

ANGUS COUNCIL

ANGUS COUNCIL - 18 FEBRUARY 2016

REVIEW OF FEES AND ALLOWANCES
WITHIN CHILDREN AND LEARNING DIRECTORATE FOR 2016-2017

REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – PEOPLE

ABSTRACT

This report sets out proposals for the fees and allowances within the Children and Learning Directorate for 2016-2017.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approves the rates specified in appendix 1, with effect from 04 April 2016.

2. INTRODUCTION

Each year Angus Council reviews the fees and allowances for specific services in line with statutory requirements, guidance and Angus Council policy. This report proposes the rates for 2016-2017 in relation to the Children and Learning Directorate.

3. PROPOSAL

Allowances

- 3.1 **Fostering allowances:** Foster carers receive a 'fostering allowance' to cover the costs of caring for a child and a 'carer's allowance' which is essentially a fee for the service they provide. In April 2010 it was agreed that fostering allowances in Angus should be linked to the national rate established and revised each year by 'The Fostering Network' (TFN). The TFN rates were used widely by independent fostering agencies and by the majority of Local Authorities. The Fostering Network has recently announced that it will no longer be making recommendations from the beginning of the financial year 2016-2017. This decision followed on from an announcement by the Scottish Government that it will be making national recommendations in the near future and is currently undertaking research to help inform its decisions on this matter. In the absence of a specific national recommendation, it is proposed that fostering allowances should increase by 1.5%.
- 3.2 **Carers' allowances:** The previous TFN recommendation in relation to carer allowances was that these should be linked to salaries paid to staff. Whilst no government guidance is available yet, a pay increase of 1% of staff has been agreed for 2016/17 and it is proposed that we stick to the previous arrangement and reflect this in the fees paid to carers.
- 3.3 **Other expenses and allowances:** It is proposed that the recommended 1.5% increase is applied to all other allowances and expenses including those paid for kinship, residence and adoption allowances, inclusive of child benefit rates. The exceptions are the personal allowances paid to care leavers. These allowances are linked to the level of benefit payments set by the DWP and the proposed rates are based on the DWP 2016-2017 rates.
- 3.4 **Community childminders:** Community childminders are registered by the Care Inspectorate but provided with additional training and support by Angus Council to offer an enhanced level of service to vulnerable children. This includes the provision of short term day care and overnight respite placements to children with disabilities. Following a review of the service the

rates were significantly increased in April 2014 in order to promote this scheme which provides an excellent resource for these children at a very reasonable cost. It is proposed that these rates are linked to staff salaries in the same way as the carers' allowances. Accordingly, we propose that these are raised by 1% for 2016-2017.

Fees

- 3.5 School Meals: School meals are provided on a contract basis from Tayside Contracts. Any income received from meals is payable to Tayside Contracts and they set the charges for meals.
- 3.6 Instrumental Instruction: The Instrumental Music Service (IMS) provides Angus children with opportunities to learn a musical instrument and provide performing platforms at school and regional level to develop their musical skills and express their music identities. The standard charge is currently £210.00. It is proposed to increase this charge by 5% to £231.00.

4. RISK

This report does not require any specific risk issues to be addressed.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The additional cost of implementing the proposed increases is estimated to be £34,000. Provision for these increases has been made within the 2016/17 budget.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

8. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Single Outcome Agreement:

Nurtured: Children and young people in Angus will live within a supportive family setting with additional assistance if required, or where this is not possible, within another care setting ensuring a positive and rewarding childhood experience (National Outcome 5).

9. CONCLUSION

This report sets out proposals for a revision of fees and allowances within the Children and Learning Directorate for 2016 -2017.

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NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES – FEES AND ALLOWANCES 2016-2017**FOSTERING ALLOWANCE** – new rates to be payable from 4th April 2016

Age of child	2015-2016 rates	Increase	2016-2017 rates
	Per Week	1.50%	Per Week
0-4	£142.86	£2.14	£145.00
5-10	£162.73	£2.44	£165.17
11-15	£202.58	£3.04	£205.62
16-18	£246.44	£3.70	£250.14

KINSHIP CARE/ ADOPTION/ RESIDENCY/ CUSTODY ALLOWANCE – from 4th April 2016

Age of child	2015-2016 rates		2016-2017 rates	
	Higher Rate CB	Lower Rate CB	Higher Rate CB	Lower Rate CB
	(New Rate now same as fostering - CB)			
0-4	£122.16	£129.16	£124.30	£131.30
5-10	£142.03	£149.03	£144.47	£151.47
11-15	£181.88	£188.88	£184.92	£191.92
16-18	£225.74	£232.74	£229.44	£236.44

Carers can apply for Child Benefit in addition to these allowances. From April 2016 these are: Higher rate (for the eldest child) £20.70 p.w. and lower rate (for all other children) £13.70 p.w.

