

Questions submitted in advance for CC Jayne Rear, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

What are LCCs proposals to ensure there is and continues to be adequate provision in the south Chorley area to meet demand for secondary school places when the Academies are increasingly reserving secondary places for juniors who have attended their feeder primary schools; where Rivington and Blackrod High School in Bolton is the nearest geographically to the Adlington District; and where the suggestion of surplus capacity being met in Leyland is not realistic due to travel distance, inadequate transport provision, travel time and its cost.

Heath Charnock Parish Council

What are LCC plans to improve the currently inadequate funding for Special Educational Needs as not only are individual pupils are being failed but the lack of support is impacting negatively on other children in their class /each School?

Can LCC do more to support families whose child/ren have to pay for cross border travel to school transport which costs significantly more?

Adlington Town Council,

Some time ago we had a consultation from Albany about reserving school places for pupils from schools within the same Academy Trust but not necessarily from within this area.

Similarly we have parents from particular faith groups who would prefer their children to attend the faith based high schools within this area.

Could CC Rear please give some indication about the amount of control County has over these issues when determining school placement allocations within our local area.

Ian Horsfield, Anderton Parish Council

There is a crisis facing families and schools with Special Educational Needs children across Lancashire concerning the shortage of Educational Psychologists to assess and provide much needed evidence to approve and update Educational Health Care Plans. Reports of shortages of EP's began in 2021 long before LCC saw fit to take any action to prepare schools and families and they are still failing to communicate effectively with families.

LCC have recently provided schools with an approved lists of private EP's that they can use to assess children and report findings to LCC, I have a number of concerns about this:

LCC has now created a tiered system which prevents schools with little to no funding in place to access a private EP, how is this fair on those pupils stranded on waiting lists who need vital support?

The above strategy further impedes each school by requiring them to contact the Principal EP Francesca Woods to gain permission for them to use a private EP...one that has already been placed on the approved list? Why then do they need to seek further permission?

County Councillor Steve Holgate