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To all Members of the Cabinet

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DATE: 13 February 2009

OUR REF: CF

YOUR REF:

Dear Councillor

CABINET - TUESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, 2009

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Tuesday, 17th February, 2009 meeting of the Cabinet, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Item 10

Cheshire County Council Fostering Service Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers (Pages 1 - 18)

To consider increasing fostering allowances to the Fostering Network recommended rate.

Item 13

Cheshire East Local Development Scheme (Pages 19 - 22)

To consider the Cheshire East Local Development Scheme.

Yours sincerely

Cherry Foreman

Democratic Services Officer

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

CABINET

17 February 2009

Date of meeting:

Report of:

Children's Services - Fostering

Title:

Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks agreement to increase fostering allowances.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 To increase Fostering Allowances to the Fostering Network recommended rate.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 N/A

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 These are outlined in appendix 3

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Assists in meeting the requirements outlined in Care Matters and the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 to place looked after children in their home authority.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 Increasing the basic fostering rate will bring the allowances paid to foster carers in Cheshire East to the same level as most neighbouring authorities, reducing the risk of Cheshire East residents seeking approval as foster carers by other authorities. Improving the number of foster care households reduces the need to place children in higher cost agency placements and assists in meeting the requirements of Care Matters.

7.0 Background and Options

- 7.1 These are outlined in the main report and appendices.

8.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 8.1

9.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 9.1 To support the recruitment and retention of foster carers to improve placement choice for looked after children.

For further information:

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Background Documents:

*Documents are available for inspection at:
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach CW11 1HZ*

Cheshire East
Cabinet meeting
17th February 2009

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF FOSTER CARERS

Summary

On 18th December 2008, the Cheshire Executive

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the issues surrounding the recruitment and retention of foster carers, as outlined in the report, and the proposed actions for addressing these issues be noted; and
- (2) subject to the views of the Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East Councils, Council be asked to approve, using urgency procedures if appropriate, a supplementary revenue estimate in 2008-09 for £126,500 to fund an increase in the Fostering Network's recommended rates for 2009-10, with effect from a target date of 1 January 2009 (or as soon as possible thereafter), fully funded from balances.

Cheshire East Cabinet are asked to agree an increase in fostering allowances to the Fostering Network recommended rate.

Reports for consideration:

1. Report to Cheshire Executive 18th December 2008
2. Additional report to Cheshire Executive 18th December 2008 (Appendix 1)
3. Addendum to report on Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers Cheshire East Cabinet Queries (Appendix 2)
4. Fostering Costing (Appendix 3)

MEETING : EXECUTIVE
DATE : 18 DECEMBER 2008

REPORT OF : COUNTY MANAGER CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE
Contact : Paul Mossman, Principal Manager Fostering and Adoption
Officer : Tel: 01244 973152
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CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FOSTERING SERVICE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF FOSTER CARERS

INTRODUCTION

1 The Performance and Overview Committee, at its meeting on 23 June 2008, considered a report on the County Council's Review of Performance 2007-08 and, arising from that report, resolved that the Executive be requested to consider the issue of retention of foster carers, taking advice from the Children's Services Scrutiny Select Committee. This report sets out the background to the issue and the proposed actions under consideration.

BACKGROUND

2 Over the last two years, the national shortage of foster carers has grown from 8,000 to 10,000. In Cheshire, we have a shortage of 50 foster care households to meet the needs of looked after children. In the 18 months to September 2008, the Fostering Service has seen an overall reduction of 47 households. This has coincided with a 20% increase in the looked after population over the last two years. Cheshire foster carers are continuing to provide placements for an increasing number of children, mostly through asking carers to take more children into placement than they are normally approved to take. This is placing considerable strain upon carers and their families.

3 The loss of foster care households is primarily a consequence of retirement and changes in foster carers' personal circumstances, and difficulty in recruiting new foster carers.

4 The Service has seen a 3% increase in family and friends of children who are approved as foster carers. Whilst this is in line with national policy, the service cannot afford to become dependent upon this group of carers, who can only look after children related or known to them.

