

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Social Work Committee Operations & Services	Subject: Funding of Children and Young People in Residential Care
From: Jim Dickie, Director of Social Work	
Date: 24th March, 1997.	
Ref: SP/HS	
Author of Report: Sandra Paterson, PO (Child Care)	

1.0 Purpose of Report

To advise Committee of the existing rates paid for pocket money and recreation allowances within North Lanarkshire residential units and to recommend that Committee approve that these rates be increased.

2.0 Background

A working group was set up by the previous social work authority to examine levels of funding for children in care.

The recommendations from this group were implemented in two stages, the first from 1st April, 1995 and the second from 1st October, 1995, with the recommendation that these allowances be index linked to the rate of inflation. However, the budget for some areas was not disaggregated at the time of re-organisation and those areas which deal with school uniforms, treatment budgets, staff costs for holidays and outings and the disposable clients requisites funds will be addressed in a future report.

For the purposes of this report and to estimate the financial costs to North Lanarkshire, a mid point of thirteen years for the age of the child will be taken (See Appendix 1 for details)

3.0 Core Section

The areas needing to be index linked are as follows -

* **Pocket Money**

This currently covers expenditure on personal items and will cover most individual leisure and recreational pursuits and individual savings for events and holidays.

Residential staff are involved in giving guidance as to how this is spent.

* **Unit Recreation Funds**

This money is generally for group use and only in exceptional circumstances will it be provided for individual use.

Residential staff will usually be involved in the activities.

* **Birthday Allowances**

Young people are consulted about the present which they wish.

* **Festive Allowances**

Young people are consulted about the present which they wish.

* **Holidays and Outings Allowances**

This funding will be used to cover the cost of holidays and outings and not to enhance individual savings.

* **Clothing Allowances**

The rates are exclusive of VAT and this is reclaimed where possible.

4.0 Financial Implications

The total cost for the implementation of these proposals for the current year are £2157.60 based on an inflation rate of 5% over the two years, which will be met from the existing social work budget.

5.0 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

6.0 Personnel Implications

There are no personnel implications.

7.0 Policy Implications

There are no policy implications

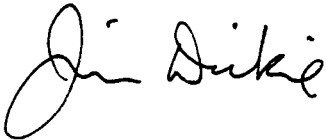
8.0 Conclusions

The implementation of these proposals will ensure that funding for young people in residential care is maintained at adequate levels in order to allow them to be involved in a range of social and cultural experiences which will develop their full potential.

9.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to -

1. Agree to the proposals that these allowances be index linked to the rate of inflation as from 1st April, 1995.
2. Instruct the Director of Social Work and the Director of Finance to liaise on an annual basis with regard to updating these allowances.
3. Instruct the Director of Social Work to report to Committee at a later date on the uprating of other allowances, such as staff costs for holidays and outings, school uniforms, treatment budgets and disposable clients requisites funds.



Jim Dickie,
Director of Social Work.