

Please see below information received relating to Bournemouth and Christchurch data.

- 1) Does the council follow the DfE method of assessing Special guardianship allowance? If not please provide information as to the method used.**

The DfE method of assessing SGO is followed, as specified in Regulation 13 of the Act

- 2) What is the maximum payment for a child. See rates below**

- a) Pre-school age – age 0-4 £111.71 per week
- b) Primary school age – age 5-10 £132.17 per week
- c) Secondary school age – age 11-15 £165.48 per week
- d) Over 16 – age 16 £170.42, age 17 £156.92 per week

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

It is based on the FC allowances

- 4) Does special guardianship rise each year in line with the increase in core fostering rates.**
Special Guardianship payments are financially assessed each year, they rise in line with the age of the child (see Q 2).

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

The same financial assessment is used regardless of whether the child was previously LAC. If the SGO is awarded to the former foster carer, this is frozen at the foster allowance amount for 2 years to make the transition to SGO smoother; there is no financial assessment until year 3.

- 6) What deductions, if any, are made from Special guardianship allowance, i.e., Child benefit, Child tax credit.**

Once the financial assessment has taken place, the child benefit is deducted to result in the final amount payable, there are no further deductions.

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

If the family are in receipt of income support, income related ESA or pension guarantee they automatically receive the maximum payment – there is no further assessment.

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

The financial assessment is valid for 1 year. Any longer period is agreed at the local authorities discretion.

- 9) How many special guardians in the authority are currently being financially supported**
123 children supported by 90 carers (Bournemouth and Christchurch)

- 10) How many Child arrangement orders are currently being financially supported**
9 children supported by 8 carers (Bournemouth and Christchurch)

- 11) How many friends and family, (connected persons) foster carers are in the authority.**
There are 16 in Bournemouth.

Please see below information received relating to Poole data.

- 1) Does the council follow the DfE method of assessing Special guardianship allowance. If not please provide information as to the method used.

The DfE method of assessing SGO is followed, as specified in Regulation 13 of the Act

- 2) What is the maximum payment for a child.

- a) Pre-school age - £130 less child benefit
- b) Primary school age - £143 less child benefit
- c) Secondary school age - £164 less child benefit
- d) Over 16 - £191 less child benefit

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

- 4) Does special guardianship rise each year in line with the increase in core fostering rates. Special Guardianship payments increased when core rates increase, they also rise in line with the age of a child

- 5) Is the financial assessment where children were previously LAC different to the financial assessment for children who were not LAC. No, The financial assessments are the same regardless of whether a child was previously LAC.

- 6) What deductions, if any, are made from Special guardianship allowance, ie, Child benefit, Child tax credit. Once the financial assessment has taken place, the child benefit is deducted to result in the final amount payable, there are no further deductions.

- 7) If a carer is in receipt of Income support are any deductions made from Special Guardianship allowance, ie, Child Benefit, Child tax credit If the family are in receipt of income support, income related ESA or pension guarantee they automatically receive the maximum payment .

- 8) Are Special guardianship allowances time limited. If so how long for. The financial assessments are valid until the end of the child's educational year or until the child turns 18

- 9) How many special guardians in the authority are currently being financially supported 60 (Poole)

- 10) How many Child arrangement orders are currently being financially supported 3 (Poole)

- 11) How many friends and family, (connected persons) foster carers are in the authority. 19 carers from 15 households that were friends and family, connected persons.