

Ms Cassie Felton

Kayleigh Hogg
Tel: 0151 934 4425
Email: replytoxxxx@xxxxxx.xxx.x
Date: 20 June 2019

Our reference: 2321065

Dear Ms Felton

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information that we received on 26 April 2019.

Please accept our apologies for the late response; this is due to work capacity at the end of the financial year and staff holidays. we have detailed our answers below.

1) Does the council follow the DfE method of assessing Special guardianship allowance.

Answer: Yes the council follows the DfE method for assessing SGOs

2) What is the maximum payment for a child.

Answer:

0 – 2	£115.30 p/w
3 – 4	£118.30 p/w
5 – 10	£132.20 p/w
11 – 15	£153.30 p/w
16 – 17	£153.30 p/w

But the outcome of the assessment can be overruled with a CMD (Case Management Decision) if the figure is lower than the maximum.

3) Is the maximum payment based on recommended core foster care rates. If not what is the maximum payment based on.

Answer: The maximum payment is based on the weekly fostering allowance rate for child's age less the subsequent child benefit rate.

4) Does special guardianship rise each year in line with the increase in core fostering rates.

Answer: Yes, it increases in line with fostering rates.

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

Answer: They are all assessed the same way

6) What deductions, if any, are made from Special guardianship allowance, ie, Child benefit, Child tax credit.

Answer: If means tested, child benefit is deducted and if non means tested the child tax credit element is deducted

7) If a carer is in receipt of Income support are any deductions made from Special Guardianship allowance, ie, Child Benefit, Child tax credit

Answer: Child Tax Credit

8) Are Special guardianship allowances time limited. If so how long for.

Answer: They are paid until the child reaches 18

9) How many special guardians in the authority are currently being financially supported

Answer: SGO 176 carers for 244 children

10) How many Child arrangement orders are currently being financially supported

Answer: CAO 2 carers for 4 children

11) How many friends and family, (connected persons) foster carers are in the authority.

Answer: There are 68 kinship carer households - 100 total carers these are all approved foster carers There are a further 15 households whereby the children are placed with prospective kinship carers under Regulation 24.

Please quote the reference number 2321065 in any future communications about this request.

Section 17 (7) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act states that public authorities must provide applicants with details of how they may complain about the handling of their request for information should they wish to. If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been dealt with then you can request an internal review within 40 days of receiving our response. This should be directed to the Information Management and Governance Lead, 1st Floor, Magdalen House, 30 Trinity Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 3NJ or email: info.infoxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxx.xx

Should you choose to request a review of the decision taken and are dissatisfied following the authority's review, you are entitled under Section 17 (7) (b) of the Act to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision notice. Further information can be found at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Kayleigh Hogg
Business Intelligence

www.sefton.gov.uk