5 There are a number of issues facing the Service:

- Recruiting sufficient foster carers able to offer high standards of care. The Service continues to receive reasonable numbers of enquiries from prospective foster carers but many are unable to offer the type of care required and do not proceed to full assessment. Increasingly the feedback from prospective carers includes comment on being unable to proceed because of limited financial rewards.

- Completion of assessment and approval within reasonable timescales. The demand for assessment of family and friend foster carers is court led i.e. a consequence of direction by the court when children are subject to care proceedings. This area of work has grown across the county but particularly in mid Cheshire which has seen an increase of 600% on the number of requests. Assessment of family and friends must take priority to meet court timescales and prevents the speedy assessment of 'stranger' foster carers. Supervising social workers have already reached a target set for each of them to undertake assessments this year.
- Loss of prospective foster carers to other local authorities and agencies. In the 4 years to 2006, very few prospective foster carers in Cheshire chose to approach independent fostering agencies, though this has grown steadily year on year. Approximately 20 families per year seek approval by and registration with independent agencies. Feedback indicates that this is primarily because of the financial support offered to foster carers.
- During the last 18 months an increasing number of Cheshire families have sought approval and registration with neighbouring authorities. The Service is now seeing approximately 25 Cheshire households per year seek approval by neighbouring authorities. Information from those authorities is that whilst Cheshire has many attributes in attracting foster carers, e.g. support and training, Cheshire has fallen behind in the allowance rates paid to foster carers.

PAYMENTS TO FOSTER CARERS

6 Payments to foster carers are separated into two elements, the fostering allowance and the fostering fee. The fostering allowance is the amount paid to cover the day to day costs of caring for a child. It is generally accepted that the cost of caring for someone else's child is 50% higher than caring for one's own child. The fostering fee is a reward element paid to foster carers recognising their skills.

7 The fostering allowance is reviewed and set annually. In 2007, the Government introduced a National Minimum Allowance (NMA) that was to be paid to all foster carers. At the time of its introduction, Cheshire was paying a rate lower than the newly set NMA, and, did not have the financial resources to implement this at the start of the financial year. The NMA was fully implemented 6 months later.

8 However, the majority of Fostering Services were already paying a rate higher than the NMA. The Fostering Network, a registered charity working for looked after children and their carers, has been the agency that has set a recommended rate for fostering allowances for some considerable time and is the benchmark for all services. Eight of eleven neighbouring authority fostering services already pay the Fostering Network recommended rate. Last year, Council agreed to invest further in foster care and allocated funding to improve allowance payments, achieving a position midway between the NMA and Fostering Networks recommended rates.

9 The weekly allowance rates paid are banded by age and are as follows:

Allowance band	age	National Minimum Allowance	Cheshire	Fostering Network
0 - 4		£105	£113.82	£121.68
5 – 10		£116	£127.68	£138.61
11 - 15		£133	£153.51	£172.55
16+		£155	£182.98	£209.86

(In setting the National Minimum Allowance, the DCSF acknowledged that it did not take all expenditure into account e.g. housing costs)

10 Fostering Fees are the reward element paid to foster carers in recognition of their skills. The Service operates 3 levels (Bands) of payment. Carers are assessed and are required to evidence their skills and complete training in order to make progress through the banding system. Band one and band two carers receive a weekly fee for each child actually in placement. Band three carers receive a fee for each placement they are approved to provide i.e. a band three carer approved for two children will receive two band 3 fees continuously, even if they have a vacancy. Making this payment allows carers to plan financially. Band 3 carers are required to take placements when requested and at any one time all band three 'beds' will be occupied unless to do so would have a negative impact on any other child in placement.

11 The weekly rates for fees are as follows:

Band 1	£60.90
Band 2	£91.35
Band 3	£152.25

12 Cheshire developed the 'banding system' in 2001 to aid the recruitment and retention of foster carers. It is a nationally recognised scheme that has been emulated in numerous fostering agencies. We are to review the scheme and compare our current rates of payment against other local authority fostering services.

