

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

Ken Skates MS

Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

Cc. Lynne Neagle MS

Cabinet Secretary for Education

24 October 2025

Re: Recommendation 9 of 'Routes into post-16 education and training' report

Dear Ken,

As you may be aware, the Children, Young People and Education Committee is preparing to publish its report on its inquiry 'Routes into post-16 education and training'. The report is scheduled to be published on Wednesday 12 November.

We signed off the final report during our Committee meeting yesterday. One of our recommendations relates to the Welsh Government's pilot £1 maximum single fare/£3 maximum daily fare bus travel for young people. We have already sent you an early draft of the summary of the evidence we received about transport as a barrier to post-16 education and training, which informed that recommendation.

When we first drafted the recommendation we had no reason to believe that the Welsh Government was preparing to carry out an independent evaluation of the pilot. Your announcement in Plenary on 7 October confirming that an independent evaluation would be carried out has changed the urgency of our recommendation to you.

In order to give you every possible chance to consider the recommendation and shape the evaluation accordingly, we have agreed to share with you the recommendation itself and the narrative immediately preceding it ahead of the publication of the report on 12 November:

"... The Welsh Government is taking action in this area, by piloting a cap of £1 single bus fares for young people. Of course, £1 bus fares won't help learners who have to take the train. Or learners who live or study in areas with limited bus

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access. But we welcome the pilot as a way to reduce the financial burden of transport for many young people. As a relatively high-cost policy, it will be important for the next Welsh Government to consider the impact of the pilot and to ascertain whether it has made a tangible difference to young people, including in relation to the accessibility of education and training institutions. We therefore welcome the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales' commitment to commissioning an independent evaluation of the pilot, which we believe must consider explicitly the impact of the scheme on access to post-16 education and training.

Recommendation 9: *The Welsh Government should explicitly include the impact on young people's access to post-16 education and training amongst its terms of reference in the forthcoming independent evaluation of its pilot of £1 maximum single fare/£3 maximum daily fare bus travel for young people."*

The full report includes a more detailed narrative and the corresponding background sections summarising the evidence we received.

I hope that this is useful to you as work on the evaluation continues. We welcome a response to the recommendation at the usual time following the publication of the report.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS

Chair

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English