

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

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

DECISION NO.

19/000014

Key decision: YES

To revise the rates payable and charges levied for Children's Services from 1st April 2019.

Subject: Proposed Revisions of Rates Payable and Charges Levied by Kent County Council for Children's Social Care Services in 2019-20

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education Services, I agree:

a)

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

All placements under 2 years old	£154.00
All placements 2 to 4 years old	£158.31
All placements 5 to 10 years old	£175.54
All placements 11 to 15 years old	£199.23
All placements over 16 years old	£234.77

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

Non-related placements 0 to 8 years old	£116.78
Non-related placements 9 to 18 years old	£221.82

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

Standard	£66.55
Enhanced	£88.73

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

Skilled (Level 2)	£21.55
Advanced (Level 3)	£53.84

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

Age 0 to 8 years old	£233.56
Age 9 to 18 years old	£443.64

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

Social work support and assessment (per hour)	£74.40
Administration fee associated with social work support and assessment (per invoice)	£20.00

vii. The Foster Carer Mileage Rate is increased from 35p to 45p per mile in line with KCC staff.

b) NOTE:

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

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

c) DELEGATE:

x. 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 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.

Financial Implications:

The increase in payments and income have been reflected in the Council's budget plans presented to County Council on 14 February 2019.

Legal Implications:

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

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

At the CYPE Cabinet Committee on 28 March 2019 the decision was discussed and the minute extract is below:

Mr Pleace (Revenue and Tax Strategy Manager) was in attendance for this item.

1. Mr Pleace introduced the report which set out the proposed revision to the rates payable and charges levied for children's services within Kent for the 2019-20 financial year.

Mr Pleace and Ms Hammond then responded to comments and questions from Members, including the following: -

a) Mr Pleace referred to the Adoption Service Charges figures within the report and explained that the charges related to children that were placed for adoption in local authority areas outside of Kent. Ms Hammond added that adoption charges for children that were placed for adoption outside of Kent were agreed with the appropriate host authorities.

a) Ms Hammond talked about the weekly Essential Living Allowance payment which was paid to Care Leavers including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and said that the payment was not generally paid to individual's under the age of 18.

b) Mr Pleace talked about the Foster Carer Mileage rate and confirmed that the increase was in line with the mileage rate that was paid to staff within Kent County Council. He added that the mileage rate of 45p per mile was limited to 10,000 miles.

c) Mr Pleace referred to the Other Local Authority Charges points within the report and said that the proposed rate for social work support and assessment had increased by 2.8% which was the average pay increase for Kent County Council's social workers.

d) Mr Pleace said that the administration fee associated with social work support and assessment was £20 per invoice which was the same amount as the previous year. Ms Hammond said that the overall activity in relation to administration associated with social work support and assessment was very limited.

e) Mr Pleace talked about other local authority charges within the Residential Respite Service and said that the charge made to other local authorities who placed children in Kent's in-house respite residential beds was mandatory.

2. **RESOLVED** that the proposed decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to:

(i) approve the proposed changes to the rates payable and charges levied for Children's Services in 2019-20 as detailed in section 2 of this report;

(ii) note both the changes to the rates that are set by the Government/external agencies: Inter-agency charges and Essential Living Allowance and; any charges to other Local Authorities for use of in-house respite residential beds are to be calculated on a full cost recovery basis; and

(iii) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision, be endorsed.

Background Documents:

Report on Proposed Revision of Rates Payable and Charges Levied for Children's Services in 2019-20 to the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee 28 March 2019.

Any alternatives considered:

None.

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

None

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 signed

4 April 2019
 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			

