

ANNEX TO ITEM 17

COMMUNITY LEARNING COMMITTEE

4 APRIL 2000

FOSTER CARER PAYMENTS AND ALLOWANCES FOR ACCOMMODATED CHILDREN

ALLOWANCES FOR ACCOMMODATED CHILDREN OR CHILDREN IN CARE, BOARDED WITH FOSTER CARERS 2000/2001

For 2000/2001 the National Foster Care Association (NFCA) has increased the rates by 4%. The 2000/2001 rates proposed for Milton Keynes Council carers are set out below. They reflect a 4% increase over the rates paid in the current year.

It is recommended that the new rates be implemented from 2 April 2000.

	BASIC & ENHANC- EMENTS £	CLOTHING £	POCKET MONEY £	HOLIDAY £	NORMAL WEEKLY £	UNDER 4 WEEKS £	XMAS & B'DAY £
AGE RANGE	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
0-4	47.95	10.85	1.12	2.31	62.23	49.07	59.92
5-10	58.17	13.30	2.80	2.87	77.07	60.90	74.27
11-15	71.19	16.59	4.69	3.57	96.04	75.88	92.47
16+	91.35	21.49	6.93	4.69	124.39	98.28	119.77

Working Young Persons Allowance (inc those on Youth Training Schemes)

The working young person's contribution towards his/her maintenance is calculated thus: He/she shall retain from his/her net weekly wage a personal allowance to cover pocket money, clothing, expenses etc., made up of the following costs:

- 1) The full cost of any fares to and from the place of work
- 2) Lunches up to £10.36 (currently £10.08)
- 3) two thirds of the remainder of the net wage (after deductions of (1) and (2) or £41.35 (currently £40.70), whichever is the greater). This figure is in line with the amount payable under Income Support.

Any sum remaining shall be the young person's contribution to his or her maintenance up to the revised maximum of £91.35 (currently £87.85). The weekly maintenance payable to the foster carer will be £91.35 (currently £87.85) less the contribution by the young person.

Part-Time Employment - Working Young People

If a young person obtains a part-time job the calculation for contribution towards maintenance and the Personal Allowance should be the same as for a child working full time irrespective of the number of hours worked.

16+ Personal Allowance

£33.11 per week (currently £31.78)

Discretionary Payments

To be paid for special diets etc.

Young Persons Receiving Benefits

A young person receiving benefit shall be paid £124.39 (currently £119.63), less Housing Benefit and the difference between Income Support and the Personal Allowance received by the young person.

Income Support and Child Benefit

Income Support is £41.35 (currently £40.70) per week (£5.91 per night) and Child Benefit is £15.00 (currently £14.40) for the prime and £10.00 (currently £9.60) for each subsequent child.

Initial Clothing Allowance

£184.50 maximum (currently £180.00).

School Uniform Allowances

	1999/2000 RATE £	PROPOSED RATE £
First School	122	125
Middle School	153	157
Upper School	232	238

Professional Fees

£144.41 per week (currently £140.91).

Short Term Carers

£163.43 per week (currently £159.44)

Retainer Fees

£4.62 per day (currently £4.51) for one place and £1.55 per day (currently £1.51) for additional places.

Daytime Emergency Placements

To be paid at Family Link rate for under 24 hours.

Respite Fees

These are 1/7th of the Short Term Allowance, which is £23.35 per day, plus the nightly rate for maintenance and pocket money (maximum of 4 nights).

Supported Lodgings

£91.35 per week (currently £87.85). The young person can be entitled to the Income Support equivalent even if at college.

Travel and Subsistence

Payments are linked to national Joint Council rates which are reviewed each year. The rate is currently 32.5 pence per mile.

ALLOWANCES FOR CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENTS 2000/01

The rates payable in respect of children in residential accommodation are linked to the National Foster Care Association (NFCA) rates for foster children. Proposed rates for 2000/01, increased for inflation, are set out below.

Pocket Money

Where children are on weekend visits to the Home they are allowed a proportion of the weekly pocket money allowance. To calculate this, divide the full weekly amount by 7 and multiply the figure achieved by the number of days the child is in the Home, this will give the proportion of pocket money allowed.

<u>Age Range</u>	<u>1999/2000 Weekly Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Weekly Rate</u>
	£	£
0-4	1.05	1.12
5-10	2.66	2.80
11-15	4.48	4.69
16+	6.65	6.93

Birthday and Christmas Allowances

The maximum amount that can be spent on each child for a birthday, or Christmas gift should not exceed the allowance applicable to children placed with foster carers. The allowance represents one week's allowance (including clothing and pocket money, but excluding the holiday allowance).

<u>Age Range</u>	<u>1999/2000 Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>
	£	£
0-4	57.61	59.92
5-10	71.40	74.27
11-15	88.90	92.47
16+	115.15	119.77

Clothing Allowance

Children under 14 yrs

The clothing requirements for children under 14 years have been provided at the discretion of the Manager according to the individual's needs.

For young persons of 14 years and over who have their quarterly clothing allowance paid into a personal savings book and, under supervision, purchase their own clothes, the maximum payable rates are shown below and are in line with foster carer clothing allowances. The clothing allowance is paid in arrears at the end of each quarter and, it is up to the Manager to decide those children who are eligible and appropriate to receive this payment.

<u>Age Range</u>	<u>1999/2000 Rate</u> <u>Per Quarter</u> £	<u>Proposed Rate</u> <u>Per Quarter</u> £
0-4	134.68	141.05
5-10	164.71	172.90
11-15	206.57	215.67
16+	266.63	279.37

Food Allowance

£24.69 per child per week (currently £23.74).

ALLOWANCES FOR FAMILY LINK CARERS 2000/01

As the expenditure towards which the allowances are intended to contribute is similar to that relating to the Foster Care scheme, the rates have increased in line with those for Foster Carers.

	<u>1999/2000 Rate</u> £	<u>Proposed Rate</u> £
Up to 6 hours	11.87	12.34
Over 6 hours	19.92	20.72
Up to 24 hours	23.74	24.69

Payment of Travel and Subsistence

Payments are linked to National Joint Council rates for travel and subsistence expenses.
The rate is currently 32.5 pence per mile.

ALLOWANCES FOR PRE-TRIAL CARERS 2000/01

As the expenditure towards which the allowances are intended to contribute is similar to that relating to the Foster Care scheme, the rates have increased in line with those for Foster Carers.
The proposed rate is £243.18 fee per week plus the foster care rates (currently £233.80).

STANDARD AND INTER-AUTHORITY CHARGES 2000/01

These charges are based on the unit costs calculated for 2000/01.

In-house provision

Standard charges

<u>Type of establishment</u>	<u>Proposed Rate per client week</u> £
Community Homes for Children	2,183.22
Homes for Children with a Learning Disability	1,138.13

The new rates represent the maximum weekly maintenance contribution charges to clients.

Inter-authority charges

The guidance enables Local Authorities to purchase places from each other in accordance with normal commercial practice, including the agreement of block contracts and individual purchases. However in the absence of any such contractual agreement, the standard charges given above will apply.