

Councillor Sue Bentley
Chair, Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)
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Councillor Matthew Robinson
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Date: 4 August 2016

Dear Cllr Bentley,

School transport for children in East Keswick and Bardsey

We are writing to request that the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) considers looking at the issue of the council's school transport funding changes and the effect on pupils who live in East Keswick and Bardsey.

You will be aware of the deputation to full council on 23rd March 2016, and the subsequent Executive Board report of 22nd June 2016, in which these matters were raised. The issues at play relate to the quality of information received by parents about their nearest school and the decisions that were made on that basis, the discrepancy between the council's criteria for working out the nearest school, by both admissions distance and school transport distance, and the difficult situation now faced by families with children who have already integrated into schools. We also think that the issue of a 'tolerance distance' should be more fully explored, as well as the impact on Boston Spa High School and Wetherby High School.

We are aware that Scrutiny has looked at school transport a number of times but feel that this is a unique set of circumstances and an injustice that needs addressing.

We hope that the Board can find time to look at this issue as part of its work programme this year.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Matthew Robinson
Harewood Ward



Councillor Alan Lamb
Shadow Spokesman for
Children and Families



Councillor Andrew Carter
Leader of the Conservative
Group