



**Glasgow City Council**  
**City Administration Committee**

**Item 6**

4th June 2026

**Report by Cllr Chris Cunningham, Convener for Health, Care & Caring and Older People**

**Contact: Pat Togher Ext: 78853**

**Scottish Recommended Allowances for Kinship and Fostering Services**

**Purpose of Report:**

To advise the City Administration Committee of the increase to the Scottish Recommended Allowances (SRA) agreed by COSLA and the Scottish Government, and of the intention to implement the payment of the proposed allowances backdated to 1st April 2025.

**Recommendations:**

The City Administration Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the recommended approval of the funding at Glasgow City IJB on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026;
- b) Note the proposed new Scottish Recommended Allowances for Kinship and Foster Carers; and
- c) Approve the implementation of these new rates by Glasgow City Council and approve that the new allowances are backdated to 1st April 2025.

Ward No(s):

Citywide:

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No  consulted: Yes  No

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To advise the City Administration Committee of the increase and extension to the Scottish Recommended Allowance (SRA) for kinship care and foster care services, previously implemented in 2023 by agreement with COSLA and Scottish Government.
- 1.2 To advise of the intention to implement the increased SRA allowances, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 In [March 2022](#) the IJB agreed an increase in financial support to the 40% of children in Glasgow's foster and kinship placements who were believed to be below the, then, anticipated Scottish Recommended Allowance (SRA) level.
- 2.2 The SRA was a key commitment in the Programme for Government and in the [Scottish Government's Promise Implementation Plan](#), published in March 2022. It aligns with the Scottish Government priority of tackling child poverty and supporting the most vulnerable in society, especially given the ongoing cost of living crisis. Specifically, the SRA is intended to help ensure that children in foster and kinship care get the support they need to thrive.
- 2.3 When implemented, the SRA introduced parity in the allowances paid to foster carers and kinship carers to meet the costs of care for children who they are looking after, regardless of where they live in Scotland.

The allowances are intended to cover the following:

- Food, toiletries, clothes, wear and tear
  - Hobbies and activities
  - Bedding, furniture
  - Pocket money / toys
  - Insurance and utility bill increases
  - Daily access to a computer and the internet for homework/course work/ mobile phone
  - Transport costs for the child (for the purpose of attending review meetings, children's hearings, contact, travel to school, college or other educational facility)
  - Holiday costs to cover school holiday activities and family trips
  - Birthday / Christmas or other cultural or religious events.
- 2.4 In addition to the allowances, foster carers are also entitled to fees paid by the local authority and kinship carers have the ability to draw down Child Benefit payments, in addition to any other relevant welfare benefits.
  - 2.5 In [November 2022](#) the IJB also agreed to increase the fee to foster carers from £150 to £165.

- 2.6 In [November 2023](#), the IJB further agreed to implement the agreed SRA rates, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. This included the additional four weeks allowance paid to carers to cover additional costs of holidays and birthdays throughout the year.
- 2.7 The HSCP received confirmation from the Scottish Government on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 that the Programme for Government commitment to an inflationary increase in the Scottish Recommended Allowance rate to foster carers and kinship carers would be provided. This enabled an inflationary increase in the SRA rate, backdated for carers to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.
- 2.8 The Government have restricted the SRA to apply to children and young people only up to the age of 18, stating that the forthcoming Scottish Care Leaver's Payment proposed in the forthcoming Children (Care, Care Experienced and Service Planning) Bill, now at stage 3, will provide a one-off payment to financially support those over 18 in kinship and foster care. There is no date for implementation of this Bill.
- 2.9 £292,500 has been awarded to Glasgow City per letter of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025: this represents a shortfall of £17,177 for implementation of the allowance only to carers of children and young people under the age of 18, and a shortfall of £104,357 to carers of all young people.

