

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET MEMBER SIGNING - CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HELD ON TUESDAY, 10TH OCTOBER, 2017, 16:00

PRESENT:

Councillor Elin Weston, Cabinet Member for Children and Families.

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Cabinet Member referred those present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting and asked that those present reviewed and noted the information contained therein.

2. DECLARATIONS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

4. SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS

The Cabinet Member noted the report, which sought approval for the Council's Special Guardianship, Adoption and Child Arrangement Order Payment Policy and also sought agreement for the payment arrangements of Adoption, Special Guardianship (SG) and Child Arrangement Order (CAO) allowances.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member:

Agreed the Policy and arrangement for the payment of: Adoption, Special Guardianship, and Child Arrangement Orders Allowances 2017/18 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Reasons for decision

To ensure that up to date, consistent and cost effective policies and procedures are in place without creating a barrier to progressing a plan for Adoption or Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Orders. Adopting a rigorous approach to reviewing allowance payments will provide a mechanism to ensure that allowance payments made are still appropriate and the recipients remain entitled to them.

To ensure that the Council's allowance rates will remain broadly aligned to the North London Consortium average rates (see page 53 of the agenda pack for Haringey's Allowance and Reward Rates 17/18).

Any attempt to reduce existing allowance rates could become a barrier to progressing plans for permanency. This would increase Council costs if the child is a Looked After Child (LAC). If a child or young person remained looked after when a permanency option was available, the Council would continue to face the costs of supporting a looked after child (see Appendix 2 of the report for detailed analysis of the Haringey's allowance rates).

Alternative options considered

The Council considered the option of continuing with the current arrangement for payment of Adoption, Special Guardianship and Child Arrangement Order allowances which offered a range of payments without a consistent testable framework and resulted in differing levels of payment. To ensure compliance with the regulatory framework for these payments, the do nothing approach was not considered tenable. The Council was required to have a sustainable equitable policy and procedure for managing these cohorts of allowances and to progress permanency

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date