SUPPORT TO FOSTER CARERS

13 Of equal importance to foster carers is the support they receive. In Cheshire this includes the following:

- Minimum monthly supervision by a supervising social worker
- Annual review including a review of support and developmental needs
- Pre-approval, induction, core and developmental training
- Support for the emotional health of the child from a Multi-professional Support team
- Support with education through the Children in Cheshire's Care Team
- An out of hours helpline staffed by foster carers
- Carer support workers to support carers who have placements at risk of breakdown
- Respite packages
- Quarterly newsletter – The Cheshire Guardian

14 The Service is inspected annually by OFSTED and each year the inspectors have given feedback that foster carers value the support the Service provides. Foster carers have commented that they would wish more support from the child's social worker, though recognise that the demand upon their time from child protection and court related matters is such that it makes it very difficult to achieve. Children placed with foster carers also wish to spend more time with their social workers.

15 Foster carers are now required to complete National Induction Standards set by the Children's Workforce Development Council. The CWDC recognised that the Cheshire Fostering service had a comprehensive training strategy and a member of staff and a foster carer acted as consultants to the CWDC when developing the

standards and have delivered training nationally to other local authority and agency fostering services.

16 Whilst foster carers have made positive comment about the direct support from the service, increased demands made upon supervising social workers do restrict the time they are available to support foster carers. The introduction of the CWDC standards has added approximately 320 hours per year to a full time workers workload, though this will reduce in three years to approximately 75 hours per year.

17 One other form of support being sought by foster carers is assistance in financing adaptations or extensions to their home to allow more children to be placed with them, sibling groups to be placed together or to allow children their own room. Currently there are 15 applications for funding but there is no budget for such support. Courts are also requiring Cheshire to enter into commitments to fund extensions, primarily to allow sibling group placements.

18 The Service is to present a report to the Children's Services Executive with a proposed policy for funding extensions and adaptations through a grant and loan scheme. This proposal mirrors similar schemes in other local authority fostering services.

19 Based upon the number of days care provided by the Fostering Service in the first 6 months of this financial year, to increase allowances to that recommended by Fostering Network (08/09 rates) for the remainder of this year (i.e. from 1st January 2009) would require an increase in budget of £87,000 for the remainder of this financial year.

20 To implement an early increase of allowances to the Fostering Network rate for 2009/10 would require an increased budget of £93,000 for the remainder of this financial year.

21 The full year impact for 2009/10 of adopting the Fostering Network recommended rate would be £402,000. This breaks down as £196,980 for Cheshire West and Chester and £205,020 for East Cheshire.

22 As Adoption and Special Guardianship Allowances are linked to the Fostering Allowance, this budget would also need to be increased. If applying the Fostering Network recommended rate for 08/09 this would require increased budget of £24,000 for the remainder of this year (£96,000 full year impact). Applying an early implementation of Fostering Network's recommended rate for 2009/10 would require an increase in budget of £26,000 (£104,000 full year effect).

CONCLUSION

23 Whilst Cheshire County Council Fostering Service continues to provide a quality service to foster carers and the children they care for, it is encountering difficulties in the recruitment and retention of foster carers. Whilst higher than the National Minimum Allowance, rates of allowance payments have fallen behind those of neighbouring authorities who are attracting prospective carers from Cheshire. The Service is urgently costing the budgetary impact of improving rates of allowance.

24 The Service is also to review fee payments to foster carers.

25 The Service is to seek approval for a new policy to support extensions and adaptations to carer's property to improve placement choice.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

26 The Children's Services Scrutiny Select Committee considered this matter at its meeting on 24 November 2008 and resolved as follows:

"That

- (1) the issues surrounding the recruitment and retention of foster carers, as outlined in the report, and the proposed actions for addressing these issues be noted; and
- (2) the Executive be asked to consider setting a higher rate of foster care allowance for the remaining life of the Council."

