

Charges & Rates Payable 2008/09

Welcome to the Children Families and Education Directorate's information booklet detailing the rates for payments, charges, benefit allowances, and assessment guidelines for Children's Services in 2008/09.

We hope you find the booklet both informative and handy for quick reference.

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Payments to Foster Carers

With effect from 1 April 2008, the rates below will be paid:

	Age – Years						
	Under 2	2-4	5-8	9-10	11-15	16-17	18+
Maintenance Element All foster placements (per week)	£ 111.86	£ 113.96	£ 123.13	£ 133.70	£ 146.23	£ 164.43	£ 164.43
Reward Element Non-related placements only (per week)	£ 99.61			£ 189.98			

Note Related placements receive only maintenance element.
Non-related placements receive both reward and maintenance elements.

Payments For Skills (P4S) Payments to Foster Carers

Payments to reward foster carers for their level of skills.

With effect from 1 April 2008, the rates below will apply:

Level 2 £20.00

Level 3 £50.00

Payments to Specialist Foster Carers

With effect from 1 April 2008, the rates below will apply:

	Age – Years	
	0 – 8	9 – 16
Single Placement Supplements Reward (per week)	£ 199.22	£ 379.96
Plus maintenance according to age		
Treatment Fostering (per week)	703.15	703.15
Therapeutic Fostering (per week)	544.39	544.39
Remand Fostering Placement (per night)	65.58	65.58
Remand Fostering Retainer (per night)	42.09	42.09

Note Foster Carers who are not related to the Child in Placement:

All foster carers will receive one consolidated weekly payment which will incorporate all the fixed allowances, including maintenance/personal allowance, etc for the child.

If a child has very specific needs which may require additional money, agreement must be sought from the CFE Director Children Services.

Payments to Relative / Friend Carers

LAC - For carers approved as a relative foster carer for a looked after child, the rates below will apply:

	Age – Years						
	Under 2	2-4	5-8	9-10	11-15	16-17	18+
Maintenance Element	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Related foster placements (per week)	111.86	113.96	123.13	133.70	146.23	164.43	164.43

For a Residence Order Non LAC the rates below will apply less child benefit:

	Age – Years						
	Under 2	2-4	5-8	9-10	11-15	16-17	18+
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Non-Related (per week)	211.47	213.57	222.74	323.68	336.21	354.41	354.41
Related (per week)	111.86	113.96	123.13	133.70	146.23	164.43	164.43

Note Residence Order Allowances should not exceed the equivalent of the fostering payment level less child benefit.

CHARGES

Adoption Service Charges

With effect from 1 April 2008, the charges below will apply:

Inter Country Charge, per adoption case

- Initial information, discussion and meeting	no charge
- Assessment for first home study	
Single person	£3,500
Couple	£5,000
- Assessment for second home study	
Single person	£2,000
Couple	£3,500
Reports of post placement or post adoption visits	£150 per report
12 month reviews of approval	£150 per report

Inter Agency Charge

Adopters Charge (As set by BAAF) – LA's	£12,977
Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies	£23,784

Parental Contribution Charges

With effect from 1 April 2008 the maximum assessment amount is:

Age		£
0 – 8		95.97
9 – 16		127.75

Residential Respite Services Charges

With effect from 1 April 2008, the charge below will apply:

Respite Charge (per night)	£315.70
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Section 23 Leaving Care

Payable to 'relevant children', under the children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. Aged 16/17 years, these young people are not looked after – although they must have been in the past. The above Act places a specific responsibility on local authorities to finance the relevant child's accommodation and maintenance cost. No parental contribution charge is made for this cost.

Other Local Authority Charges

With effect from 1 April 2008, the charges below will apply:

As per the regional inter-authority protocol where authorities who have signed up to the protocol cannot act on a 'knock for knock' basis.

Fostering Service

Social Work Support (per hour)	£65.10 (excluding travel)
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General

Assessment Rate (per hour)	£65.10
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Voluntary Escorts/ Workers Mileage Rate

As from 1 April 2008 the rate will be 40p per mile.

Assessment for Parental Contributions

This form is used to establish the financial contributions from parents whose children are either accommodated or looked after by the Directorate. It is means tested and compares the parents' income against their housing costs and set levels for living expenses.

With effect from 7 April 2008, the rates are as follows:

1. Personal Allowances deductible from income (based on the allowances for Income Support)

	£
Lone Parent (under 18)	
Usual Rate	47.95
Lone Parent (under 18)	
Higher Rate Payable in specific circumstances	47.95
Lone Parent (18 or over)	60.50
Couple (both under 18)	47.95
- both under 18, one disabled	47.95
- both under 18, with responsibility for a child	72.35
- one under 18, one 18 to 24	47.95
- one under 18, one 25+	60.50
- both 18 or over	94.95

2. With effect from 1 April 2008, the Parental Contribution rate will be:

Age	£
0 – 8	95.97
9 – 16	127.75

3. With effect from 1 April 2008, the additional children at home allowance will be:

Age	£
0 – 8	74.28
9 – 18*	90.17

*When over 16 years, if a child at home is working or receiving Income Support, no allowance should be given.

This allowance is calculated as an average of the DWP Child Allowances and the parental contributions rate.

Parents on Income Support (or those who would be if their income support child allowance had not been transferred to Child Tax Credit) or Working Tax Credit cannot be charged.

