

**Payment of Scottish recommended allowance for fostering to providers in purchased sector approved.**

**6** Councillor Cunningham, City Convener for Health, Care & Caring for Older People, presented a report regarding the payment of the Scottish recommended allowance (SRA) for fostering to providers in the purchased sector, advising

- (1) that in August 2023, the Scottish Government had introduced the Scottish Recommended Allowance for foster and kinship carers and this was to introduce a standard allowance to achieve a greater degree of consistency and transparency in allowance payments and information;
- (2) that carers who were paid directly by Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership were in receipt of the SRA, however the issue of making payments to providers in the purchased sector had been unclear and had been discussed widely nationally and with COSLA and these discussions had now concluded that providers of purchased services should receive payment to enable them to pay the SRA;
- (3) that it was proposed that payment be made to providers who were currently paying foster and kinship carers below the SRA rate, backdated to 1st April 2024 and providers would be required to provide evidence of current payment to carers and also evidence that payments had been changed to reflect the new SRA rates, backdated to carers from 1st April 2024;
- (4) of the current SRA rates which did not include contracts through Excel Scotland, as these were being dealt with directly, with an implementation date of 1st July 2024; and
- (5) that funding had been provided by the Scottish Government to make the payments however the cost of the uplift was unknown due to a need to engage with providers to understand what rates they currently paid, as some paid above the SRA rates.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) approved the payment of the Scottish recommended allowance for fostering to providers in the purchased sector, as detailed in the report; and
- (b) agreed that any payments be backdated to 1st April 2024.