

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

**Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and
Education**

DECISION NO:

18/00004

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

To revise the rates payable and charges levied for Children's Services from 1 April 2018.

Subject: Proposed Revision of Rates Payable and Charges Levied by Kent County Council for Children's Social Care Services in 2018-19

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, I propose to:

a) **APPROVE:**

i) The weekly Foster Care Maintenance allowance is increased to:

All placements under 2 years old	£150.77
All placements 2 to 4 years old	£155.08
All placements 5 to 10 years old	£172.31
All placements 11 to 15 years old	£196.00
All placements over 16 years old	230.46

ii) The weekly Foster Care Reward element is increased to:

Non-related placements 0 to 8 years old	£113.60
Non-related placements 9 to 18 years old	£215.77

iii) The weekly Foster Care Disability Enhancement is increased to:

Standard	£64.73
Enhanced	£86.31

iv) The weekly Foster Care Skills Based Payment is increased to:

Level 2	£21.04
Level 3	£52.58

v) The weekly Foster Care Single Placement Supplement is increased to:

Age 0 to 8 years old	£227.20
Age 9 to 18 years old	£431.54

vi) The Local Authority charges to OLAs for Children's Services are increased to:

Social work support and assessment (per hour)	£72.38
Administration fee associated with social work support and assessment (per invoice)	£20.00

b) **NOTE:**

vii) The rates which are dictated by external agencies i.e. Inter-agency charges and Essential Living Allowance.

viii) The charges for other Local Authority for use of in-house respite residential beds is to be calculated on a full cost recovery basis.

c) **DELEGATE:**

ix) Authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, or other nominated officers, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The proposed rates payable and charges levied for Children's Services are reviewed annually, with any revisions normally introduced from the start of the new financial year.

Some of the increases are directly linked to the published Department for Education fostering rates, which are reviewed by the Department annually.

Equality Implications

We have not assessed any adverse impact within these proposals to increase funding rates for children's services. With regards to the Therapeutic Re-parenting Programme (TRP), which is ceasing on 31 March 2018, we have not assessed any adverse impact. TRP was a specialist fostering 2 year programme specifically for children with an attachment disorder aged 4-11 years old. It provided a single placement for approximately 15 children per year, whose foster carers received intensive support using the network meeting model of intervention. It was a high cost provision that had mixed results and was only successful for a small number of children. In 2016 there was a plan to end this model and introduce the Sense of Belonging Project, which now aims to support 150 children/foster carers per year (using the same level of funding provision).

Financial Implications

The increase in payments and income have been reflected in the Council's draft budget plans which are being presented to County Council on 20 February 2018.

Legal Implications

The report distinguishes between those rates and charges over which Members can exercise their discretion, and those set by Government/external agencies.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will be discussed at the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on 8 March 2018 and the outcome from that committee meeting will be included in the paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

None

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

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signed

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date