

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

To: Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

Decision Number: 16/00013

Subject: **PROPOSED REVISION OF RATES PAYABLE AND CHARGES LEVIED FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN 2016-17**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Social Care, Health and Wellbeing DMT – 13 January 2016
Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee – 22 January 2016

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Summary: This paper sets out the proposed revision to the rates payable and charges levied for children services listed below in 2016-17.

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

- a) **APPROVE** the proposed changes to rates payable and charges levied for Children's Services in 2016-17 as detailed in sections 2 and 3 of the report
- b) **NOTE** the changes to the following rates that are dictated by external agencies: Inter-agency charges (2.2a); Foster Disability Enhancement (2.3c) and; Essential Living Allowance (2.6) and;
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the 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 Section 2.3b of this report, when confirmed by the Department of Education and;
 - ii) adopt the appropriate Therapeutic Fostering Supplement as detailed in Section 2.5b of this report, when confirmed by the Department of Education.

1. 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.
- 1.2 The report distinguishes between these rates and charges over which Members can exercise their discretion and those which are laid down by Parliament. Due to the

need to fit in with the Cabinet Committee cycle, this report is having to be prepared before the statutory guidance on Fostering Rates has been published. When the rates become available the report will be updated. For 15-16 the rates were not published until mid-Feb 2015.

- 1.3 Members should be aware that in previous years, some of the children's rates were increased in line with the pay award. As there is as yet no agreed pay award in 2016-17 it has been assumed that there will be an average increase of 1.5%. Once the budget has been set this will be revisited in the final recommendation report.
- 1.4 Any charges proposed in this report have been increased based on the CPI rate as at September 2015. As this was 0% effectively no uplift has been applied to 2016-17. This is in line with the benefits uplift.
- 1.5 The effective date is 1st April 2016.

2. Charges and Rates Payable for Children's Services

- 2.1 All rates and charges proposed for 2016-17 in respect of Children Services are shown in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Adoption Service Charge

Inter-Agency Charges – Voluntary Adoption Agencies and Local Authorities

a) The following charges are set by Coram BAAF and therefore are not within our discretion to alter. Rates have not been published for 2016-17; currently the latest published rates are as at 2014-15:

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

2.3 Foster Care Payments

(a) **Reward Element**

An increase of 0.75% based on the split between the assumed pay increase of 1.5% for 2016-17 and the average CPI rate as at September 2015 of 0% is recommended for 2016-17

- Non related placements 0-8yrs £108.61
- Non related placements 9-16yrs £206.29

(b) Maintenance

The DFE have yet to publish the rates for 16-17, detailed below are the rates for 15-16 and are provided for information only.

	15-16 Rates*
All placements under 2	£143.64
All placements 2-4	£147.98
All placements 5-8	£165.62
All placements 9-10	£165.62
All placements 11-15	£187.46
All placements 16-17	£220.43
All placements 18+	£220.43

*The 15-16 rates detailed 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.

(c) Fostering Disability Enhancement

The Fostering Disability Enhancement payment is paid in line with the Disability Living Allowance as published by the DWP for 2016-17.

Higher Rate	£82.30
Middle Rate	£55.10
Lower Rate	£21.80

2.4 Foster Care Skills Based Payments

(a) Foster Care Skills Based Payments

It is recommended these do not receive an increase in 2016-17. Therefore, the rate is unchanged at:

Level 2 - £20.23
Level 3 - £50.54

2.5 Specialist Foster Care Payments

(a) Single Placement Supplement

This is calculated as twice the age related reward element

Age 0-8 yrs - £217.22
Age 9-16 yrs - £412.58

(b) Therapeutic Fostering Supplement

This is calculated as twice the maximum reward plus maximum maintenance. Once the DFE has published the maintenance rates the calculation can be made.

2.6 Essential Living Allowance

This is the weekly payment to Care Leavers including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). The rate payable is in line with the Job Seeking Allowance for a single adult aged under 25 of £57.90 for 1 April 2016.

3. Other Local Authority Charges

It is proposed to increase the rate by 1.5% which represents the assumed increase for the pay award.

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

2016-17 £68.76

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

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

2016-17 £68.76

(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.

2016-17 £10.36

(d) **Residential Respite Service**

2016-17 £331.99

4. **Cabinet Committee Input and Issues Arising**

4.1 Following discussion at the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 22 January when the proposed decision was endorsed, the Foster Care Maintenance Rates for 2016/17 and Therapeutic Fostering Supplement have still to be published. So as not to adversely impact on implementing the other proposed rates and charges, the Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services is being asked to take the decision without this information being available.

5. **Recommendations**

5.1 Recommendations: The Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services is asked to:

a) **APPROVE** the proposed changes to rates payable and charges levied for Children's Services in 2016-17 as detailed in sections 2 and 3 of the report

b) **NOTE** the changes to the following rates that are dictated by external agencies: Inter-agency charges (2.2a); Foster Disability Enhancement (2.3c) and; Essential Living Allowance (2.6) and;

c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care and Health, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the 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 Section 2.3b of this report, when confirmed by the Department of Education and;

ii) adopt the appropriate Therapeutic Fostering Supplement as detailed in Section 2.5b of this report, when confirmed by the Department of Education.

6. Background Documents

None

7. Lead Officer

Michelle Goldsmith

Directorate Business Partner – Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

03000 416519

Michelle.goldsmith@kent.gov.uk