

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
14 APRIL 2010**

SUBJECT: FOSTERING FEES AND RELATED ALLOWANCES

BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To invite Committee to agree arrangements to determine levels of payment for fostering fees and related allowances.
- 1.2 This report is submitted in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the exercising of functions of the Council under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee approves the following mechanism to set fostering fees and related allowances on an annual basis:-**
 - (i) **Fostering , Adoption and Residency Allowances to change in line with recommendations made by the Fostering Network (expressed as a percentage change); and**
 - (ii) **Fostering Fees to change in line with the percentage salary change agreed for Council employees through the Scottish Joint Council (SJC).**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Moray Council Fostering Scheme was approved at Community Services Committee on 11 August 2004 (para 32 of the minute refers) and at Policy and Resources Committee on 1 September 2004 (para 20 of the minute refers).
- 3.2 A previous report on Fostering Finance and Related Allowances was tabled at The Moray Council on 25 February 2009 (para 13 of the minute refers).
- 3.3 Fostering Allowances in Moray are based in rates recommended by the Fostering Network. Their recommendation for 2010/11 is for a 0% increase over the rates for 2009/10. The recommended rates for 2010/11 are set-out in **TABLE 1**.

TABLE 1 – The Fostering Allowances payable from 1 April 2010

| Age (Years) | Allowance per week |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 0 – 4 | £125.09 |
| 5 – 10 | £142.49 |
| 11 – 15 | £177.38 |
| 16+ | £215.74 |

- 3.4 Residency & Adoption Allowances in Moray are based on rates that historically were COSLA recommended. COSLA has now ended its practice of recommending rates that could be used by the Moray Council to fix Residency & Adoption Allowances. Applying a 0% increase to 2009/10 rates, the recommended rates for 2010/11 are set-out in **Table 2**.

TABLE 2 – Adoption & Residency Allowances payable from 1 April 2010

| Age (Years) | Allowance per week |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 0 – 4 | £73.31 |
| 5 – 10 | £90.96 |
| 11 – 15 | £113.23 |
| 16+ | £146.61 |

- 3.5 It is not possible to state fees paid to Foster Carers in 2010/11 in that the Council has yet to agree salaries for SJC staff. Any fee increase will be back dated to 1 April 2010.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Single Outcome Agreement/ Service Improvement Plan**

Service Priority 4.3 of the 2010/11 Community Services Department Service Improvement Plan seeks to 'increase care placement options' for which appropriate allowances should be paid.

(b) **Policy and Legal**

The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 allow local authorities to set the payment levels for boarding-out allowances. The Adoption and Support Services and Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 2009 similarly allow local authorities to set allowances in relation to adoption and the Children Act 1975 allows local authorities to set the level of Residency Allowances.

(c) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

There are no additional costs to the Council for Fostering, Adoption & Residency Allowances in 2010/11. Any increase in Fostering Fees will be determined in due course.

(d) Consultations

Katrina McGillivray, Senior Personnel Adviser, Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant and Rhona Gunn, Acting Principal Solicitor (Litigation and Licensing) have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with the content relating to their areas of responsibility.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 This report provides the basis for changes to allowances and fees in 2010/11 and subsequent years.

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Background Papers: with author
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