

Scottish recommended allowances for kinship and fostering services approved etc.

6 Councillor Cunningham, City Convener for Health, Care & Caring and Older People, presented a report on the Scottish Recommended Allowances (SRA) agreed by COSLA and the Scottish Government for kinship care and fostering services, and of the intention to implement the payment of the proposed allowances backdated to 1st April 2025, advising

- (1) that the Glasgow Integrated Joint Board (IJB) had previously agreed
 - (a) in March 2022 to increase financial support to the 40% of children in Glasgow's foster and kinship placements who were believed to be below the anticipated SRA level;
 - (b) in November 2022 to increase the fee to foster carers from £150 to £165; and
 - (c) in November 2023 to implement the agreed SRA rates, backdated to 1st April 2023 which included the additional 4 weeks allowance paid to carers to cover additional costs of holidays and birthdays throughout the year; and
- (2) that a backdated inflationary increase to 1st April 2025 in the SRA rate had been enabled due to the Scottish Government's (SG) confirmation that the Programme for Government commitment to an inflationary increase in the SRA rate to foster carers and kinship carers would be provided;
- (3) that the Government had restricted the SRA to apply to children and young people up to the age of 18, and had stated that the forthcoming Scottish Care Leaver's Payment which was proposed in the forthcoming Children (Care, Care Experienced and Service Planning) Bill would provide a one-off payment to financially support those over 18 in kinship or foster care, but that there was no date for implementation of this Bill;
- (4) that £292,500 had been awarded to Glasgow which represented 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 which would be met from existing service budgets; and
- (5) of the financial implications relating to children and young people under the age of 18, and that there were currently 345 young people over 18 who were currently supported in a fostering or kinship placement and concerns remained acute that failure to financially support carers of young people aged above 18 could increase the pressure on existing support services and reduce the support network around young people aged 18-25.

After consideration, the committee

- (i) noted

- (A) that Glasgow's Integrated Joint Board on 13th May 2026 had recommended approval of the funding for kinship and fostering services; and
 - (B) the proposed new Scottish Recommended Allowances for Kinship and Foster Carers; and
- (b) approved the implementation of the new rates and allowances backdated to 1st April 2025.