

By: Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Families and Social Care

To: Jenny Whittle, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

Subject: **PROPOSED REVISION OF RATES PAYABLE AND CHARGES
LEVIED FOR CHILDREN SERVICES IN 2014-15**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To seek members approval to the revision in the rates payable
FOR DECISION and charges levied for children services listed below in 2014-15.

Introduction

1. (1) This report is produced annually and seeks approval of the Directorate's proposed rates and charges levied for the forthcoming financial year, along with any potential changes to the Directorates charging policy.
- (2) The report distinguishes between these rates and charges over which Members can exercise their discretion and those which are laid down by Parliament.
- (3) Members should be aware that in previous years, some of the children's rates were increased in line with the KCC staff pay award. As there is no explicit pay award in 2014-15 (salaries will increase for TCP awards only), it is recommended that an increase of 2%, be added for these rates for 2014-15.

Any charges proposed in this report have been increased by 2.7% in line with CPI at September 2013 which is in line with the benefits uplift.
- (4) The effective date is 7th April 2014.
- (5) A review is underway for rates payable on other types of care arrangement. A separate report will follow when this review is complete.

Charges and Rates Payable for Children's Services

2. (1) All rates and charges proposed for 2014-15 in respect of Children Services are shown in Appendix 1.

Adoption Service Charge

(2) Inter Country

(a) Assessment for first home study

Single person – The current charge to be increased by 2.7% to £3,721.21.

Couple – The current charge to be increased by 2.7% to £5,316.01.

(b) Assessment for second home study

Single person – The current charge to be increased by 2.7% to £2,126.40.

Couple – The current charge to be increased by 2.7% to £3,721.21.

(c) Reports of post placement or post adoption visits

The current charge to be increased by 2.7% to £159.48.

(d) 12 months reviews of approval

The current charge to be increased by 2.7% to £159.48.

(e) Inter-Agency Charges – Voluntary Adoption Agencies and Local Authorities

The following charges are set by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering and therefore are not within our discretion to alter. There is no change to rates for 2014-15:

Local Authorities -

- One Child - £27,000.00
- 2 Siblings - £40,500.00
- 3+ Siblings - £54,000.00

Voluntary Adoption Agencies

- One Child - £27,000.00
- 2 Siblings - £34,768.00
- 3 Siblings - £46,358.00
- 4 Siblings - £52,152.00
- 5 Siblings - £57,947.00

Foster Care Payments

(3) (a) **Reward Element**

An increase of 2% is recommended for 2014/15 (these include an adjustment so the figure is divisible by 7).

- Non related placements 0-8yrs £107.80
- Non related placements 9-16yrs £204.75

(b) **Maintenance**

These rate increases are in line with the national minimum.

| | National minimum* | Increase |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| All placements under 2 | £141.12 | 1.56% |
| All placements 2-4 | £145.39 | 1.47% |
| All placements 5-8 | £162.68 | 2.06% |
| All placements 9-10 | £162.68 | 2.06% |
| All placements 11-15 | £184.17 | 2.37% |
| All placements 16-17 | £216.51 | 2.05% |
| All placements 18+ | £216.51 | 2.05% |

*The national minimum figures above have been adjusted to include provision for payments to foster carers to cover holidays, birthdays, religious observances & Christmas (equating to 4 weeks) and have also been adjusted so they are divisible by 7.

Foster Care Skills Based Payments

(4) (a) **Foster Care Skills Based Payments**

It is recommended these do not receive an increase in 2014-15. The published figures last year were not divisible by 7, but need to be in order to be entered onto the FPS system. Therefore, the rate is:

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Level 2 - | £20.23 |
| Level 3 - | £50.54 |

Specialist Foster Care Payments

(5) (a) **Single Placement Supplement**

This is calculated as twice the age related reward element, (these have been adjusted to be divisible by 7).

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Age 0-8 yrs - | £215.60 |
| Age 9-16 yrs - | £409.50 |

(b) **Therapeutic Fostering Supplement**

This is calculated as twice the maximum reward plus maximum maintenance (again, these have been adjusted to be divisible by 7).

All ages - £626.01

Other Local Authority Charges

3. It is proposed that there is no uplift of these rates for 2014/15.

(a) **Fostering service – Social work support**

2014/15 £67.07

(b) **General – Assessment hourly rate**

This represents KCC social workers doing work on behalf of OLAs.

2014/15 £67.07

(c) **Administration fee – rate per invoice**

This represents the administration fee to cover time dealing with recharges, it is credited to the social work team claiming the recharge.

2014/15 £10.20

(d) **Residential Respite Services**

2014/15 £326.83

4. **Recommendations**

The Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services is invited to:

a) **APPROVE** the following rates:

- i. Assessment for first home study (2.2.a)
- ii. Assessment for second home study (2.2.b)
- iii. Reports of post placements or post adoption (2.2.c)
- iv. 12 months reviews of approval (2.2.d)
- v. Foster Care Reward Element (2.3.a)
- vi. Foster care skills based payments (2.4.a)
- vii. Single placement supplement (2.5.a)
- viii. Therapeutic fostering – Enhanced reward (2.5.b)

- b) **NOTE** the increase to the following rates that are dictated by external agencies.
 - i. Inter-agency charges (2.2)
 - ii. Foster Care Maintenance (2.3.b)

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