

## Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 7 March 2024

### Report of the Director of Children's Social Care

#### Part I

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Caring for the vulnerable;

### Revision of Foster Care Allowances 2024/25

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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#### Brief Summary

This report proposes the increase of Foster Care Allowance rates for 2024/25, in line with National Minimum Standards.

#### Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the increase in the current scale of Foster Care Allowances as set out at Appendix 'A'.

#### Detail

The county council's fostering allowances are linked to the Government National Minimum Standards Foster Care Allowances, a requirement now enshrined in legislation.

In addition, the county council pays other fees and payments as detailed below:

- Foster Carer Fee, an age-related fee with different fees for age banded groups 0-10 and 11-17.
- Fee Plus, a wide structure of additional fees set out under two distinct categories.



- Contributions to the service, at specified rates depending upon a number of specific roles.
- Payments for sibling group placements.
- Long service anniversary awards.
- Day care.
- Parent and child arrangements.

These payments are uplifted each year in line with the Consumer Price Index.

The Government National Minimum Foster Care Allowances have been updated for 2024/25, and it is proposed that the rates for Lancashire also be updated, to ensure that the requirements of the fostering strategy are maintained, and that the service meets regulatory requirements.

Holiday, Birthday and Religious Festivals payments also receive an annual increase in line with the national minimum standards allowances.

Details of the above are set out at Appendix 'A'.

## Appendices

Appendix 'A' is attached to this report. For clarification it is summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Foster Carer Allowances

## Consultations

N/A

## Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

## Risk management

No significant risk management implications have been identified; the estimated cost of this proposal will be met from within the Fostering Service budget.

## Financial

The estimated cost of the above proposals is approximately £960,000, which will be funded within the agreed budget envelope for children's social care in 2024/25.

## Legal

No significant legal implications have been identified. The proposed increase in Foster Care Allowances for 2024/25 complies with Government national minimum standards as per legislation and therefore this increase meets regulatory requirements.

## List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A