



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

**Item 6**

22nd August 2024

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

**Contact: Jacqueline Kerr Ext: 78853**

**PAYMENT OF THE SCOTTISH RECOMMENDED ALLOWANCE FOR FOSTERING TO PROVIDERS IN THE PURCHASED SECTOR**

**Purpose of Report:**

To update the City Administration Committee on the payment of the Scottish Recommended Allowance for Fostering to providers in the purchased sector; and to request approval.

**Recommendations:**

The City Administration Committee is asked to:

- a) Approve the payment of the Scottish Recommended Allowance for Fostering to providers in the purchased sector; and
- b) Approve the backdating of any payments to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the City Administration Committee on the payment of the Scottish Recommended Allowance for Fostering to providers in the purchased sector.
- 1.2 As Integration Joint Board approval could not be obtained within the required timescale, and in view of the urgent requirement to make these payments, the Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer was asked to approve the recommendations in the report under delegated powers on the grounds of urgency.

## 2. Background

- 2.1. In August 2023, Scottish Government introduced the Scottish Recommended Allowance (SRA) for foster and kinship carers.
- 2.2. This was to introduce a standard allowance to achieve a greater degree of consistency and transparency in allowance payments and information. It was also to ensure that children in foster and kinship care get the support they need to thrive, and ensure there is parity in the financial support provided to kinship and foster carers, regardless of where they live in Scotland.

## 3. Current Payments

- 3.1. Carers who are paid directly by Glasgow HSCP are in receipt of the SRA, however the issue of making payments to providers in the purchased sector was unclear and has been discussed widely nationally and with COSLA. These discussions have now concluded with the outcome that providers of purchased services should receive payment to enable them to pay the SRA.
- 3.2. Payment will be made to those providers who are currently paying foster and kinship carers below the SRA rate and this will be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Providers will be required to provide evidence of current payment to carers and also evidence that payments are changed to reflect the new SRA rates and that this has been back dated to carers from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. This will also be monitored as part of contractual monitoring arrangements which are in place.
- 3.3. The current SRA rates are as follows:

Age of child	0-4	5-10	11-15	16+
SRA	£168.31	£195.81	£195.81	£268.41

- 3.4. This does not include contracts through Scotland Excel, as this is being dealt with directly, with an implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

#### 4. Funding

- 4.1 Funding has been provided by Scottish Government to make these payments, which forms part of the Children and Families budget.
- 4.2 The cost of the uplift is unknown as we need to engage with providers to understand what rates they currently pay as some pay above the SRA.

#### 5. Resource Implications

##### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* The cost of the uplift is currently unknown, however, funding has been provided by Scottish Government and payments will be managed within the Children and Families budget.

*Legal:* None

*Personnel:* None

*Procurement:* None

**Council Strategic Plan:** Grand Challenge 1 Mission 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities. Improve engagement with foster and kinship carers and seek to increase the financial and other support available to them.

##### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.* Yes, tackling child poverty.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?* No significant impacts.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.* Not relevant.

### **Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:* No

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?* None

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?* No

### **Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N No

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 The City Administration Committee is asked to:

- a) Approve the payment of the Scottish Recommended Allowance for Fostering to providers in the purchased sector; and
- b) Approve the backdating of any payments to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.