

REPORT

Item No: 6

SUBJECT:	Social Work Charges and Fees and Allowances 2017/2018 Update
TO:	Finance and Audit Sub-Committee
Lead Officer for Report:	Chief Accountable Officer
Author(s) of Report	Head of Children, Families and Justice Social Work Services Service Manager Financial Inclusion Chief Financial Officer
DATE:	14 November 2017

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This paper is coming to the Finance and Audit Sub-Committee (FAC) for:

For approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	For endorsement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To note	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.2 This report outlines the charges, fees and allowances set by the North Lanarkshire Social Work Sub Committee on 8 August 2017.

2. ROUTE TO THE FINANCE AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE:

2.1 This paper has been:

Prepared By; Chief Financial Officer	Reviewed By; Chief Officer
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3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The FAC is asked to endorse the social care charges detailed in appendix 1 and the fees and allowances detailed in appendix 2.

4. BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

4.1 In accordance with statutory instrument 2014 no. 345, responsibility for the setting of charges for social care services was retained by local authorities as part of the joint working arrangements under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Prescribed Local Authority Functions etc.) (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (Regulation 3).

4.2 Local Authorities are empowered through the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and the Housing Scotland Act, 2001 to apply charges for services. The Head of Children, Families and Justice Social Work Services and the Service Manager Financial Inclusion presented a report to the North Lanarkshire Social Work Sub-Committee on 8th August 2017 setting out proposed charging levels for 2017/2018.

4.3 North Lanarkshire Council has followed the national guidance issued by COSLA in respect of charging for non residential care services. The COSLA guidance operates on the principle that people on the lowest levels of income do not pay for the service and that those who do pay

contribute according to their means. This objective is achieved by setting a charge threshold which is up-rated annually and applying a taper contribution of income above the threshold level. The threshold level increased by a 25% buffer from 2016/2017, compared to the previous 16.5% buffer, in line with the Scottish Government's offer in relation to the Integration Fund.

- 4.4 Local authorities pay varying rates and allowances for foster care services, some of which equate to those previously set by The Fostering Network (TFN). In addition to setting allowances, foster carers are also paid a 'fee' determined by the skill level of the foster carer and this also varies considerably across the country. In 2016, TFN announced that they would no longer provide annual recommendations regarding allowances. A key consideration for the service is the ability to continue to recruit foster carers for the vulnerable children and young people who continue to need this service.
- 4.5 A national review of the framework for fostering allowances is being undertaken by the Scottish Government in association with COSLA. It is expected this review will consider ways of ensuring more equity across local authorities in terms of the payment of fees and allowances.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The FAC is asked to endorse the social care charges detailed in appendix 1 and the fees and allowances detailed in appendix 2.

6. 2017/2018 RATES

- 6.1 The charging levels for 2017/2018 are set out in appendix 1 for the following social care services:
- Non-residential care services;
 - Meals provision;
 - Independent sector care homes;
 - In-house residential care services; and
 - Respite care services.
- 6.2 The adoption, fostering, kinship and supported carer fees/allowances for 2017/2018 are set out in appendix 2.

7. IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 NATIONAL OUTCOMES
This relates to all nine national outcomes.

- 7.2 ASSOCIATED MEASURE(S)
None.

- 7.3 FINANCIAL
This paper has been reviewed by Finance:

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Increases in payment rates, allowances and fees will be met from existing resources. Specific funding was also made available by the Scottish Government to support the Scottish living wage component of the care home rates and also the extension of kinship support and the implementation of continuing care and after care provisions within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

7.4 PEOPLE

In accordance with COSLA guidance, North Lanarkshire Council maximises the income of all service users who are liable to make a contribution towards the cost of the service. In 2016/2017, Housing and Social Work's Financial Inclusion Team generated benefit income in the region of £2.5 million for people receiving a non-residential service.

It is important that allowances and fees remain competitive to ensure this is not a barrier to recruitment which could impact on outcomes for children.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced the provision of continuing care for children and young people looked after away from home. The aim is to ensure that young people remain in their placement, or receive equivalent support beyond the age of 18 in order to improve stability and a more graduated transition towards independence. The provision of the Act is welcomed but has an impact on the resources required to provide the necessary care for young people beyond the age of 18 as they may choose to remain with their foster carer, kinship carer or move into supported care.

