

## Consultation Response Form: Discounted bus travel for younger people in Wales

### About the National Education Union Cymru:

- The National Education Union Cymru stands up for the future of education. It brings together the voices of teachers, lecturers, support staff and leaders working in maintained and independent schools and colleges to form the largest education union in Wales.
- The National Education Union is affiliated to the Trades Union Congress (TUC), European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) and Education International (EI). It is not affiliated to any political party and seeks to work constructively with all the main political parties.
- Together, we'll shape the future of education.

### Our response

We are keen to see that young people have access to education based on the right courses for them, not on their ability to afford to pay to travel there. We hope the scheme can be extended to include everyone who needs to access education by bus. We would also highlight specific issues for young people with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) accessing transport to courses once they have reached the age of 25.

## SCHEME OBJECTIVE

### QUESTION 1

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being not important and 5 being very Important) how important do you consider the influence of lower bus fares for young people on their choice of transport mode? **(Please select one of the following)**

Not Important					Very Important	
1	2	3	4	5	Don't know	

## SCHEME SCOPE

Based on current usage trends, the scheme is forecast to assist 1.5 million bus journeys by young people during 2017/18 financial year. We wish to obtain your view whether the current offer is suitable or you whether you would consider it appropriate to enhance provision.

### QUESTION 2

Do you consider the current age range of 16-18 years appropriate for a Young Persons Discounted Bus Travel scheme?

<b>NO</b>	
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### QUESTION 3

If you answered no to question 2, what do you consider the appropriate upper age limit for a Young Persons Discounted Bus Travel scheme?

<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Other (Please state)</b>
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The bus travel scheme should in the very least include all young people studying in the Post Compulsory Education and Training (PCET) Sector.

It is important to note that young people with additional learning needs may attend their local FEI, or one further afield, after the age of 25. They should not be limited by age in order to undertake appropriate study.

### QUESTION 4

Do you consider the current discount level of one-third (33%) off the adult fare an appropriate level to attract greater bus use by young people?

<b>NO</b>	
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We would welcome free bus travel for children and young people, in order to widen access to educational opportunities.

### QUESTION 5

If you answered 'yes' to Question 4, what level of discount would you consider appropriate and affordable to attract greater bus use by young people?

**(Please indicate one of the following)**

<b>50%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Other (Please state)</b>
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100%

## QUESTION 6

The current scheme provides a discount off the equivalent adult fare. Would you consider the introduction of a fixed contribution per journey from younger persons a suitable alternative? (A journey being defined as a single trip between one origin and destination regardless of the number of changes of vehicle)

	<b>YES</b>
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We believe free bus travel is more appropriate to widen access to young people. However, this approach does seem sensible, and we would welcome wide consultation with young people on this.

## QUESTION 7

If a user contribution scheme was introduced, what do you consider the appropriate fare per journey?

**(Please indicate one of the following)**

<b>20p</b>	<b>50p</b>	<b>£1</b>	<b>£2</b>	<b>Other (Please state)</b>
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As little as possible.

## QUESTION 8

An alternative to paying a fee per journey would be the introduction of a monthly or annual pass that entitled the eligible person to obtain free travel at the point of use. What fee would you consider reasonable for such a scheme?

**(Please indicate one of the following for each period)**

<b>Monthly fee</b>	<b>£5</b>	<b>£10</b>	<b>£20</b>	<b>£25</b>	<b>Other (Please state)</b>
<b>Annual fee</b>	<b>£20</b>	<b>£50</b>	<b>£100</b>	<b>£200</b>	<b>Other (Please state)</b>

This could work along a similar model to a Young Person's Railcard, and cost should be kept to a minimum.

## QUESTION 9

Pass holders are currently entitled to a discount on all journeys to reduce confusion and delays when boarding the bus. Do you think significant journey

time delays would occur if the discount was restricted to selected journey purposes, which need to be verified to prove eligibility to travel?

	<b>YES</b>
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We think that a pass should be issued which automatically checks at you board the bus. This should not be restricted to selected destinations and times – as education and training is very wide ranging.

### QUESTION 10

If you answered 'yes' to Question 9, which journey purposes do you consider most important?

