



Consultation on the future of the 3in1 Card Concessionary Travel Scheme for Young People

Consultation ends 8 April 2016



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Overview

The 3in1 Card scheme is currently available for young people aged 5-19, living in West Sussex and in school or full-time further education. The scheme offers the following three benefits:

- Cheaper bus fares – 25% to 50% savings for young people on buses at any time they travel. The discount is in addition to the standard child fare.
- Proof of age – the card is printed by CitizenCard and acts as approved photo ID. This allows card holders to prove their age on the bus, when shopping and when going out.

- Discounts – offers at selected shops, leisure venues and attractions.

There is an application fee of £50 for the 3in1 Card, which is waived for families assessed as being on a low income, and for children who are being 'looked after' by West Sussex County Council Children's Services in residential or fostered accommodation.

You can find out more about the 3in1 Card scheme at www.your3in1.co.uk

Help with Home to School transport is separate from the 3in1 Card scheme and is not part of this consultation. Further information about statutory Home to School transport is available at www.westsussex.gov.uk/schooltransport

Why we are consulting

The 3in1 Card scheme is being reviewed in the light of changes to national legislation, local policy and [Future West Sussex](#) priorities.

We recently carried out a Young Person's Travel Survey to gather information and understanding of who is using the scheme and form a picture of their travel needs. This has helped to shape the proposals below. We received 1580 individual responses to the survey, 52% of whom are currently not 3in1 Card users or a parent of one. Whilst 77% said that the most negative impact would be the increased cost of fares, over 4% went beyond this and said they would not be able to afford to

go to their school/college of choice. The overwhelming majority of 3in1 Card holders (83%) always or mostly use the 3in1 Card to get to or from school or college. Nearly as many (79%) said that they would continue to pay for the bus without a 3in1 Card.

The Council is facing increasing financial pressures across all of our services and we have to make some very difficult decisions about how we spend our limited resources. This consultation will help us to understand the views and priorities people have about the 3in1 Card scheme, and to inform our decisions in the future.

The following options have been developed using feedback from the survey, alongside the reasons for review given above.

The proposals for the future of the 3in1 Card scheme are:

Option 1: The 3in1 Card scheme continues in its current format.

Option 2: The 3in1 Card scheme ceases to operate. Only statutory home to school transport assistance for eligible pupils would apply.

Option 3: The 3in1 Card scheme ceases to operate. Only statutory home to school transport assistance for eligible pupils would apply. Additional funding would be provided for eligible 16-19 year olds from low income families who are in in full-time further education.

Frequently asked questions

Q. What is the standard child bus fare (without a 3in1 card)?

A. Young people aged 5-15 get a standard child bus fare discount which is 30% to 50% of the adult fare, depending on the bus operator. Children under 5 travel free on all bus services.

Q. Is the Council's Home to School transport policy affected by this consultation?

A. No. The Statutory transport assistance available from West Sussex County Council is not being consulted on. Eligible pupils will continue to receive transport assistance.

Q. Who is eligible for assistance with school transport?

A. For under 16s, West Sussex County Council's Home to School Transport policy provides statutory assistance to the nearest or catchment area school including additional help for those on a low income.

Q. Do young people with disabilities get any travel concessions?

A. Young people with an eligible disability can apply for the Disabled Person's Bus Pass which offers free bus travel at all times. A 'Companion Pass' is also available which entitles a carer

or companion to free bus travel when accompanying the pass holder.

Q. If Option 2 or 3 is chosen, when would the Scheme cease?

A. This is one of the reasons that we are consulting. The timing of any changes to the Scheme will be informed by this consultation.

Q. What happens if the Scheme ceases and I have a card valid beyond that date?

A. No decisions have been made on the future of the 3in1 Card scheme. If the scheme does change and you have a card that is valid for after that time there are two scenarios that would be considered. Firstly a proportionate refund of the original £50 fee could be offered, or secondly you would be able to use the card until it expires. This is one of the decisions that this consultation will help to inform.

