

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED 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:

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 propose to:

a) **APPROVE**

i. To increase the Foster Care Maintenance element for 2016-17 to:

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. The Foster Care Reward element to increase to:

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

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 -	£217.22
Age 9-16 yrs -	£412.58

v. To increase the Therapeutic Fostering Supplement to: - Rate not yet available.

vi. 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

vii. 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) **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 2016/17 are expected to be introduced from the 1st April, although 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 the 11th Feb.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will be discussed at the Children’s Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 22 January 2016. Unfortunately this is likely to be before the Department for Education has provided details of the nationally set figures. Given the necessary implementation time, the decision will need to be taken before the 22 March Cabinet Committee meeting and so it will be reported retrospectively to that meeting.

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

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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					