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the issues surrounding the recruitment and retention of foster carers, as outlined in the report, and the proposed actions for addressing these issues be noted; and**
- (2) the Executive agree to implement an increase in fostering allowances from 1st January 2009 to either:**

Fostering Network's recommended rates for 2008/09

Or

An early implementation of Fostering Network's recommended rates for 2009/10.

REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

>To improve the recruitment and retention of foster carers to improve placement choice for looked after children.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Checklist for Members' reports and relevant matters have been included.
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Local Member	N/A
Background Documents	N/A
Available for Inspection at	N/A

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FOSTERING SERVICE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF FOSTER CARERS

INTRODUCTION

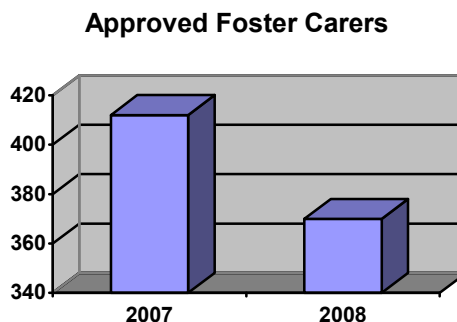
1. This paper has been prepared as an additional briefing to Executive, Thursday 18th December 2008.

2. Cheshire Children's Service is placing increased reliance upon Independent Fostering Agencies to provide sufficient placements for looked after children. This is because of an increase in the number of looked after children and a decrease in the number of foster carers approved by Cheshire County Council.

BACKGROUND

3. In the last two years the number of looked after children has increased from 488 to 612. The majority of these children continue to be placed with foster carers, and mostly with Cheshire County Council foster carers. Care Matters will require greater provision of foster care placements in older age ranges due to increased recognition for care for children beyond 16 and 18 years.

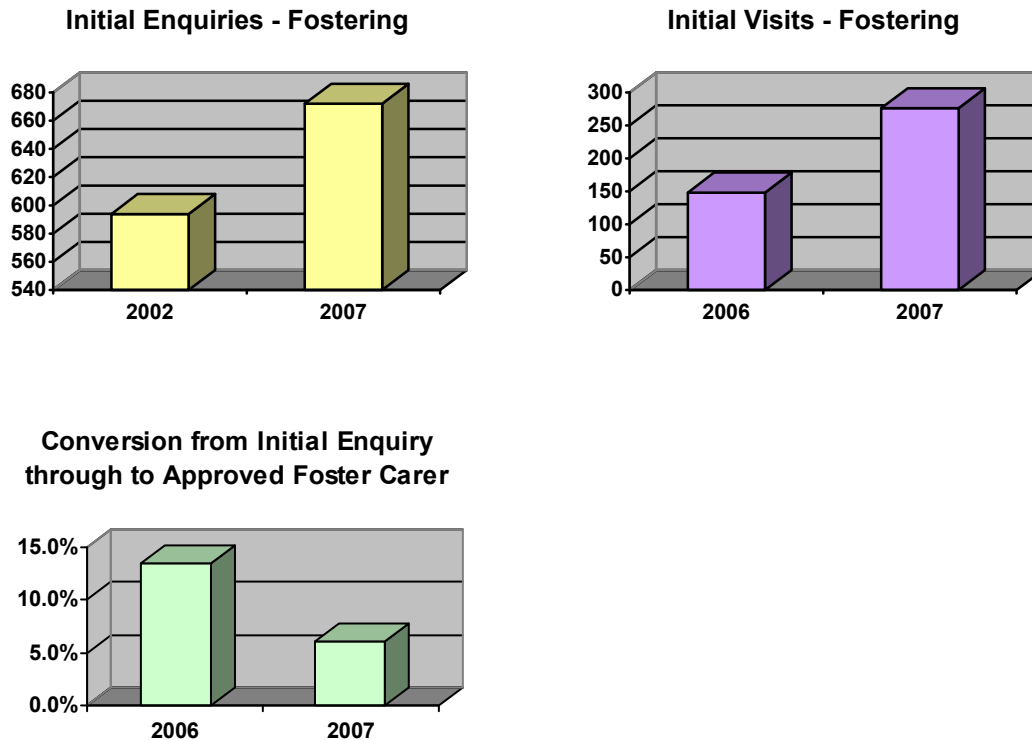
4. In the 18 months to September 2008, the overall number of foster carers has decreased by approximately 10% from 412 to 370 households. Of these, the number of family and friend foster carers has increased by 3%; family and friend foster carers are only able to provide care for children previously known to them. The number of 'general' foster carers has therefore reduced more significantly.



