

Committee(s): DCCS Grand Committee	Dated: 17 July 2023
Subject: Annual Bus Passes for Care Leavers	Non -Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2. People enjoy good health and wellbeing 1. People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Y
If so, how much?	£32,550, £48,825 or £162,750
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Approved by DLT
Report of: Judith Finlay Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report author: Rachel Talmage	

Summary

The chairman of the Safeguarding Sub Committee asked that Care Leavers be given annual travel cards. The offer is in line with the Care Leaver Compact, and in line with our role as corporate parents. Ofsted now inspect our care leaver offer as a distinct category and our aim is that our offer is exceptional for each child. The London-wide Child in Care Council has been negotiating with Transport for London to provide free/low cost annual travel cards. This has yet to be successful, with the current offer being 50% discount. This additional provision would support care leavers in the midst of the cost of living crisis, to ensure their health (emotional and physical) outcomes are met.

The current care leaver offer is that travel to school/college/university and to see family or to undertake cultural/religious activity is provided.

This report sets out the yearly cost of providing an annual bus pass for each care leaver between the ages of 18-25, for those in education or NEET, and then the total cost for all care leavers over 18 including those who work full time.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to decide if either:

- A. Costs for annual bus passes can be made for all care leavers for one year, while the London CiCC negotiate with TfL (allowing for up to 18 months if negotiations are extended).
- B. Agree funding for annual bus passes for care leavers to be part of our permanent local offer.

Main Report

Current Position:

1. Care leavers, as stated in our local offer, are entitled to the cost of their travel for education, and to support contact with family and also for religious/cultural activities. Those who are in education each has a zip card to reduce the cost.
2. To help with the cost of living, and to give more freedom to care leavers, it is proposed that an annual bus pass is provided. The administration costs would reduce and it would give more autonomy to care leavers. A log would be made of the applications, so that in the event of loss or theft, a replacement would be as easy as possible to obtain.

Data:

Costs of bus passes

3. The cost of an annual bus pass in London for a child aged 16+ is £492
4. The cost of an annual bus pass in London for a student aged 18+ is £692
5. The cost of an annual bus pass in London for adults is £988.
6. There is not an annual bus pass for those who are not yet in work, the monthly cost is: £47.30. Annually this would cost £567.60
7. Note: some young people are outside of Greater London. The above figures have been used as an approximation.

Numbers of Care Leavers

8. There are 16 aged 16/17 who are all in education
9. There are 53 care leavers who are 18 or over
 - 40 are in college (or university)
 - 10 are currently not in education or training
 - 3 are working full time

10. All care leavers are entitled to funding for college/education. Currently we provide funding for the weeks they attend. Our spend for travel in the financial year 22/23 was £11,642.90.

Option A:

11. Option A sets out our commitment until the London Compact work resolves out the TfL deal. A bus pass covers all zones in Greater London.

12. Costing for one year of an annual bus pass:

16 x 492 = £7,872	[16/17 year olds]
40 x £692 = £27,680	[18+ in education]
10 x 567.60 = £5,676	[10 NEET (including parents)]
3 x 988 = £2,964	[3 full time work]

Total for one year: **£44,1192**

13. After deducting the current annual spend, £11,642. the additional monies sought total **£32,550.**

14. Should the TFL negotiations take longer, the cost for 18 months of an annual bus pass is: **£48,825.**

Option B

15. If there is no reduction via TFL. The total for five years = **£162,750**

Impact:

16. The bus pass would give care leavers autonomy and freedom, without having to ask often for additional monies. The pass would assist care leavers with the rising cost of living, and would, in part, offset food/laundry/bill rises.

Corporate & Strategic Implications –

Strategic implications – Providing an annual bus pass ensures the Corporation's offer is in line with the Care Leaver Compact.

Financial implications – There will be an additional cost per annum, which is set out above.

Resource implications – Administrative costs will be lessened given the annual cost. Termly payments will no longer be needed.

Legal implications – none.

Risk implications – there is a corporate risk if care leavers are not provided with an outstanding service.

Equalities implications – this promotes inclusion and opportunity to our care leavers – a vulnerable group comprised largely of young people from minoritized backgrounds. This assists with financial inequality.

Climate implications - none

Security implications - none

Conclusion:

17. Freedom, independence and equity are essential, care leavers will be a protected characteristic. The central question is: is this good enough for my own child? London CiCC are aiming for cost neutral travel, the safeguarding sub committee chairman has requested the rise. I therefore propose the provision of annual bus passes to all of our care leavers.

Appendices - None

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