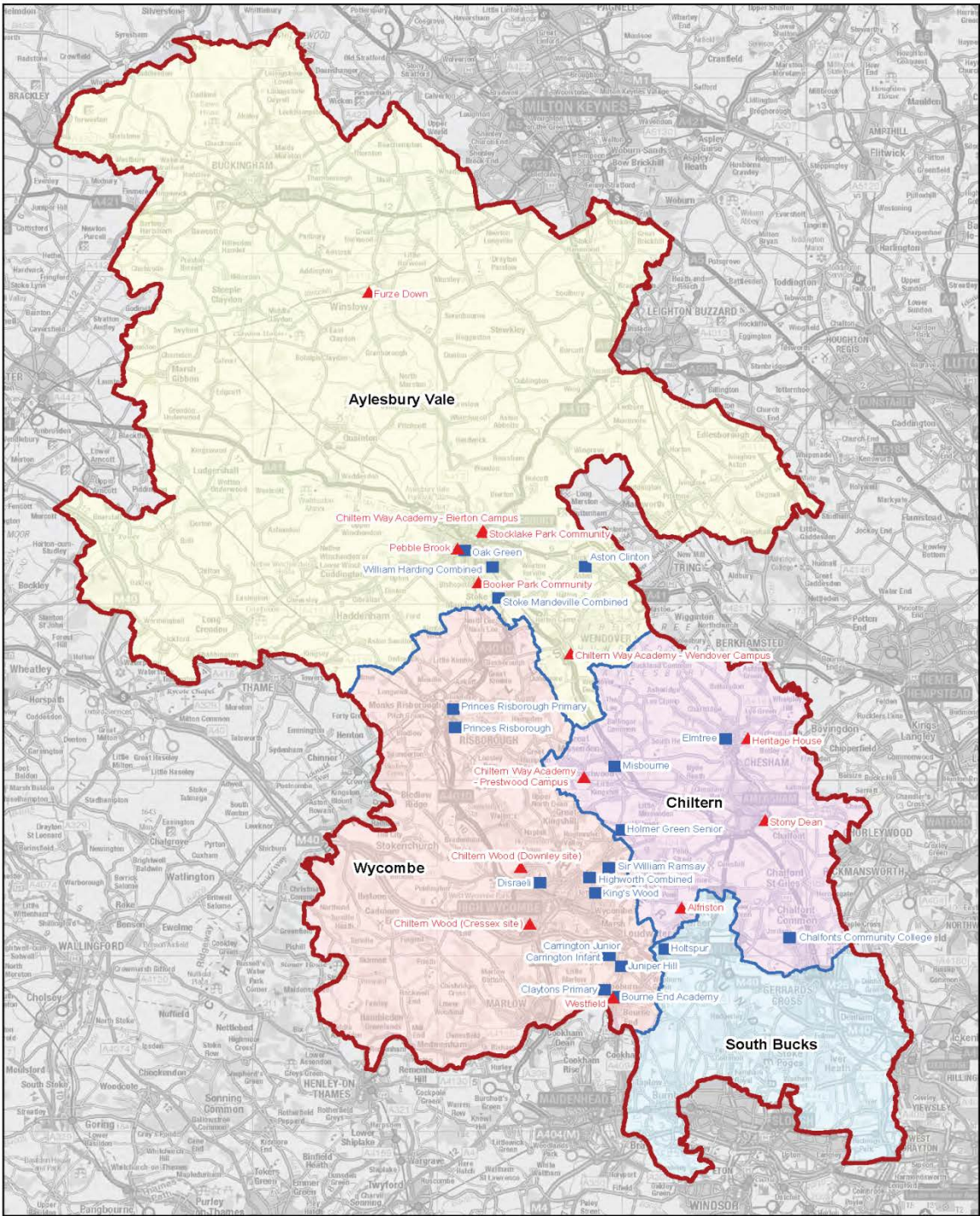
Students within Buckinghamshire can also access a variety of college provision. The Buckinghamshire College Group (BCG) has campuses in Aylesbury, Wycombe and Amersham. Course options may vary between campuses.

Appendix 1 – Map showing Nearest Colleges

Which Is My Nearest College For Travel Purposes?



Appendix 2 – Map of locations of Special Schools and Additionally Resourced Provision in Buckinghamshire



Buckinghamshire Special Schools & Additionally Resourced Provision

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