

## **MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS ON SEN TRANSPORT.**

We all acknowledge parental concerns for their child's health whilst on SEN transport and there has been much discussion relating to the suggestion that SEN Transport passenger assistants should receive training to administer medication in an emergency, whilst a pupil is on transport. The SEN Transport Stakeholder Group fully discussed the question at their last meeting and identified the following challenges and barriers preventing such an initiative to be taken forward:

- The contractual obligations the LA has with the transport providers. The contract specifications for the SEN transport services, limit any training to the duties of the role of a passenger assistant. These duties do not include any form of health interventions
- If a member of staff is providing medical intervention to one child, the passenger assistant is unavailable to look after any other passengers, to whom they have an equal duty of care. The driver has a legal duty and responsibility to be in charge of the vehicle at all times.
- The SEN transport team contacted a number of experienced providers to obtain their feedback on any potential change to the current protocol. Providers stated they would be unable to support such an initiative due to health and safety concerns and insurance risks, for a non-medical person undertaking any form of medical intervention, albeit having received specific training.
- Providers cited the conflict of duties where trained paramedics are not allowed to carry the medication (therefore preventing them from administering the medication), yet it was suggested the health service train non medical staff to administer this medication.
- They identified a number of challenges in the areas of staff management, unforeseen absences which all add to additional risk if the correctly trained crew were unavailable. Providers are unable to maintain a bank of medically trained staff for emergency cover leading to a greater risk that adequately trained staff cover is unavailable resulting in service disruption for the young person and the family.
- The London regional SEN transport manager group and colleagues stated this is not the role of a passenger assistant, not current operational practice in their boroughs and not an initiative they could support due to the challenges identified and this being a health need.
- Whilst the crew in their enthusiasm to be supportive may be willing to undertake the training, this is not a decision they are able to make. It is important that parents adhere to the travel assistance guidelines provided on the Councils website:

[http://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/2368/special\\_educational\\_needs\\_sen\\_transport\\_service\\_key\\_information\\_for\\_parents\\_and\\_carers](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/2368/special_educational_needs_sen_transport_service_key_information_for_parents_and_carers)

Following this lengthy discussion and debate the consensus was that there are too many potential risks that can be fully mitigated. The Council and the Stakeholder group working together accepted there are serious health and safety concerns, together with business and contractual reasons why it would not be possible for the proposal to be taken forward, and members were asked to disseminate the rationale and decision to their groups.