

**SPECIAL MEETING OF ANGUS COUNCIL**

**12 FEBRUARY 2015**

**REVIEW OF FEES AND ALLOWANCES  
WITHIN PEOPLE DIRECTORATE CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2015-2016**

**REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - PEOPLE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report sets out proposals for the fees and allowances within People Directorate Children's Services for 2015-2016.

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council approves the rates specified in appendix 1, with effect from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**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 2015-2016 in relation to children's services.

**3 PROPOSAL**

**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 are used widely by independent fostering agencies and by the majority of Local Authorities. Maintaining these rates is helpful in terms of offering prospective carers a competitive level of remuneration. It is therefore proposed that fostering allowances should increase by 1.8% as recommended by TFN for 2015/16.

**Carers' allowances:** The TFN recommendation in relation to carer allowances is that these should be linked to salaries paid to staff. No decision has yet been reached about the level of any pay award to Angus staff for 2015/16. It is therefore proposed that there is no immediate change to these rates. If agreement is subsequently reached about a pay increase the carers allowances will be increased accordingly and a one off additional payment made to carers to back date the revised rate to 6/4/15.

**Other expenses and allowances:** It is proposed that the recommended 1.8% 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 2015-2016 rates.

**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. As noted above, no decision has yet been reached salary levels for 2015/16, so it is proposed that there is no immediate change to the childminder rates. If agreement is subsequently reached about a pay increase the rates will be increased accordingly and a one off additional payment made to back date the revised rate to 6/4/15.

#### **4 RISK**

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

#### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The additional cost of implementing the proposed increase of 1.8% to fostering allowances and other expenses and allowances is estimated to be in the region of £35,000. If staff salaries are increased, there will be additional costs associated with in the uplift of allowances that are tied to salaries. Provision for these increases has been made within the 2015/16 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).

#### **10 CONCLUSION**

This report sets out proposals for a revision of fees and allowances within People's Directorate Children's Services for 2015 -2016.

**REPORT AUTHOR: Tim Armstrong, Head of Children and Young People's Services**  
**EMAIL DETAILS: PEOPLE@angus.gov.uk**

**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 2015-2016****FOSTERING ALLOWANCE** – new rates to be payable from 6 April 2015

Age of child	2014 – 2015 rates	2015 – 2016 rates
	Per Week	Per Week
0-4	£140.33	£142.86
5-10	£159.85	£162.73
11-15	£199.00	£202.58
16-18	£242.08	£246.44

**KINSHIP CARE/ ADOPTION/ RESIDENCY/ CUSTODY ALLOWANCE** – from 6 April 2015

Age of child	2014 – 2015 rates		2015 – 2016 rates	
	Higher Rate CB	Lower Rate CB	Higher Rate CB	Lower Rate CB
0-4	£76.58	£83.53	£78.13	£85.13
5-10	£97.90	£104.91	£100.12	£107.12
11-15	£119.65	£126.60	£122.18	£129.18
16-18	£146.71	£153.66	£149.71	£156.71

*Carers can apply for Child Benefit in addition to these allowances. From April 2015 these are: Higher rate (for the eldest child) £20.70 p.w. and lower rate (for all other children) £13.70p.w.*

**FOSTER CARERS ANNUAL ALLOWANCE (2015-2016)** – from 6 April 2015 (unchanged)

Carer Level	Core Fee	Number of Children			
		1	2	3	4
Level 1	£6,180	£8,230	£10,280	£12,330	£14,380
Level 2	£9,255	£11,305	£13,355	£15,405	£17,455
Level 3	£16,435	£18,485	£20,535	£22,585	£24,635

**FOSTER CARERS RESPITE ALLOWANCE** – from 6 April 2015 (unchanged)

Allowance	2014 – 2015 rates	2015 – 2016 rates
Weekly rate	£161.60 pw (pro rata)	£161.60 pw (pro rata)

*Paid in addition to the fostering allowance for the child*

**DAY CARE PAYMENTS** (day care of looked after children by foster carers) from 6 April 2015

Allowance	2014 – 2015 rates	2015 – 2016 rates
	Per hour	Per hour
Hourly day care	£3.38	£3.44

**TRAINING ALLOWANCE FOR FOSTER CARERS PROVIDING TRAINING** from 6 April 2015

Allowance	2014– 2015 rates	2015 – 2016 rates
Half day training (0-4 hours)	£9.58	£9.75
Full day training	£19.15	£19.49

**SPECIAL ALLOWANCES** – from 6 April 2015

Allowance	2014 – 2015 rates	2015– 2016 rates
School exclusion/ part time education (payable after 7 calendar days)	£12.17 per day	£12.39 per day

**INDEPENDENT LIVING ALLOWANCES** – from 6 April 2015

Allowance	2014 – 2015 rates	2014 – 2015 rates
Personal allowance: non working <i>Based on JSA - Job Seekers Allowance</i>	£57.35p.w.	£57.90p.w.
Personal allowance: education/ training/ employment <i>Based on JSA + Educational Maintenance Allowance</i>	£87.35 p.w.	£87.90 p.w.
Furnishing grant	£2,327	£2,369

**COMMUNITY CHILDMINDING – from 6 April 2015 (unchanged from 2014/15)**

<b>Allowance</b>	<b>2015– 2016 rates</b>
Basic weekday 8am to 6pm (hourly)	£4.50
Basic weekday 6pm to 8pm (hourly)	£5.20
Basic weekday overnight rate (from 8pm)	£27.30
Basic weekend rate 8am to 8pm (hourly) includes Public Holidays	£5.20
Basic weekend overnight rate (from 8pm, Friday-Sunday)	£32.50
Enhanced * weekday 8am to 6pm (hourly)	£5.60
Enhanced * weekday 6pm onwards (hourly)	£6.40
Enhanced * weekly overnight rate (from 8pm)	£33.60
Enhanced * weekend rate 8am to 8pm (hourly) includes Public Holidays	£6.40
Enhanced * weekend overnight rate (Fri-Sun)	£40.00