



House of Commons
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Press Release – For immediate release

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham
18th April 2013

Press Release

Local MP calls for consistent and affordable bus service for young people.

Rotherham MP Sarah Champion yesterday spoke in Parliament on the vital role local bus services play for young people. Without buses, most young people could not access colleges, jobs, apprenticeship or just go out and meet their friends. She raised that Ministers had promised that cuts in funding would not lead to the loss of local bus services, but the Campaign for Better Transport surveyed local councils and found 41% of them had cut services this year, on top of cuts made in 2011/12.

Champion highlighted the collaborative work of RMBC, SY Police, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive and the individual local operators who are working with young people to make sure they get the services they need. She also went on to support the Councils attempts to encourage operators to only charge young people 70p for through journeys, regardless of how many changes are needed.

Sarah Champion commented "Buses are vital for young people. They enable them to have independence, access facilities and get to work or college. We have to make sure that the service remains affordable and reliable or we are failing our youth by taking away their opportunities. I am pleased the Minister agreed on the importance of buses, but I wanted him to go further and agree to give local transport authorities greater regulatory powers over fares and routes."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

- 1) To see the full Westminster Hall Debate on affordable bus service for young people please see the below link

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130417/halltext/130417h0001.htm#13041741000190>