

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 2 NOVEMBER 2006

ADOPTION ALLOWANCES 2006/2007

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek to increase the adoption allowances paid to Adoptive Parents who care for East Ayrshire Children and Young People.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Adoption Allowances are paid to assist adoptive parents financially with the responsibility of permanently caring for children and young people placed with them by East Ayrshire Council Adoption Panel.
- 2.2 The allowance is agreed after the Adoption Panel has considered that this is an integral part of the long term plans for the children and young people concerned.
- 2.3 An anomaly has been identified in relation to the increases applied to these payments and this Committee report serves to address this situation.

3. REVISION OF ALLOWANCES

- 3.1 The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) previously issued rates for adoption allowances but this is no longer the case. COSLA guidance is that there is an annual inflationary increase applied to these allowances.
- 3.2 East Ayrshire Council has not applied increases to these payments since financial year 2004/2005.
- 3.3 In line with this guidance it is recommended that Adoption Allowances are increased by 2.6% for the year 2005/2006 and 3% for the year 2006/2007.

	ACTUAL RATE 04/05	UPLIFT 2.6% 05/06	UPLIFT 3% 06/07
		Per Week	Per Week
0 - 4 Year Old	£64.38	£66.05	£68.03
5 - 10 Year Old	£79.89	£81.97	£84.43
11 - 15 Year Old	£99.45	£102.04	£105.10
16 - 18 Year Old	£128.77	£132.12	£136.08

4. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report fulfils the duty of the Director of Educational and Social Services to review charges for services, as determined by Section 7.1 of the Council's Financial Regulations.

5.2 The estimated cost of applying the increases to payments for the financial years identified is £15,874. This additional expenditure will be met from existing financial resources.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING

6.1 This report is consistent with the Improving Opportunities and Eliminating Poverty themes of the Community Plan.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Committee agree to:

- (i) the revised increased payments as detailed in Section 3.3 of this report;
- (ii) agree to the back payment of these payments as noted in Section 3.3 of this report;
- (iii) future changes to payments being reported to the March Committee in the Social Work Charging paper; and
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of this report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
SB/AGW
24 October 2006
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For further information on this report please contact:-
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : JACKIE DONNELLY