Q. How can I find out more about planning my child's journey to school or college?

A. You can find out more by visiting www.westsussex.gov.uk/schooltransport

Summary of proposals and further information

OPTION 1

The 3in1 Card scheme continues in its current format

The scheme would continue to offer the same benefits to cardholders: cheaper bus fares on local bus services, CitizenCard proof of age and additional offers and discounts at selected shops, leisure venues and attractions.

The scheme would continue to support the key objectives of the 3in1 Card: to introduce a 'bus habit' in young people; reduce school gate congestion; and lessen the extent to which cost is a barrier to bus travel for young people.

The Council already spends £24 million on statutory home to school travel support for eligible pupils and concessionary travel for older and disabled people, both of which are determined by government legislation.

Bus operators already offer commercially discounted child fares. Approximately 6,000 out of 116,000 school and college attendees currently have a 3in1 Card giving a further discount. This means that the funding for the 3in1 Scheme is being spent on 6% of the total numbers in full time education.

Funding the discretionary 3in1 Card scheme currently costs the Council £1.2 million a year. If the Scheme were to continue savings would be needed from elsewhere in the Council.

OPTION 2

The 3in1 Card scheme ceases to operate and only statutory home to school transport to eligible pupils applies

The Council spends £24 million on statutory home to school travel support for eligible pupils and concessionary travel for older and disabled people, both of which are determined by government legislation.

All under-16s can receive a child fare reduction on buses and trains. Season tickets offer further savings and can be cost effective for frequent travel.

School pupils (up to Year 11) from low income families can receive additional assistance with Home to School transport and this help would remain in place. This provides free home to school travel for qualifying pupils.

16-19s who can use rail services to get to Sixth Form or College are able to use the Council-supported Sussex Student Card. This is free to apply for and gives a 33% discount to further education students on their Southern Rail term-time season tickets. More information is available at www.westsussex.gov.uk/studentcard

16-19s attending full-time further education from low income families will continue to be able to access Bursary funding from their School or College if they are eligible.

Without the 3in1 Card, families who are not eligible for assistance with school transport would be required to pay the full child fare for under 16s, and the full adult bus fare for 16-19s.

Higher bus fares may lead to families increasing car use for school journeys.

This consultation will include working with bus operators to explore the introduction of commercial products that would help to reduce travel costs.

The CitizenCard photo ID card offered as part of the 3in1 Card scheme would no longer be available. Standard CitizenCard photo ID cards (without the 3in1 Card scheme discounts) are available to purchase from www.citizencard.com

The retail and leisure discounts currently offered as part of the 3in1 Card scheme would no longer be available.

Funding the discretionary 3in1 Card scheme currently costs the Council £1.2 million a year. If the Scheme were to continue, savings would be needed from elsewhere in the Council.

OPTION 3

The 3in1 Card scheme ceases to operate, and only statutory home to school transport applies.

Additional funding provided for 16-19 year olds from low income families who are in in full-time further education.

As Option 2, plus:

Targeted financial assistance would be provided for full-time further education students aged 16-19 from low income families.

This is an addition to full-time education Bursary funds, which will continue to be available to qualifying students. This is administered by each School and College.

Further additional information will be added to the 'Have Your Say' website as it becomes available throughout the consultation period.

Useful links and further information

Home to School Travel Support	www.westsussex.gov.uk/schooltransport
3in1 Card scheme	www.your3in1.co.uk
Sussex Student Card	www.westsussex.gov.uk/studentcard
Disabled Persons Bus Pass	www.westsussex.gov.uk/buses
Travel West Sussex journey planning website	www.travelwestsussex.co.uk

How to find out more and let us know your views

The date for closure of the consultation is 8 April 2016.

1. Our preferred method response is to complete the online survey on our 'Have Your Say' website:

<https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/highways-and-transport/3in1card>

2. Contact Transport Co-ordination
Email: **buses@westsussex.gov.uk**
Phone: **01243 777330**

3. Write to:
3in1 Card Consultation
Transport Co-ordination
West Sussex County Council
County Hall
West Street
Chichester
PO19 1RQ

Your comments will then be collated and analysed before being passed to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to inform his decision for the next steps.