5. However, the number of days of care provided by Cheshire foster carers has continued to increase. Fewer foster carers provided 8,660 more days of care in the last financial year than were provided in 2005/06. This has been achieved by asking foster carers to look after more children than they were originally approved to care for. In the first six months of this financial year, foster carers had provided a further 1,000 days of care. This has placed considerable strain upon the service and cannot be maintained. Whilst placement stability has been maintained, there is risk of deterioration at a time when Care Matters is requiring improvements.

6. The number of enquiries from prospective foster carers has seen a small but steady year on year increase, from 594 per year in 2002 to 672 in 2007. The number

of initial visits to prospective foster carers has shown a similar increase; initial visits are made to prospective foster carers who wish more information before deciding to make an application to become carers. However, since December 2006, the conversion rates from initial enquiry to approved foster carer have decreased from 13.5% to 6%.



7. The number of Cheshire residents seeking approval by another local authority has increased during the last two years. As part of the safeguarding process any local authority seeking to approve a foster carer must make statutory checks with the local authority in which the foster carer lives. The number of checks on Cheshire residents requested by other local authorities has increased from 2 households per year to 26 households per year.

8. Neighbouring authorities are advising Cheshire Fostering Service that a primary reason for choosing to foster with them is the level of allowance paid. Similarly, feedback from prospective foster carers who choose not to proceed with an application to Cheshire, indicate finance as a significant factor.

9. Given the factors outlined above, Cheshire has placed increased numbers of looked after children with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA). Cheshire Children's Services have always made use of Independent Fostering Agencies primarily to provide placements for children with special needs e.g. a child with a significant disability.

10. For the four years ending March 2007 the number of children placed with IFAs was approximately 10 to 12 children per year. As at the end of November 2008, 28 Cheshire children are placed with IFAs. The service is currently seeking to purchase a further 5 placements from IFAs and it is estimated that the number of children placed with IFAs will increase to 35 by the end of March 2009.

11. Of the 28 currently placed, 13 children could have been placed with Cheshire Foster Carers had the in-house resource been available. All of the 5 for whom we are currently seeking placement could have been placed in-house had the resource been available.

12. Should the number of foster carers approved by Cheshire continue to decrease; more children will need to be placed with Independent Fostering Agencies. A 5% decrease in the number of in-house foster carers would result in us seeking an additional 19 placements from IFAs i.e. 54 placements in total. A 10% decrease in the number of in-house foster carers would result in us seeking an additional 38 placements by March 2010, or a total of 73 placements.

13. As previously mentioned implementing Care Matters will have an impact on placement availability because children are to remain placed with foster carers until they are older. A further impact of the implementation of Care Matters and the newly enacted Children and Young Persons Act 2008 will be the requirement to place children within the local authority boundary and as close to the child's home and school as is possible. Most placements with Independent Fostering Agencies (80%) are made with foster carers who live outside the Cheshire boundary. Increasing use of agency placements will make this difficult to achieve.

COST OF IFA PLACEMENTS

14. The unit cost for internal provision of foster care for the year 2007/08 was £419 per week. The unit cost for placements with IFAs was £780 per week. Each placement made with an IFA costs Cheshire County Council £18,772 per year more than an in-house foster placement.

