Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

My Ref: SM/C/500821

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Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen recent media coverage concerning Birmingham Council's withdrawal of their SEND transport contract with North Birmingham Travel due to contractual breaches linked to safeguarding.

As you are aware, Sandwell has a contract in place for SEND transport with this company, they have assured us that they have extra measures in place to check DBS checks are up-to-date. In addition to this I can confirm that Sandwell has its own robust system in place which means that drivers and passenger assistants that work on Sandwell contracts must have a Travel Assistance Service (TAS) Badge.

TAS check or undertake DBS's for all Drivers and Passenger Assistants and all DBS's must be on the update system. The DBS's of all staff working on Council Contracts are checked on an annual basis. Additionally, all drivers and passenger assistants must pass the combined Safeguarding and Child Exploitation course and Passenger Assistant Training course provided by Sandwell, and all operators have been asked to provide information regarding the management of safeguarding, their safeguarding policy and the process in place for staff to raise concerns.

In light of these recent events we have completed a review of all operators and have measures in place to continue with ongoing monitoring until existing contract finish on 23rd February 2022, when new transport arrangements anticipated to commence from Monday 28th February 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Moore
Group Head Education Support Services

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