

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

## DECISION TAKEN BY

Paul Carter, Leader of the Council

## DECISION NO.

15/00014

*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 2015-16**

## Decision:

In line with the recommendations in the report on the Proposed Revision of Rates Payable and Charges Levied for Children's Services in 2015-16, as Leader of the Council, I:

### a) **APPROVE**

- i. To increase the Foster Care Maintenance element to:

	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

- ii. The Foster Care Reward element to remain at:

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

- iii. The Foster Care Skills based payment to remain at:

Level 2 - £20.23  
Level 3 - £50.54

- iv. The Single placement supplement to remain at:

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

- v. To increase the Therapeutic Fostering Supplement to £633.50 which reflects the change in maintenance element for this allowance.

- vi. To increase the Local Authority Charges for Children Services for:

- Assessment hourly rate to £67.74 per hour,
- Administration Fee to £10.36
- Residential Respite Services to £331.99

### b) **NOTE**

- i. The Inter-Agency Charges which are included in the recommendation report. These are reviewed annually in July by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering and rates, agreed in July 2014 remain in place.

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

**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 2015/16 will be introduced the week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015. This has been confirmed with 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 12 Feb 2015 County Council agreed budgets for the services affected.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

Due to the need implement changes to payment and other systems in time for the financial year 15/16 it has not been possible to discuss this at Cabinet Committee. In previous years, the Cabinet Committee has made no comment on these changes and the decision will be reported at the 21 April Children’s Social Care & Health Cabinet Committee

**Background Documents:**

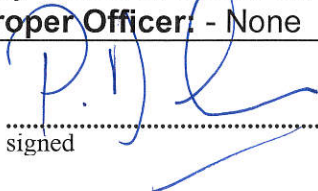
Recommendation report from Corporate Director for Social Care, Health & Wellbeing on proposed Revision of Rates and Charges Levied for Children’s Services in 2015-16.

**Any alternatives considered:**

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

For discretionary elements, alternative % were considered but the combination of recommended uplifts equivalent to CPI (based on average rate for period April 2014 to September 2014 of 1.58%) and keeping some allowances at 2014-15 rates is the best balance between increases and the agreed budget available.

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

  
 .....  
 signed

19 MARCH 2015  
 .....  
 date

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published			