FOSTER CARERS ANNUAL ALLOWANCE (2015-2016) – from 4th April 2016

Carer Level	Core Fee	Number of Children			
		1	2	3	4
Level 1	£6,335.43	£8,436.98	£10,538.54	£12,640.10	£14,741.66
Level 2	£9,487.76	£11,589.32	£13,690.88	£15,792.44	£17,905.27
Level 3	£16,848.34	£18,949.90	£21,051.46	£23,153.01	£25,254.57

FOSTER CARERS RESPITE ALLOWANCE – from 4th April 2016

		2015/16 pay award	Update 2015/16 rate	2016/17 Pay award	
Allowance	2015-2016 rates	1.50%	rate	1%	2016/17 Rate
Per week	£161.60	£2.42	£164.02	£1.64	£165.66

Paid in addition to the fostering allowance for the child

DAY CARE PAYMENTS (day care of looked after children by foster carers) from 4th April 2016

Allowance	2015-2016 rates	Increase	2016-2017 rates
		1.50%	
Hourly day care	£3.44	£0.05	£3.49

TRAINING ALLOWANCE FOR FOSTER CARERS PROVIDING TRAINING from 4th April 2016

Allowance	2015-2016 rates	Increase	2016-2017 rates
		1.50%	
Half day training (0-4 hours)	£9.75	£0.15	£9.90
Full day training	£19.49	£0.29	£19.78

SPECIAL ALLOWANCES – from 4th April 2016

Allowance	2015-2016 rates	Increase	2016-2017 rates
		1.50%	
School exclusion/ part time education (payable after 7 calendar days)	£12.39	£0.19	£12.58

INDEPENDENT LIVING ALLOWANCES – from 4th April 2016

Allowance	2015-2016 rates	2016-2017 rates
Personal allowance: non working Based on JSA - Job Seekers Allowance (per week)	£57.90	£57.90
Personal Allowance: education/ training/ employment Based on JSA + Educational Maintenance Allowance (per week)	£87.90	£87.90
Furnishing grant	£2,369.00	

COMMUNITY CHILDMINDING – from 4th April 2016

Allowance	2015-2016 rates	2015/16 Pay award	Update 2015/16 rate	2016/17 Pay award	2016/17 Rate
Basic weekday 8am to 6pm (hourly)	£4.50	£0.07	£4.57	£0.05	£4.61
Basic weekday 6pm to 8pm (hourly)	£5.20	£0.08	£5.28	£0.05	£5.33
Basic weekday overnight rate (from 8pm)	£27.30	£0.41	£27.71	£0.28	£27.99
Basic weekend rate 8am to 8pm (hourly) includes Public Holidays	£5.20	£0.08	£5.28	£0.05	£5.33
Basic weekend overnight rate (from 8pm, Friday-Sunday)	£32.50	£0.49	£32.99	£0.33	£33.32
Enhanced * weekday 8am to 6pm (hourly)	£5.60	£0.08	£5.68	£0.06	£5.74
Enhanced * weekday 6pm onwards (hourly)	£6.40	£0.10	£6.50	£0.06	£6.56
Enhanced * weekly overnight rate (from 8pm)	£33.60	£0.50	£34.10	£0.34	£34.45
Enhanced * weekend rate 8am to 8pm (hourly) includes Public Holidays	£6.40	£0.10	£6.50	£0.06	£6.56
Enhanced * weekend overnight rate (Fri-Sun)	£40.00	£0.60	£40.60	£0.41	£41.01

	2015-2016 rates	Increase	2016-2017 rates
Instrumental Instruction	£210.00	5%	£231.00
Instrumental Instruction - reduction of 20% for second child	£162.00		£185.00
Instrumental Instruction - reduction of 40% for third and any subsequent child.	£120.00		£139.00
School Meals (Primary)	£2.10		
School Meals (Secondary)	£2.20		
School Lets	Various	5%	