

From: Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services

Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

To: Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee - 1 March 2022

Subject: **PROPOSED REVISION OF RATES PAYABLE AND CHARGES LEVIED FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN 2022-23**

Classification: Unrestricted

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: All

Summary:

This paper sets out the proposed revision to the rates payable and charges levied for children's services within Kent for the 2022-23 financial year.

Recommendation(s):

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **ENDORSE** a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Integrated Services on the proposed decision to:

- (i) **APPROVE** the proposed changes to the rates payable and charges levied for Children's Services in 2022-23 as detailed in section 2 and Appendix 2 of this report.
- (ii) **NOTE** both the changes to the rates that are set by the Government/external agencies: including inter-agency charges and Essential Living Allowance and; any charges to other Local Authorities for use of in-house respite residential beds are to be calculated on a full cost recovery basis.
- (iii) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is produced annually and seeks approval for the Council's proposed rates and charges levied for the forthcoming financial year.
- 1.2 The report distinguishes between these rates and charges over which Members can exercise their discretion and those which are set by the Government/external agencies.

- 1.3 In relation to those rates and charges where Members can exercise their discretion, we have traditionally increased these annually in line with either the annual CPI increase or more recently, when CPI has been low, the average percentage increase for KCC pay performance. For 2022-23, we are proposing an inflationary increase of 3% in most cases. The inflationary increase of 3.0% is in line with the proposed increase for KCC pay performance (for a successful award), this is higher than the CPI increase between September 2020 and September 2021 of +2.9%, and we believe represents a fair and responsible percentage uplift. The security of an annual uplift continues to form part of Kent Fostering's approach to improving the recruitment and retention of foster carers by enabling the service to provide a more competitive package in the carer's marketplace.
- 1.4 Where an inflationary increase of 3% has not been proposed an explanation has been given in Appendix 2.
- 1.5 The effective date for all proposed rate changes is 1 April 2022 and they will apply until 31 March 2023 or until a decision is taken to revise these rates further, whichever is sooner.

2. Rates payable and charges levied for Children's Services

- 2.1 Appendix 1 provides a list of all rates and charges proposed for 2022-23 compared to the approved 2021-22 rates and charges. The methodology for each proposed rate increase is outlined in Appendix 2.
- 2.2 All payments will continue to be made in line with the prevailing policy including the Fostering Payment Policy shared with this Cabinet Committee on 11th March 2020.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 In relation to the proposed increases to the rates we pay, additional funding has been included within the Directorate's 2022-23 budget proposals, under the heading "Inflation - Children's Social Care" at just under £2.4m. This calculation includes an assumed uplift for all in-house fostering and associated payments

4. Equalities Impact Assessment

We have not assessed any adverse impact within these proposals to increase funding rates for children's services.

5. Recommendation(s):

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **ENDORSE** a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Integrated Services on the proposed decision to:

- (i) **APPROVE** the proposed changes to the rates payable and charges levied for Children's Services in 2022-23 as detailed in section 2 and Appendix 2 of this report.

- (ii) **NOTE** both the changes to the rates that are set by the Government/external agencies: including inter-agency charges and Essential Living Allowance and; any charges to other Local Authorities for use of in-house respite residential beds are to be calculated on a full cost recovery basis.
- (iii) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision.

5. Background Documents (plus links to document)

The Fostering Payment Policy presented to CYPE Cabinet Committee on 11th March 2020:

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s96325/Item%208%20-%20Kent%20Fostering%20Payments%20Policy%20App%203.pdf>

6. Contact details

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