The North Lanarkshire Council charging policy has been updated for 2017/2018 to reflect the new rates. The leaflet on charges for residents and service users has also been revised and updated.

7.5 INEQUALITIES

EQIA Completed:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
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7.6 CARBON MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Social Work Sub Committee 8th August 2017

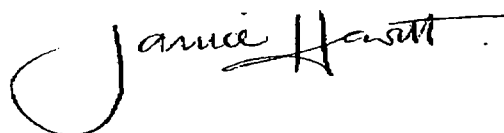
Item 7 Charges for Non Residential Services, Meals Provision, Independent Sector Care Homes, In House Residential Care and Respite Care

Item 10 Setting of Fostering, Adoption, Supported Carer and Kinship Care Allowances 2017/18

9. APPENDICES

Social Care Charges 2017/2018
Fees and Allowances 2017/2018

Appendix 1
Appendix 2



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CHIEF ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER (or Depute)

Members seeking further information about any aspect of this report, please contact Marie Moy on telephone number 01698 453709.

Ref.	Revised Charge
1	<p>The threshold figure for payment for Home Support Charges is increased to £200 for single people and £305 for couples. Persons with income less than these figures will not be required to pay for home support services.</p> <p><i>(2016/2017 Threshold: Single Person - £195; Couple - £297)</i></p>
2	<p>The rate for Home Support Services is increased to £16.93 per hour in line with the Government's long term inflation forecast of 2%.</p> <p><i>(2016/2017 Rate: £16.60 per hour)</i></p>
3	<p>The rate for attending an Integrated Day Service remains at £10 per day.</p> <p><i>(2016/2017 Rate: £10 per day)</i></p>
4	<p>The charge for Meals on Wheels for 2017/2018 is increased by 2% to £3.58 per meal.</p> <p><i>(2016/2017 Rate: £3.51 per meal)</i></p>
5	<p>The charge for meals provided in respect of Day Services for older people is increased by 2% to £4.90 per meal.</p> <p><i>(2016/2017 Rate: £4.81 per meal)</i></p>
6	<p>In line with the uplift of 2.8% for Independent Sector Care Home Fees as negotiated via COSLA, Scottish Care and the Scottish Government, the nursing care rate is £667.09 per week and the residential care rate is £574.42 per week.</p> <p><i>(From 1 October 2016 Rate: Nursing Care - £648.92 per week; Residential Care £558.77 per week)</i></p>
7	<p>The charge for In-House Residential Care is increased to £619 per week.</p> <p><i>(2016/2017 Rate: £607 per week)</i></p>
8	<p>The charge for residential respite is increased to £95.90 per week in line with increases in pensions and allowances.</p> <p><i>(2016/2017 Rate: £93.50 per week)</i></p>
9	<p>The rates to be applied for 2017/2018 for free personal care and nursing care services for people in care homes remains as £171 per week (personal care services only) and £249 per week (personal and nursing care services).</p>
10	<p>Effective from April 2017, both the War Disablement Pension and Guaranteed Income Payments have been fully disregarded from the financial assessment for non residential social care services in line with the 2017/2018 financial settlement.</p>

Fees and Allowances 2017/2018
Appendix 2

Fostering Fees	2016/2017 Rate Per Week	2017/2018 Rate Per Week
Level 1	£116.44	£117.60
Level 2	£151.37	£152.88
Level 3	£186.32	£188.18

Fostering Allowances	2016/2017 Rate Per Week	2017/2018 Rate Per Week
Age 0-4	£141.41	£142.82
Age 5-10	£161.08	£162.69
Age 11-15	£200.51	£202.51
Age 16-18	£243.89	£246.33

Adoption Allowance (paid less child benefit)	2016/2017 Rate Per Week	2017/2018 Rate Per Week
Age 0-4	£141.41	£142.82
Age 5-10	£161.08	£162.69
Age 11-15	£200.51	£202.51
Age 16-18	£243.89	£246.33

Kinship Care Allowance (paid minus relevant benefits/credits)	2016/2017 Rate Per Week	2017/2018 Rate Per Week
Age 0-4	£141.41	£142.82
Age 5-10	£161.08	£162.69
Age 11-15	£200.51	£202.51
Age 16-18	£243.89	£246.33

Supported Carers Allowance	2016/2017 Rate Per Week	2017/2018 Rate Per Week
Age 16-21	£289.68	£292.58