MOVE TO FOSTERING NETWORK RATES – FINANCIAL IMPACT

15. The trend for reduced Cheshire Fostering Placements (CFP), which then requires children to be placed with the significantly more costly agency settings is forecast to increase the financial burden on both Authorities. The appendix attached models the financial impact on the combined authorities, based on the current rate of migration (10% p.a.) and a more optimistic 5% decline in the 'in-house' provision

16. Based on a 5% decline in CFP provision, the net cost of Agency foster placements is forecast to be £1.46m in 09/10, rising annually by £367,000 p.a.. Based on the current rate of migration, the forecast annual increase in costs is estimated to be £720,000 p.a., increasing the combined financial burden on the two new by £1.4m in 20011/12.

17. The introduction of the Fostering Network Rates (FNR) is reasonably expected to overturn this trend, with subsequent migration back to 'in-house' provision, although there will always be a requirement for a small number of agency placements. Based on optimistic, but a potentially achievable reversal of the migration during 2009/10 (assuming new rates applying from January), the net financial impact is a marginal saving compared to forecast costs under both the 5% and 10% scenarios. In the subsequent years, on the 5% scenario, the FNR rates are forecast to reduce the potential cost increases by £411,000 in 2010-11 and by £778,000 in 2011-12. Based on the 10% migration scenario (current trend) the FNR

rates the equivalent figures are £766,000 in 2010-11 and just under £1.49m in 2011-12.

18. Whilst a complete reversal of the use of external agency during 2009/10 is considered achievable, based on a more realistic migration back to CFP provision, but at the Fostering Network Allowance rates, in 2009-10 the costs are forecast to be greater than the savings generated by a net £202,000 countywide i.e. a net growth in costs in that year. However, assuming a phased migration back to CFP provision, in 2010-11 the medium term, under the 5% migration scenario the 'saving' is £259,000, increasing to £721,000 in 2011-12. On the 10% model the equivalent figures are savings of £614,000 in 2010-11 and 1.4m in 2011-12.

19. Based on the scenarios modelled the latest payback point of moving to the new rates is 2010-11 i.e. a two year payback period.

20. The proposal is primarily about avoiding future increased costs as opposed to generating financial savings and the figures above are a crude comparison of the two options (current v increased allowance rates). In budgetary terms there are no savings arising from this policy proposal when compared to the current disaggregated budgets.

21. An East/West split will be included in any subsequent papers.

RECOMMENDED: That

(3) the issues surrounding the recruitment and retention of foster carers, as outlined in the report, and the proposed actions for addressing these issues be noted; and

(2) subject to the views of the Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East Councils, Council be asked to approve, using urgency procedures if appropriate, a supplementary revenue estimate in 2008-09 for £126,500 to fund an increase in the Fostering Network's recommended rates for 2009-10, with effect from a target date of 1 January 2009 (or as soon as possible thereafter), fully funded from balances.

Addendum to Report on the Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers

On 13th January, the Cheshire East Cabinet considered a paper on the Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers. Responses to queries raised by cabinet are listed below.

Trends

In paragraph 4, you gave the pattern for the 18 months to September 2008. Members would be interested to see the trend over a 3yr period – September 05 – September 06, September 06 – September 07 and September 07 – September 08.

The numbers of approved foster care households for the periods are:

September 2005	413
September 2006	409
September 2007	402
September 2008	370

Until 2007, only 2 Cheshire households per year were seeking to be approved by another local authority. Since then, the number has risen to 26 households per year. This represents a significant loss of prospective foster carers.

Comparisons

Members would be grateful for comparative data about payment rates from the Local Authorities which neighbour Cheshire on all sides.

The table below details the payments made by neighbouring Local Authorities

Local Authority	Payment Rates
Stoke	Fostering Network Recommended Rate
Manchester	Fostering Network Recommended Rate
Warrington	Fostering Network Recommended Rate
Halton	Fostering Network Recommended Rate
Flintshire	Fostering Network Recommended Rate
Wrexham	Fostering Network Recommended Rate
Stockport	Higher than Fostering Network Recommended Rate
Liverpool	Higher than Fostering Network Recommended Rate
Staffordshire	National minimum Allowance
Derbyshire	National minimum Allowance
Wirral	National Minimum Allowance

Current Rates

Members would appreciate some more detailed information about the range of payments currently made to foster carers under the existing scheme. They are aware that payments are based upon an assessment of need, but they do want to get some feel for the actual payments made and the span of those sums.

