

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

DECISION NO.

16/00013

If decision is likely to disclose exempt information please specify the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Subject: RATES PAYABLE AND CHARGES LEVIED FOR CHILDRENS SERVICES IN 2016-17

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services and in line with the recommendations in the report on the Proposed Revision of Rates Payable and Charges Levied for Children's Services in 2016-17, I agree to:

a) **APPROVE**

i) The Foster Care Reward element to increase to:

Non related placements 0-8 yrs - £108.61

Non related placements 9-16 yrs - £206.29

ii) The Foster Care Skills based payment to remain at:

Level 2 - £20.23

Level 3 - £50.54

iii) The Single placement supplement to remain at:

Age 0-8 yrs - £217.22

Age 9-16 yrs - £412.58

iv) For Local Authority Charges for Children Services for:

a. Assessment hourly rate to increase to £68.76 per hour

b. Administration Fee to remain as £10.36

c. Residential Respite Services to remain as £331.99

v) Essential Living Allowance, for certain Care Leavers including former UASC, to be £57.90.

b) **NOTE**

i. The Inter-Agency Charges which are included in the recommendation report. These are reviewed annually and will be published by Coram BAAF in July 2016. The previous rates, confirmed in July 2015, will remain in place until July 2016.

ii Foster Carer payments set out above 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) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement this decision.

d) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer to:

i) adopt the appropriate Foster Care Maintenance Rates for 2016/17, as detailed in the table below, when confirmed by the Department for Education

All Placements under 2	Rate not yet available
All Placements 2-4	Rate not yet available
All Placements 5-8	Rate not yet available
All Placements 9-10	Rate not yet available
All Placements 11-15	Rate not yet available
All Placements 16-17	Rate not yet available
All Placements 18+	Rate not yet available

ii) adopt the appropriate Therapeutic Fostering Supplement when confirmed by the Department for Education.

Reason(s) for decision, including alternatives considered and any additional information

The proposed rates payable and charges levied are considered annually, with any revisions normally introduced at the start of each financial year.

The report deals with children's social care and the rates and charges that are currently in place. The equivalent changes for adult's social care are taken as separate decision.

The rates and charges payable for 2016/17 are expected to be introduced from the 1 April, although this is dependent on confirmation from the Department of Education.

The report distinguishes between those rates and charges over which Members can exercise their discretion, and those which are laid down by Parliament.

Financial Implications:

The increase in income and the increase in payments that these changes will bring have been included in the draft budgets for the services affected, which is expected to be agreed on 11 February.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision was discussed at the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 22 January 2016.

1) Mr Cowan had declared an interest earlier in the meeting and left the room for the entirety of the discussion on item B2.

2) James Beamish, Principal Accountant, introduced the report highlighting to members the proposed revision to the rates payable and charges levied for children services for 2016-17. He confirmed CPI in September was at 0% and brought Members attention to the rates and charges as detailed in Appendix 1.

3) In response to questions raised by Members Philip Segurola, Director of Specialist Children's Services, gave the following information;

- a) In regards to the pay structures for Independent Fostering Providers are generally slightly different and provide an overall payment and as such are less prone to break it down in the same way. Local Authorities generally cannot compete with these.
- b) In terms of maintenance Kent County Council follows Department of Education (DFE) guidance.
- c) In regards to the hourly assessment rate on page 34 the figure shown is the minimum and that it is very rarely applied.

4) Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, explained in response

to questions raised by Members that most of these charges relate to Fostering Agencies. Issues relating to minimum wage will apply more in price determination for the independent sector and that will be given consideration of that issue in the final determination.

5) RESOLVED that Members endorsed the proposed decision as detailed in the report.

Background Documents:


A recommendation report will accompany the decision paperwork.

Any alternatives considered:

As noted, elements of these revisions are set by external agencies and are not subject to discretion.

For discretionary elements, alternative % uplifts were considered but established principles of using the previous Sept CPI figure (which is also used by the DWP for uplift calculations) was retained, with one exception where a higher increase is recommended for the Foster Carer Reward element.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: - None

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 signed

..... 22. March. 2016
 date

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny				Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration				Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued				Reconsideration of Decision Published			
YES		NO		YES		NO		YES		NO					

