

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	23 March 2012
Title:	Fees and Allowances in respect of children supported in Adoption, Family and Friends Care arrangements, Foster Care and Family Link for 2012/13
Reference:	3670
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the following changes to allowances and fees and associated expenses with effect from 1 April 2012 (the first payment week in April 2012):
- a) increase fostering allowances to match Fostering Network Recommended Rates (paragraph 3.2 and appendix C, table 1);
 - b) increase scheme three adoption allowances by 2.3% (paragraph 3.13 and appendix C, Table 2), and scheme four adoption allowances to two thirds of the national minimum fostering allowance rates, an increase of between 1.6% and 2.3% depending on age (paragraph 3.12 and appendix C, table 3);
 - c) increase scheme three residence order allowances by 2.3% (appendix C, table 2) and scheme four residence order allowances to two thirds of the national minimum fostering allowance rates; an increase of between 1.6% and 2.3% depending on age (paragraph 3.17 and appendix C, table 3);
 - d) increase informal family and friends care and private fostering allowances to two thirds of the national minimum fostering allowance rates; an increase of between 1.6% and 2.3% depending on age, and set the maximum allowed for Family and Friends Care to the same rate (paragraph 3.20 and Appendix C, Table 3);
 - e) increase special guardianship allowances to two thirds of Hampshire's fostering allowance rates (Fostering Network Recommended Rates) (paragraph 3.23 and appendix C, table 4);
 - f) increase foster carers skill fees by 2.3% (paragraph 3.32 and appendix C, table 6).

1.2 that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the following changes to allowances and other associated expenses with effect from 1 April 2012 (paid on claim basis at a specific or daily rate):

- a) increase family link allowances by 2.3% (paragraph 3.26 and appendix C, table 5);
- b) increase miscellaneous expenses associated with the above activities (as set out in paragraphs 3.34, 3.36, 3.37) by 2.3%.
- c) decrease the mileage rate for essential travel for foster carers as set out in paragraph 3.35.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. To increase Hampshire County Council's fees and allowances payable in respect of children who cannot be cared for by their parents and who need to be cared for away from home, and in respect of disabled children who are supported to remain at home, with regular respite care provided by others.
- 2.2. To agree the annual increase in fees and allowances in respect of children living away from home and provide some context regarding each of those arrangements.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Not applicable

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: none
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: none

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:	Date:
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Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Councillor Roy Perry	