

From: Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director for Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Paul Carter, Leader of the Council

Decision No: 15/00014

Subject: **PROPOSED REVISION OF RATES PAYABLE AND CHARGES LEVIED FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN 2015-16**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway: Social Care Health and Wellbeing DMT - 4 March 2015

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This paper sets out the proposed rates and charges for Children's Social Care Services for the forthcoming financial year

The Leader of the Council to:

- a) **APPROVE** the proposed increase to the rates payable and charges levied for Children's services in 2015-16.
- b) **NOTE**
 - i) The Inter-Agency Charges, which are set annually in July by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering.
 - ii) The Foster Carer payments set out are weekly amounts. The increases have also included marginal adjustments so that all figures are divisible by 7 to enable daily payments to be made where necessary.
- c) **AGREE** that the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other suitable delegated officer, undertake the necessary actions to implement this decision.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is produced annually and recommends the Directorate's proposed rates and charges levied for the forthcoming financial year, along with any potential changes to the Directorates charging policy.
- 1.2 The report distinguishes between those rates and charges over which the County Council can exercise their discretion and those which are laid down by Parliament.
- 1.3 If approved, the effective date of implementation will be 6th April 2015.

2. Charges and Rates Payable for Children's Services

- 2.1 All rates and charges proposed for 2015-16 in respect of Children's Services are shown in the attached appendix (Appendix 1).

Adoption Service Charge

2.2 Inter Country

All arrangements for Inter Country activities are now contracted to a 3rd party; Inter Country Adoption (ICA). All financial arrangements are made directly between the applicant and the ICA.

2.3 **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. Rates are uplifted annually in July of each year; therefore the rates below are as at 2014-15. These are included for information.

Local Authorities -

- One Child - £27,000.00
- 2 Siblings - £43,000.00
- 3+ Siblings - £60,000.00

Voluntary Adoption Agencies

- One Child - £27,000.00
- 2 Siblings - £43,000.00
- 3 Siblings - £60,000.00
- 4 Siblings - £68,000.00
- 5 Siblings - £80,000.00

Foster Care Payments

2.4 **Maintenance**

It is **proposed to increase the maintenance rates in line with the Department of Education's published minimum weekly allowances for the South East Region.**

	2015-16
All Placements under 2	146.44
All Placements 2-4	150.78
All Placements 5-8	168.00
All Placements 9-10	168.00
All Placements 11-15	190.61
All Placements 16-17	224.00
All Placements 18+	224.00

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

2.5 **Reward Element**

It is **proposed to leave the reward element of the allowance at the current rates.**

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

2.6 **Foster Care Skills Based Payments**

It is **proposed to leave the skills based element of the allowance at the current rates.**

Level 2 -	£20.23
Level 3 -	£50.54

2.7 **Single Placement Supplement**

This is calculated as twice the age related reward element and must be divisible by 7.

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

2.8 **Therapeutic Fostering Supplement**

This is calculated as twice the maximum reward plus maximum maintenance and must be divisible by 7.

All ages -	£633.50
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Other Local Authority Charges for Children's Services

It is proposed the hourly rate is increased by the percentage increase for the pay award uplift excluding any performance reward element for 2015-16. This is also the recommendation for Adult Services.

2.9 **Fostering service – Social Work Support**

£67.74

3.0 **General – Assessment Hourly rate**

This represents KCC social workers doing work on behalf of other Local Authorities.

£67.74

3.1 **Administration fee – rate per invoice**

This represents the administration fee to cover the time dealing with recharges; it is credited to the social work team claiming the recharge. It is **proposed to increase the maintenance rates in line with the average CPI figure for the period April 2014 to September 2014 of 1.58%**

£10.36

3.2 **Residential Respite Services**

It is **proposed to increase the maintenance rates in line with the average CPI figure for the period April 2014 to September 2014 of 1.58%**

£331.99

4. Recommendation:.

The Leader of the Council to:

a) **APPROVE** the proposed increase to the rates payable and charges levied for Children's services in 2015-16.

b) **NOTE**

i) The Inter-Agency Charges, which are set annually in July by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering.

ii) The Foster Carer payments set out are weekly amounts. The increases have also included marginal adjustments so that all figures are divisible by 7 to enable daily payments to be made where necessary.

c) **AGREE** that the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other suitable delegated officer, undertake the necessary actions to implement this decision.

5. Background Documents

None.

6. Report Author

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