

4 December 2019

Our ref: 5776168

Thank you for your request received on 8 November 2019, for the following information:

Please can you provide me with the following information regarding Special guardianship financial support.

1) What method, information and documents does Barnet council use to assess special guardians for financial support.

2) What is the maximum payment for a child.

- a) Pre school age
- b) Primary school age
- c) Secondary school age
- d) Over 16

3) Is the maximum payment based on recommended foster care rates?

4) Is the financial assessment where children were previously LAC different to the financial assessment for children who were not LAC.

5) Are Barnet's approved Kinship carers entitled to the same fee and allowance payments as Non Kinship carers?

6) What extra financial support is given if a Kinship foster carer becomes a special guardian and needs extra financial support. If any is given what information needs to be provided in order to qualify for this support?

7) If a SG cannot financially survive on just the child's SGO allowance without extra financial support what are the other options offered by Barnet?

8) If a SG has their own child whom is suffering financially because of the SGO and the SG cannot work due to the child under the SGO being a baby, what extra support can be requested?

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## **Response**

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

Please can you provide me with the following information regarding Special

guardianship financial support.

1) What method, information and documents does Barnet council use to assess special guardians for financial support.

**Model based on DfE means test model.**

**Some receive discretionary allowances based on the need of a child.**

2) What is the maximum payment for a child.

- a) Pre school age
- b) Primary school age
- c) Secondary school age
- d) Over 16

Age From	Age To	Post 01/05/2017 maintenance	Less CB	Max allowance
0	2	149	13.7	130.3
3	5	152	13.7	133.3
6	10	171	13.7	151.3
11	15	193	13.7	173.3
16	17	226	13.7	205.3

3) Is the maximum payment based on recommended foster care rates?

**Yes, it is based on the fostering maintenance rate.**

4) Is the financial assessment where children were previously LAC different to the financial assessment for children who were not LAC.

**There is no regulatory requirement to pay an allowance, if a child was not looked after prior to the order.**

5) Are Barnet's approved Kinship carers entitled to the same fee and allowance payments as Non Kinship carers?

**Once the connected carers complete the 3-day preparation training – 'Skills to Foster', that takes place during the assessment process, they are paid the level 1 fee.**

6) What extra financial support is given if a Kinship foster carer becomes a special guardian and needs extra financial support. If any is given what information needs to be provided in order to qualify for this support?

**A financial assessment is undertaken as part of the Special Guardianship Assessment. The prospective Special Guardian's finances are assessed in the context of their ability to financially support the child in question. Any further**

**financial assistance other than the the SGO allowance, would need to be agreed on a case by case basis by a Head of Service.**

7) If a SG cannot financially survive on just the child's SGO allowance without extra financial support what are the other options offered by Barnet?

**This would be discussed/ assessed on a case by case basis, and financial support needs are identified within the financial assessment, undertaken within the assessment stage.**

**SG's are aware of what they will be paid by the Local Authority before the order is granted by the courts.**

8) If a SG has their own child whom is suffering financially because of the SGO and the SG cannot work due to the child under the SGO being a baby, what extra support can be requested?

**The needs of the whole family, which includes the SG's own children and the support plan, should include the needs of the family to be able to care for the child in question.**

### **Further information**

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

### **Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing**

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

**For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.**

### **Your rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information

Management Team at: [foi@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:foi@barnet.gov.uk). Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.