### 3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The enhanced rates uplift the allowance to:

AGE	0-4	5-10	11-15	16+
SRA	£171.17	£199.14	£199.14	£272.97

- 3.2 In Glasgow, in March 2026, this equates to excluding 345 young people over 18, who are currently supported in a fostering or kinship placement.

	Provided Foster Care	Supported Care	Host Families	Kinship Care	Adoptive placement	Total no of young people
Under 18	291	9	4	1,153	81	1,538
Over 18	103	108	13	110	11	345

- 3.3 The service currently has 394 children and young people in provided foster placements, and 1258 in kinship care arrangements.
- 3.4 The service met the cost of uplift to all carers in 2023, in recognition of the risks inherent with differential rates of financial support to carers, and the particular risk of not supporting carers of young people above 18. There is a shortfall of £104,357 in the funding required to award carers of all children and young people the enhanced rate for 2025/26. The service intends to meet this shortfall from existing service budgets.

- 3.5 The concern remains acute that failing to financially support carers of young people aged above 18 could destabilise caring arrangements which could increase the risk of breakdown. This would increase the pressure on 16+ supported accommodation and homelessness services and reduce the support network around young people aged 18-25 at this critical time of staged and supported independence. In turn, this would increase cost pressures for the HSCP, and erode the benefit offered of long term supportive relationships to young people, whether in foster or kinship care.

#### **4 Policy and Resource Implications**

- 4.1 The increase of £292,500 represents an increase in support to carers to offset the cost of living pressures, but represents a shortfall of £104,357 to implement the increases to all children and young people in kinship and foster care provision. This shortfall will require to be met from within service budgets and represents a significant cost pressure in the current climate. However, the risks associated with destabilisation of kinship and fostering arrangements represent a greater financial risk to the service.
- 4.2 The Scottish Recommended Allowance remains a positive development nationally, providing a consistent minimum income to support the cost of care for children and young people in kinship and foster care.

##### **Resource Implications:**

*Financial:* The Scottish Government have allocated an additional £292,500 to assist with the costs of implementing the increased SRA. The shortfall in costs associated with implementing to all children and young people in foster and kinship care will be met from existing service budgets.

*Legal:* The report raises no new legal issues.

*Personnel:* No direct personnel implications.

*Procurement:* No relevant procurement issues.

**Council Strategic Plan:** **Grand Challenge 1- Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities.** Foster Carers and Kinship carers are integral to the delivery of high-quality care for children in Glasgow who cannot live at home with their own families. All these carers are critical to the delivery of the children's transformation programme to sustain children as close to Glasgow as possible and to maintain children and young people's links to their families, friends, schools and communities.

**Grand Challenge 2 - Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens.** This increase for Kinship Carers provides an important inward preventative investment in the infrastructure of the city to sustain children with their extended families and mitigate against hardship.

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify.*

The proposal aligns with **Outcome 6**, The importance of tackling social isolation and loneliness is recognised and prioritised through our work with partners, through maximizing social inclusion and engagement of carers, children and young people, which mitigates social and health inequalities.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

The proposal may have a positive impact.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.*

The proposal mitigates the socio-economic disadvantage associated with caring and supports the stability of care arrangements within families which mitigates health inequalities for children and young people, in turn supporting greater social, and economic inclusion, life long.

**Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:*

Through supporting family arrangements in kinship care, predominantly in the city, the travel needs for children, young people, families and staff are minimized, reducing cost to the public purse and environmental impact.

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?*

The proposal may offset travel and environmental impact that could be caused if placements destabilised and required to be sourced nationally, necessitating greater travel by staff, families and children to sustain connections.

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?*

**Privacy and Data  
Protection Impacts:**

No

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N

**5 Recommendations**

5.1 The City Administration Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the recommended approval of the funding at the Glasgow City IJB on 13th May 2026;
- b) Note the proposed increased Scottish Recommended Allowances for Kinship and Foster Carers; and
- c) Approve the implementation of the new rates by Glasgow City Council and approve that the increased allowances are backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.