

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: Increase in allowances paid to Adoptive Parents.
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 8 June 1999	
REPORT AUTHOR: Jim Pitman	
REF: JRP/FS	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee of revised rates of allowances being recommended by C.O.S.L.A.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Over the previous five years, C.O.S.L.A, in recommending fostering and adoption allowances to Council's has taken account of a review indicating the need for a substantial increase to reflect more accurately the real cost of bringing up a child and to bring allowances into line with N.F.C.A.
- 2.2 For the year 1999/2000 the recommendation is for allowances to be increased in line with inflation (2.4%). This increase has already been approved for foster carers when Social Work Committee approved the new fostering allowance payments on 30 March, 1999

3 NEW RATES PROPOSED FOR 1999/2000

3.1 Adoption Allowances

Ages	Current Rate	Recommended Rate
0-4	£55.79	£57.13
5-10	£69.23	£70.89
11-15	£86.17	£88.24
16-18	£111.58	£114.26

3.2 Link Carers/Residence Orders

Ages	Current Rate	Recommended Rate
0-4	£18.62	£19.05
5-10	£23.10	£23.65
11-15	£28.70	£29.39
16-18	£37.17	£38.06

These allowances are paid on the basis of a 56 week year.

3.3 Shared Care payments should also be increased by 2.4%

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The increased costs will be met from the £100,000 set aside in the 1999/2000 service enhancements budget. The Revenue Estimates 1999/2000 report was presented to Committee by the Director of Finance and was approved by Committee on 24 February 1999.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is asked to approve the new rates detailed at 3 above with effect from 1 April 1999.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work