**(Please select a maximum of TWO of the following)**

<b>Commuting</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>Shopping</b>	<b>Education</b>
<b>Other Leisure</b>	<b>Health Appointment</b>	<b>Visiting Friends</b>	<b>Other (Please state)</b>

We have said above that this should follow a model of a YP Railcard and would be difficult and inappropriate to expect young people to prove, for example, that they had a health appointment. Or to show the bus driver where they were studying.

### EXTENDING ELIGIBILITY

The current scheme is available for people aged 16 - 18 years. We are keen to obtain your view whether discounted bus travel should be extended to others outside the current age based eligibility for those who contribute to society or require additional support to assist access to education or employment

### QUESTION 11

Should discounted Bus Travel be offered to persons in receipt of Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)?

	<b>YES</b>
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Yes, this is one way of extending the provision, but not the whole answer.

### QUESTION 12

Should discounted Bus Travel be offered to persons in Full Time further education (Over 15 hours study per week)?

	<b>YES</b>
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Bus travel should be offered to those in both full and part-time education. To restrict this to just full time prohibits those learners who may be from more disadvantaged backgrounds, or studying part-time for health or caring reasons from using the scheme.

### QUESTION 13

Should discounted Bus Travel be offered to persons in PART-TIME further education (between 8 and 15 hours study per week)?

	<b>YES</b>
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Yes. Please see above.

### QUESTION 14

Should discounted Bus Travel be offered to persons in recognised apprentice schemes?

	<b>YES</b>
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**Yes. Parity between technical and vocational courses is key.**

### QUESTION 15

If you answered 'yes' to Question 14, should the offer be available to apprenticeships in which of the following age groups?

**Please indicate one of the following)**

<b>19-21 years</b>	<b>19-25 Years</b>	<b>19-30 years</b>	<b>All ages</b>
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**All ages.**

### QUESTION 16

Should discounted Bus Travel be offered to registered carers?

	<b>YES</b>
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Yes.

### QUESTION 17

If you answered 'yes' to Question 16, should the offer be to registered carers in which of the following age groups?

**(Please indicate one of the following)**

19-21 years	19-25 Years	19-30 years	All ages
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All ages.

### QUESTION 18

Should discounted Bus Travel be offered to people undertaking voluntary work?

NO	YES
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We do not have a comment on this, although would note that volunteering should be encouraged.

### QUESTION 19

If you answered 'yes' to Question 18, should the offer be to registered volunteers in which of the following age groups?

**(Please indicate one of the following)**

19-21 years	19-25 Years	19-30 years	All ages
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All ages.

### QUESTION 20

Should discounted Bus Travel be offered to any person holding a Job Centre Plus Travel Discount Card?\*

NO	YES
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\*This is provided to those unemployed claiming Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit for 3-9 months (18-24 year olds) or 3-12 months (over 25s). Other benefit recipients may receive a Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card from 3 months of their claim and if they are actively engaged with a Jobcentre Plus adviser.

## **QUESTION 21**

Do you have any further observations about discounted bus travel for younger people in Wales?

We believe that young people should be able to access good education courses, academic or vocational, close to home.

We know that those living in more rural areas may be very much dependent on buses for travel and welcome any provision to extend the concessionary fares scheme.

Access to education should not depend on your ability to pay for travel to the centre which offers the most suitable for all, but should be open to all.

Please continue on a separate sheet if required.

## RESPONDENT DETAILS

Please print the following details in the spaces below.

<b>NAME</b>
Mary van den Heuvel; Owen Hathway
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If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this by circling the appropriate box, below. We will then blank them out.

**(Please circle one of the following)**

<b>I am content for my name and address to be published, if necessary.</b>	I do not wish my name and address to be published.
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Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, although we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published.

However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before deciding to reveal the information.

It would be helpful if you were to also provide the following information about yourself, to help us report on the range of respondents to this consultation.

In which age range are you?

**(Please indicate one of the following)**

Under 16	16-18	19-22	23-24	25-59	60 & over
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Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Yes	No	Don't wish to say
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Please tell us on behalf of which group you are responding (**Please indicate one**)

Local Government	Public transport user group
Local Education Authority	Third Sector
Disability group	Transport industry
Community group	Commissioner/Ombudsman
Advisory group	Media
Bus operator	Health sector
Emergency services	Trades unions
Individual	Other (Please state)