Payments to carers are divided into 2 categories as follows:

Fostering Allowances - These are remuneration and reimbursement payments. They are paid to cover the daily costs of caring for a child or young person and other payments made to cover specific costs they incur. The fostering allowance covers:

- General maintenance including food, accommodation and related costs
- Normal replacement of clothing
- Pocket money
- Normal transport associated with any child living within a family including to and from a local school
- A limited amount of assessment of the child
- Some contact with parents, siblings and relatives
- Attendance at review meetings etc.
- Involvement in clubs and activities
- Keeping a record of events and memories about the child for the child

In addition to the basic allowance, payments are also made for birthday (1 x weekly rate), holiday (2.5 x weekly rate) and Christmas (1 x weekly rate). Additional payments can be made to cover extra costs such as new school uniform if a child changes school, school trips etc.

The allowance rates for 2008/09

Child aged 0 to 4	£113.82 per week
Child aged 5 to 10	£127.68 per week
Child aged 11 to 15	£153.51 per week
Child aged 16 and over	£182.98 per week

Fees - These are reward payments, paid to carers recognising their skills in caring for children and young people. This fee scheme allows carers to progress through 3 levels, and on achieving each level, receive a higher rate of payment. Each level is referred to as a band. It is also possible for a foster carer to move down through the 3 levels with the rate of payment being adjusted to reflect the change.

The fee rates for 2008/09 are:

Band 1 Fee	£60.90 per week per child
Band 2 Fee	£91.35 per week per child
Band 3 Fee	£152.25 per week per placement approved for.

Fees increase annually by the rate of inflation applied by the local authority.

Percentages

On the basis of the above information, Members would want to see what the percentage increases would be if the Fostering Network Rates were applied.

An increase to Fostering Networks recommended rate is an average across all ages of 14.3%. (Allowances would normally increase by 2.8% this year.)

Fostering Network

Members would be interested to know a little more about the nature of the Fostering Network Organisation.

The Fostering Network (TFN) is the UK's leading charity working to support everyone involved in foster Care. As the leading national body representing the interests of foster carers and fostering services, TFN works to ensure that fostered children

receive the highest standards of care. As such it is one of the major stakeholders consulted by the DCSF in the development of national policy.

TFN provides training, advice and support to individual members, agencies and the local authority. A significant element of their work includes the production of training materials and advice leaflets for foster carers. TFN also operates an advice line for members which it provides on behalf of the DCSF.

In calculating the minimum allowance, the Fostering Network uses RPI (Retail Price Index) as a key component in its calculations of the increased cost of care as, unlike the CPI (Consumer Price Index) measure, it includes the effect of mortgage payments that are important to include as the cost of keeping a home suitable for fostering is a critical cost of providing foster care.

Recession

Does the service have any indication at all whether the developing recession is having the effect of bringing forward more enquiries from potential foster carers. Is there any sign of such a trend in the figures since September 2008?

The service has seen no increase in enquiries from prospective foster carers in the last 6 months. Consultation with other agencies does not suggest that a recession is likely to increase enquiries.

PM/ CE 01.09

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Appendix 1: Foster Care Business Case

