

ITEM No ...4.....

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE –
27 MARCH 2017**

REPORT ON: FOSTERING, KINSHIP AND RESIDENTIAL ALLOWANCES 2017-18

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 112-2017

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Children and Families Services Committee of the proposed increase in Fostering, Kinship and Residential allowances.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that members of the Children and Families Services Committee agree to payment of the rates described in this report and within Appendix 1, effective from 3 April 2017.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The estimated increase in costs amounts to approximately £162,000 which has been included within the Revenue budget.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Fostering, Kinship and Residential Allowances

It is recommended that Dundee City Council allowances are increased by an inflationary amount of 1.25% with effect from 3 April 2017. Payments will continue to be paid fortnightly, with additional 5 weeks per annum to cover summer holidays, Christmas and birthday.

4.2 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 increased in line with the equivalent inflationary staff pay increases.

4.3 Adoption Age Allowances

It is recommended that Adoption Age Allowances are increased by an inflationary amount of 1.25% with effect from 3 April 2017. (Child benefit will continue to be deducted from these allowances if received for the child).

4.4 Respite and Holidays

In line with the foster Carer Handbook guidelines, it is recommended that payment of additional respite/holiday allowance is maintained at £21 per day per child.

4.5 Other Allowances

Allowable Additional Mileage – 45p per mile
Telephone Allowance - £100 per annum (paid in 2 instalments, around June and December)

4.6 Table in Appendix 1 sets out the changes in the rates between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This Report has been screened for any implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environment assessment, anti-poverty, equality impact assessment and risk management.

5.2 There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in preparation of this report.

MICHAEL WOOD
Executive Director of Children and Families Service
March 2017

Appendix 1

Summary of recommended rates and allowances:

		2016/17 Weekly Rate £	2017/18 Weekly Rate £
1	Fostering, Kinship and Residence Age Allowance 00-04	135.01	136.70
1	Fostering, Kinship and Residence Age Allowance 05-10	153.78	155.70
1	Fostering, Kinship and Residence Age Allowance 11-15	191.43	193.82
1	Fostering, Kinship and Residence Age Allowance 16-18	232.89	235.80
2	Foster Carer Fee	153.59	155.13
2	ACE Carer Fee	592.04	597.96
3	Adoption Age Allowance 00-04	88.64	89.75
3	Adoption Age Allowance 05-10	99.92	101.17
3	Adoption Age Allowance 11-15	124.49	126.05
3	Adoption Age Allowance 16-18	158.98	160.97
4	Holiday Allowance	£21 per day	£21 per day

