

ANGUS COUNCIL

SPECIAL ARRANGMENTS COMMITTEE – 28 APRIL 2020

REVIEW OF ALLOWANCES FOR CARERS: FOSTER, KINSHIP, ADOPTERS

REPORT BY KATHRYN LINDSAY – DIRECTOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND JUSTICE

ABSTRACT

This report sets out proposals for the allowances payable by Children, Families and Justice Services for 2020 – 2021 to Foster and Kinship carers and Adoptive parents.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) Approve the rates specified in Appendix 1, with effect from 1 June 2020.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-2030:

- Children are given the best start in life;
- Physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing is improved;
- There are more opportunities for people to achieve success.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Allowances are paid to Foster and Kinship carers and Adoptive parents for specific services in line with statutory requirements, guidance and Angus Council policy. These rates are reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that they remain sufficient to meet children's needs. This report proposes an increase to the rates payable during for 2020 – 2021.

4. PROPOSALS

- (i) **Fostering and Kinship Allowances:** all approved foster carers and kinship carers receive a weekly allowance to meet the needs and costs of looking after a child in their care. Work is being undertaken by Scottish Government and COSLA to consider a national allowance or recommended rate but this is not in place as yet. In the absence of a specific national recommendation, it is proposed that these allowances are increase by 3%.
- (ii) **Adoption Allowances:** these are payable to adoptive parents for a small but significant group of children who would otherwise be unlikely to have the opportunity of the security and permanence which adoption provides. This allowance is used to support families to pay for specific support for their adopted children who have additional support needs.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Provision for an uplift at the rate of 3% has been made in the 2020/21 revenue budget and will therefore be met in full within existing revenue budget as approved at Angus Council on 27 February 2020 report no 75/20. 3% was requested in line with local authority pay rises and slightly higher than rate of inflation which at the time was 2.5%.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 **Risk:** This report does not require any specific risk issues to be addressed.
- 6.2 **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.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 This report sets out proposals for an increase in allowances within Children, Families and Justice Service for 2020/21.

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

Contact for further information: **Eunice McLennan, Service Leader - Resources**
EMAIL DETAILS: PEOPLE@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices

Appendix 1