

3 FOSTERING ALLOWANCES 2013/2014 (AN58-2013)

Social Work and Health Committee was advised at its meeting on the 20th August, 2012 (AN127-2012) that the Social Work Department was consulting with foster carers regarding the level of fostering allowances payable. This consultation has now concluded and it is suggested that allowances are set as follows:-

1 Fostering Allowances

It is recommended that Dundee City Council allowances are increased to represent 95% of the recommended rate set by the Fostering Network for 2013/2014, with effect from 8th April, 2013. Provision for this has been made within the Social Work Department's Revenue Budget 2013/2014. As the consultation process was ongoing within 2012/2013, fostering allowances were not increased last year and it is recommended that these allowances are uprated to represent 95% of the recommended rate for 2012/2013 and that payment of the increases is backdated to 4th April, 2012. The cost of this backdated amount will be £68,500 and provision for this has been made within the 2012/2013 annual accounts.

2 Kinship and Residence Allowances

The amount paid is the equivalent of income support rates. It is recommended that these allowances are increased in line with relevant income support rates.

3 Custody Allowances

It is recommended that Custody Allowances are uprated in line with inflationary staff pay increases once agreed.

4 Adoption Ages Allowances

It is recommended that Adoption Age Allowances are increased by 1.25% in line with budgeted provisions. (Adoption Age Allowances are stated, and paid, net of child benefit).

5 Other Allowances

It is recommended that the mileage rate paid to foster carers is increased from 40p per mile to 45p per mile with effect from 8th April, 2013. All other allowances remain unchanged.

6 Foster Carer and ACE Carer Fees

These fees, as previously agreed by Social Work and Health Committee are linked to staff pay scales and it is recommended that these are uprated in line with the equivalent inflationary staff increases once agreed.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED RATES AND ALLOWANCES

Note	2012/2013 Weekly Rate £	2012/2013 Weekly Rate (Revised) £	2013/2014 Weekly Rate £
1 Fostering Age Allowance 00-04	121.82	127.77	130.32
1 Fostering Age Allowance 05-10	138.77	145.54	148.45
1 Fostering Age Allowance 11-15	172.75	181.18	184.80
1 Fostering Age Allowance 16-18	210.10	220.40	224.81
2 Kinship Carer Allowance	64.99		65.62
2 Residence Allowance	64.99		65.62
2 Kinship and Residence Family Premium	17.40		17.40
3 Custody Allowance	96.75		tbc
4 Adoption Age Allowance 00-04	71.31		72.20
4 Adoption Age Allowance 05-10	82.04		83.07

4 Adoption Age Allowance 11-15	105.42		106.74
4 Adoption Age Allowance 16-18	138.24		139.97
6 Foster Carer Fee	146.87		tbc
6 ACE Carer Fee	566.14		tbc