		CHESHIRE			WEST			EAST		
Scenario :		Financial Years			Financial Years			Financial Years		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Base Budget	1,168	1,168	1,168	502	502	502	666	666	666
5% Loss of approved Foster Carers	No Fostered Children in Agency	35	54	73	15	23	32	20	31	41
	Forecast Cost	1,460	1,826	2,193	626	780	954	834	1,046	1,239
10% Loss of approved Foster Carers	No Fostered Children in Agency	35	73	111	15	32	48	20	41	63
	Forecast Cost	1,460	2,181	2,902	626	948	1,252	834	1,233	1,650
Potential impact of FN rates 0910 - service maintains 12 IFA placements	No Fostered Children brought back in house	23	23	23	10	10	10	13	13	13
	No Fostered Children in Agency	12	12	12	5	5	5	7	7	7
	Forecast Cost	1,415	1,415	1,415	628	628	628	787	787	787
	Variance against 5% migration.	-45	-411	-778	2	-152	-326	-47	-259	-452
	Variance against 10% migration.	-45	-766	-1,487	2	-320	-624	-47	-445	-863
Assume phased number of children brought back in house	No Fostered Children brought back in house	10	15	20	4	7	9	6	8	11
	No Fostered Children in Agency	25	20	15	11	9	6	14	11	9
	Forecast Cost	1,662	1,567	1,472	742	726	647	920	840	825
	Variance against 5% migration.	202	-259	-721	116	-53	-307	86	-206	-414
	Variance against 10% migration.	202	-614	-1,430	116	-222	-605	86	-392	-825

Note:

The above scenario is based on 2009-10 outturn prices (assumed inflation in Agency of 2.8%)

The cost per annum is based on a 52 week placement

Current budget setting for 2009-10 assumes a base of 28 agency fostered children

The figures exclude potential growth in the number of Looked After children.

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of meeting: 17th February 2009
Report of: John Nicholson Places Director
Title: Cheshire East Local Development Scheme

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend to Cabinet that the Cheshire East Local Development Scheme be brought into effect, within the inclusion of a caveat recommended by the Government Office for the North West.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 To agree:
- To include a caveat within the Local Development Scheme alongside the table and profile of the Minerals DPD highlighting that the timetable/DPD could be changed should it be decided in future that joint working with Cheshire West and Chester would be more appropriate on this matter.
 - That the Cheshire East Local Development Scheme, appended to this report, shall come into effect from 18th February 2009 in accordance with Regulation 11(2)(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2008.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 None

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 The costs of a future review of the Local Development Scheme will be in staff time. The implementation of the programme contained within the Local Development Scheme will require substantial staff and budgetary resources as yet undefined.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The preparation of a Local Development Scheme and certain Local Development Framework documents is a statutory requirement set out in the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. The draft Transitional Regulations requires Cheshire East to submit a Local Development Scheme to the Secretary of State for Communities and

Local Government “not later than three months before the reorganisation date.” The same Regulations will, when approved by parliament, transfer Local Development Framework powers to the Cheshire East Council.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 The Local Development Scheme contains a full Risk Assessment (Section 12).

7.0 Background and Options

- 7.1 Local Development Schemes are a feature of the reformed local planning system introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). The introduction of the Local Development Scheme was a direct response by Government to ensure that Local Development Frameworks are better managed, with local development documents being prepared and reviewed more quickly than development plans under the old system.
- 7.2 The Local Development Scheme is a public statement of the local planning authority’s programme for the production of local development documents. For local authorities, the Local Development Scheme serves as a programme management tool, encouraging the successful and timely delivery of a number of inter-related projects (local development documents). The Local Development Scheme is essentially a three year project plan, with the timetable of milestones used to manage resources, drive progress, and inform stakeholders.
- 7.3 Following consideration of the Local Development Scheme by the Local Development Framework Member Task Group on 9th September, the Places Advisory Panel on 22nd September, Cabinet on 2nd December and Council on 9th December 2008 it was submitted to the Government Office for the North West on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- 7.4 The Government Office for the North West have now responded on behalf of the Secretary of State and have stated that she does not intend to issue a direction under Section 15(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and that Cheshire East Council may proceed to publish the submitted Scheme (subject to the caveat suggested), in accordance with the Regulations.

8.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 8.1 The Local Development Scheme should be brought into effect to provide the work programme for the Cheshire East Local Development Framework and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

9.0 Reasons for Recommendation

9.1 To bring into effect the Cheshire East Local Development Scheme.

For further information:

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Background Documents:

*Documents are available for inspection at: Westfields. Middlewich Road,
Sandbach*

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