

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

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

**To:** Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee – 23 March 2017

**Decision Number:** 16/00133

**Subject:** **PROPOSED REVISION OF RATES PAYABLE AND CHARGES LEVIED FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN 2017-18**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Social Care, Health and Wellbeing DMT – 18 January 2017

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member decision

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:** This paper sets out the proposed revision to the rates payable and charges levied for children services listed below in 2017-18.

**Recommendation:** The Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **ENDORSE** or make a **RECOMMENDATION** to the Cabinet Member on the proposed decision (attached as Appendix A) to:

- a) **APPROVE** the proposed changes to rates payable and charges levied for Children's Services in 2017-18 as detailed in sections 2 and 3 of the report;
- b) **NOTE** the rates which are dictated by external agencies i.e. Inter-agency charges and Essential Living Allowance;
- c) **CONFIRM** the charge for other Local Authorities for use of in-house respite residential beds is to be calculated on the basis of full cost recovery and;
- d) **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.

## 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 Members should be aware that in previous years, some of the children's rates were increased in line with the pay award. There is no fixed pay award as pay increases are linked with performance so it has been assumed that there will be an average increase of 2.2% for 2017-18.

1.3 Some charges proposed in this report have been increased based on the CPI rate as at September 2016 which was 1.0%.

1.4 The effective date is 1 April 2017.

## **2. Charges and Rates Payable for Children's Services**

2.1 All rates and charges proposed for 2017-18 in respect of Children Services are shown in Appendix 1.

### **2.2 Adoption Service Charge**

#### **Inter-Agency Charges – Voluntary Adoption Agencies and Local Authorities**

These charges are agreed by the following; Local Government Agency (LGA), Consortium of Voluntary Agencies (CVAA), Association of Directors of Children Services (ADCS) and Society of Local Authority Chief Executive (SOLACE) and therefore are not within our discretion to alter. The rates for 2017-18 remain unchanged from those published in 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 1.6% based on the split between the assumed pay increase of 2.2% for 2017-18 and the CPI rate as at September 2016 of 1.0% is recommended for 2017-18.

- Non related placements 0-8yrs           £110.29
- Non related placements 9-18yrs       £209.49

## **(b) Maintenance**

The DFE published rates for 2017-18 are detailed below. The average percentage increase is 1.34% on 2016-17 rates.

	2017-18 Rates*
All placements under 2	£148.62
All placements 2-4	£152.92
All placements 5-8	£170.15
All placements 9-10	£170.15
All placements 11-15	£192.77
All placements 16-17	£227.23
All placements 18+	£227.23

\*The 2017-18 rates detailed above have been adjusted to include provision for payments to foster carers to cover holidays, birthdays, religious observances and Christmas (equating to four weeks).

## **(c) Disability Enhancement**

An enhancement will be paid to all foster carers of disabled children who are open to the Disabled Children's Service or Sensory Loss Team. An assessment is undertaken by the child's social worker to determine the level of needs, presented to the funding panel. The enhancement rate is to be reviewed on a yearly basis. There are two rates:

### **Standard**

Carers will receive an enhancement payment of 30% uplift of the higher reward element. From 1 October 2016 this is **£61.88** per week.

### **Enhanced**

Carers will receive an enhancement payment of 40% uplift of the higher reward element. From 1 October 2016 this is **£82.53** per week.

No uplift to the above rates is proposed for 2017-18 which is in line with benefit increases for 2017-18.

## 2.4 Foster Care Skills Based Payments

### **Foster Care Skills Based Payments**

It is recommended these receive an uplift in line with CPI rate as at September 2016 of 1.0%. The new rates for 2017-18 are:

- Level 2 - £20.43
- Level 3 - £51.05

## 2.5 Specialist Foster Care Payments

### a) **Single Placement Supplement**

This is calculated as twice the age related reward element

- Age 0-8 yrs - £220.58
- Age 9-18 yrs -£418.98

### b) **Therapeutic Fostering Supplement**

This is calculated as twice the maximum reward plus maximum maintenance. The rate for 2017-18 is £646.21.

## 2.6 Parental Contributions

The council will use discretionary powers to raise charges for parental contribution in certain cases where children become looked after on a voluntary basis under section 20 of the Children Act.

In all cases any charge will be subject to means testing to ensure affordability.

## 2.7 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 2017.

## 3. Other Local Authority (OLA) Charges

It is proposed to increase the rate by 2.2% which represents the assumed increase for the pay award.

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

2017-18 - £70.27

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

This represents KCC social workers doing work on behalf of OLA

2017-18 - £70.27

### 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.

2017-18 - £10.46

### d) **Residential Respite Service**

The charge to OLAs for the use of in-house respite residential beds will be agreed by the operational service on an individual home basis, and will be calculated on the basis of full cost recovery.

#### 4. Legal Implications

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

#### 5. Equality Implications

None

#### 6. Recommendations

6.1 **Recommendation:** The Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **ENDORSE** or make a **RECOMMENDATION** to the Cabinet Member on the proposed decision (attached as Appendix A) to:

- a) **APPROVE** the proposed changes to rates payable and charges levied for Children's Services in 2017-18 as detailed in sections 2 and 3 of the report;
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#### 7. Background Documents

None

#### 8. Lead Officer

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