Notes for Social Workers

Parental Contributions – Children in Care

1. Both the natural or the adoptive parents of a child who is in care or accommodated, (*whether or not they have parental responsibility*) are required, by law, to make a contribution to the Council towards the cost of maintaining the child until the child reaches the age of 16 years. No assessment can be made for parental contributions in cases where the parent is in receipt of any of the following means tested benefits:

Income Support (or would be if their Income Support Child Allowance had not been transferred to Child Tax Credit).
Working Tax Credit.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPTS OF THE BENEFITS LISTED ABOVE IS OBTAINED BEFORE A NIL ASSESSMENT IS APPLIED.

Because of confidentiality the Department of Work and Pensions may not be prepared to provide written confirmation. It is suggested that the social worker satisfies the validity of a claim by examining order books, claimant literature, etc.

2. Whilst, in the cases listed above, child benefit cannot be used to contribute towards the child's cost, parents must contribute at least the amount of child benefit for each child in care for the initial eight weeks that the benefit is paid. If, after eight weeks, the child is still looked after, the child benefit and any other benefits relating to the child will cease.
3. From the date of accepting the child into care an assessment upon income is made; based upon the assessment regulations adopted by the County Council. The maximum charge for any child is the current Foster Placement Payment for the appropriate age. However, where more than one child from a family is looked after, the Foster Payment rate for the eldest child is the maximum charge.
4. Immediately a child is accommodated or made the subject of a Care Order, you must explain to the parent(s) their obligation to contribute, and hand them the 'Notice to Parents' Form SS373. You should also give the parent(s) a completed Contribution Notice, and send a copy of the letter to the Parental Contributions Officer.
5. Where both parents are dead, a relative or friend may be receiving a guardian's allowance (*plus child benefit*). Unless the guardian receives any of the means tested benefits listed in (1) arrangements should be made immediately for the recipient to pay this to the County Council towards the cost of maintaining the child in care. However, the guardian is **NOT** required to pay any contribution beyond these allowances.
6. If the mother is receiving any allowances, benefit or maintenance via a Court Order, the Child Support Agency, or **directly** from the father, this must be paid over to the Council. This also applies to maintenance payable by the

mother to the father. In respect of the child (*or children*) looked after by the Council, these payments must be paid over to the Local Authority up to the maximum amount of the contribution rate (see paragraph 10 on SS373). Where payments are being received for several children, only the proportion in respect of the child (*or children*) looked after by the Local Authority will be sought. If this, or any, payment made means that the income of a parent will fall to a level that may require support form Means Tested Benefits, advice and assistance in making the appropriate claims should be offered.

7. If a parent does not respond to the assessed charge or does not commence payments within four weeks, an application will normally be made to the Magistrates' Court for a 'Contribution Order'. If the contributor signs an agreement to the assessed amount, and does not maintain payments as agreed, payment will be enforced via the Magistrates' Court. At a stage when Court action is to be taken, the social worker will have the opportunity to draw attention to any welfare and other aspects of the case which require special consideration.

Notice to Parents

Payment of Parental Contributions with effect from 1 April 2008

1. When a child is looked after by the Local Authority, the law requires the parents to contribute towards the cost of child maintenance until the child reaches the age of 16, and the amount of the weekly contributions shall have regard to the parents' means. No assessment can be made for parental contributions in cases where the parent is in receipt of Income Support (or would be if their Income Support Child Allowances had not been transferred to Child Tax Credit), Working Tax Credit.
2. With the exception of parents receiving the above allowances, all parents must contribute at least the amount of child benefit, for each child in care, for the initial eight weeks that the benefit is paid. If, after eight weeks, the child is still looked after, then the child benefit and any other benefits relating to that child will cease.
3. If you feel that you cannot afford to contribute the full cost of care, as shown in paragraph 10 overleaf, and you are currently employed, evidence of your earnings must be produced. This can be given by arranging for your employer to complete the Employer's Certificate of Earnings, or by forwarding your last six wage slips, if you are weekly paid, or your last two wage slips, if you are monthly paid. You should also complete the enclosed means Enquiry Form and an assessment will then be made to calculate your weekly contribution according to current financial circumstances.
4. If the County Council is unable to obtain details of your financial circumstances, you will be assessed to pay the weekly amount that it costs to maintain a child boarded out with a foster parent as shown in paragraph 10 overleaf.
5. If you do not agree to pay at the assessed charge referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4, or fall behind in making the payments, application will be made to the Magistrates' Court for an Order specifying the payment to be made.
6. **Notification of Change of Address**
You **must** notify the Council via the Social Services local office of any change of address; failure to do so can render you liable to a fine.
7. **Notification of Change in Financial Circumstances**
Your circumstances will be reviewed periodically but you must notify the Social Services office immediately if there is a change in your capital, income and/or outgoings.
8. If either parent is the payer under a maintenance assessment to the Child Support Agency or a Court Maintenance Order it is your duty to notify the County Council.

9. **If you require more information or assistance please contact the Parental Contributions Officer.**

10. **PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION RATES**

If the County Council is looking after more than one of your children, the maximum contribution will be the amount relating to the eldest child only.

With effect from 1 April 2007, the rate will be:

		£
Age	0 – 8	95.97
	9 – 16	127.75