

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

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

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

Classification: Unrestricted

Previous Pathway of Decision: Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee - 1 March 2022

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):

As Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, I agree to:

- a)
- i. The weekly Foster Care Maintenance allowance to be increased in line with the rise in line the DFE published fostering rates:

All placements under 2 years old	£163.69
All placements 2 to 4 years old	£169.08
All placements 5 to 10 years old	£186.31
All placements 11 to 15 years old	£213.23
All placements over 16 years old	£248.77

- ii. The weekly Foster Care Reward element is increased to:

Non-related placements 0 to 8 years old	£125.15
Non-related placements 9 to 18 years old	£237.71

- iii. The weekly Foster Care Disability Enhancement is increased to:

Standard	£71.31
Enhanced	£95.08

- iv. The weekly Foster Care Skills Based Payment is increased to:

Skilled (Level 2)	£22.71
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Advanced (Level 3)	£56.74
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v. The weekly Emergency Foster Carer Retainer payment remains at:

Retainer	£250.00
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vi. The hourly Sessional & Day Care payments increase to:

Sessional Work	£10.45
Day Care	£10.45

vii. The Foster Carer Mileage Rate will remain at 45p per mile in line with KCC staff.

viii. The Local Authority charges to OLAs for Children's Services are increased to:

Social work support and assessment (per hour)	£80.98
Administration fee associated with social work support and assessment (per invoice)	£25.00

ix. The Kent Supported Homes (Supporting Lodging payments to hosts) remain at:

Standard Support (per week)	£154.50
Enhanced Support (per week)	£257.50
Complex Support (legacy cases only) (per week)	£206.00
Mother and Baby Arrangement Support (per week)	£309.00
Outreach support (per hour)	£10.45
Rent (16/17 year old and 18+ who are not eligible to claim benefits) (per week)	£72.10
Rent (University non-term time)	LHA** rate
Staying Put Extended Foster Care Rate	Various**

*LHA – Local Housing Authority

**Various – the rate will depend on circumstances and agreed in line with the Staying Put policy.

b) **NOTE:**

x. The rates which are dictated by external agencies i.e. Inter-agency charges and Essential Living Allowance

xi. The charges for other Local Authorities for use of in-house respite residential beds is to be calculated on a full cost recovery basis.

c) **DELEGATE:**

(i) Authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, or other nominated officers, 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 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. Cabinet Committee

- 5.1 A report was presented to Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on 1st March 2022.

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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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