

Annex 5 Standard charges for the use of Residential Homes and Foster Carers, Sharing Care, Adoption and Residence Order Weekly Allowances

- 1 The following schedules set out the proposed level of charges to other local authorities for the use of services within the Children and Families portfolio for residential care homes. The annex also lists proposed foster care, sharing care, adoption, residence order and special guardianship weekly allowances for 2015/16.

Standard Weekly Charges For Residential Care Homes (Annex 5a)

- 2 A source of income for Children & Families is derived from charges to other local authorities for purchasing services e.g. North Yorkshire CC & East Riding Council who purchase residential and day care places for individuals who continue to be their responsibility. Many of this group of people are either resident in residential and non-residential services.
- 3 There is a requirement for the directorate to set these standard charges both to charge other authorities and to set the maximum charge payable by residents. The proposed charges for 2015/16 have been frozen for The Glen to reflect the amounts that can realistically be charged.

Minimum Payment For Foster Carers (Annex 5b)

- 4 A basic allowance is paid for each child/young person in a placement. Payments are calculated on a weekly basis according to the age of the child. The Government sets statutory minimum weekly allowances for foster carers. The weekly allowances set out at Annex 5b for Age Bands 0-4, 5-10 and 11-15 have been increased at a rate necessary to match the national minimum fostering rates levels. The national levels have not been released at present so we have assumed an increase of 2.2% (This will be adjusted up or down when the rates are released).
- 5 Foster carers are also paid a weekly carer's fee. These fees are calculated with reference to an appraisal of the carer's skill level. These fees have been increased by 2.2% from 2013/14 as this is the pay award received by Social Workers and the agreement by CSS & YAFCA to link these payments following the new pay deal in 2013.
- 6 Carers also receive a payment dependant on the number of placements they have above the assumed 1 placement. Payments are made if carers have 2 placements or 3+ placements.

Additional Foster Carers Weekly Allowances (Annex 5c)

- 7 There has been a review of the other payments that carers are entitled to and following a meeting between the fostering service & YAFCA (December 2014) it has been agreed that a new more clear and concise list is better for both the council and for the foster carers.

Weekly Adoption Allowances and Residence Order Allowances (Annex 5d)

- 8 A weekly allowance is not paid in all cases of adoption, only in certain financial circumstances, e.g. when a child with additional needs is adopted or possibly to encourage the adopter to take a sibling of a child already adopted. To determine whether an allowance should be paid to an adopter a financial assessment is carried out, using the Department for Education assessment model.
- 9 A small number of children in our care are subject to residence orders that replaced custodianship in 1991. A residence order means that the birth parents retain parental responsibility but the carer gains parental rights. As with adoption, a financial assessment of the carer is undertaken to determine whether an allowance should be given.
- 10 These rates are unchanged from 2013/14

Short Breaks Fostering Allowance (Annex 5e)

- 11 Short Breaks fostering is provided for disabled children who stay with short breaks foster carer on either a day care or overnight basis, in order to give the parent/carer a short break
- 12 The Sharing Care Contract Carer Scheme recruits foster carers to provide regular, overnight, respite care for severely disabled children. The Contract Carers are paid a weekly fee which was equal to the fee paid to Specialist Foster Carers. This fee is no longer in existence so the contract carer allowance is not tied to any other payment. This has been increased by 2% to reflect the fact that it was not increased in 2013/14 and also to try to attract and keep these types of long term carers. This is shown in the bottom table of Annex 5e.

Special Guardianship Allowances (Annex 5f)

- 13 A Special Guardianship Order allows carers to gain parental responsibility and enables them to override the parental responsibility of

others (such as the child's birth parent) in day-to-day matters. Under legislation, Special Guardians must be offered support services, including financial support, if requested, subject to the same financial assessment as adopters. The allowances for Special Guardians are set at the same rate as the Foster Care weekly allowances; however, an amount equivalent to the Child Benefit entitlement will be deducted from the allowance before it is paid. Annex 5f shows the revised allowances for 2015/16.

Rounding

- 14 The figures shown for all weekly allowances have been rounded to the nearest figure in whole pence that can be divided exactly by 7. This is done so that the weekly allowances can easily be converted into daily amounts when processing payments.