

C&CR FOI Investigation Team

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Ms Kristine Harris

Date: 13 October 2021

Our Reference: 12343969

Your reference: request-774214-cc1b95d4@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Ms Harris

Internal Review- 12343969 - Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

I am responding to your request for an Internal Review of the above request for information. This has been considered under the the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA).

Your request for an internal review is detailed below:-

Dear Cheshire East Council,

In a recent reply to a FOIA response submitted 23/11/2020 you outlined the local authority's policy on the provision of financial support to families with No Recourse to Public Funds ('NRPF') seeking access to support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Following on from this, under the Freedom of Information Act, could you please confirm whether the local authority, for a family eligible for support under Section 17 of the Children's Act 1989, who have no other source of income:

- a) has guidance on the minimum or median rate of support provided per family member?*
- b) if so, what is the minimum or median rate received per week (or fortnight if subsistence is paid fortnightly rather than weekly)?*
- c) whether the local authority provides additional funds for children aged 1-3?*
- d) whether the local authority provides additional funds for children aged 0-1?*
- e) whether the local authority provides additional funds for pregnant mothers?*
- f) whether the local authority provided any additional subsistence payments during the Covid-19*

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pandemic to help with additional costs?

g) if the answer to any of questions c)-f) is yes, then please outline what additional funds are received per week (or fortnight if subsistence is paid fortnightly rather than weekly)?

h) whether the local authority provides a maternity grant following the birth of a child?

i) and if so, how much is this grant and is it provided for every child or only for the first child born to the mother?

j) whether the local authority provides discretionary payments for additional expenditure, e.g. winter clothes, school uniforms, travel costs?

k) and if so, is there any guidance on the maximum amount payable or the frequency of payments?

I am responding point by point below:

a) has guidance on the minimum or median rate of support provided per family member?

There is no specific guidance. This is needs based which is informed by a Children & Families assessment

b) if so, what is the minimum or median rate received per week (or fortnight if subsistence is paid fortnightly rather than weekly)?

Please refer to the response to Point a above.

c) whether the local authority provides additional funds for children aged 1-3?

d) whether the local authority provides additional funds for children aged 0-1?

e) whether the local authority provides additional funds for pregnant mothers?

Please refer to the response to Point a above.

f) whether the local authority provided any additional subsistence payments during the Covid-19 pandemic to help with additional costs?

This is based on individual circumstances and is needs based.

g) if the answer to any of questions c)-f) is yes, then please outline what additional funds are received per week (or fortnight if subsistence is paid fortnightly rather than weekly)?

h) whether the local authority provides a maternity grant following the birth of a child?

No - not from Children's Services.

i) and if so, how much is this grant and is it provided for every child or only for the first child born to the mother?

Not applicable as per Point h above.

j) whether the local authority provides discretionary payments for additional expenditure, e.g., winter clothes, school uniforms, travel costs?

The authority has a needs based discretionary use of Section 17 monies.

k) and if so, is there any guidance on the maximum amount payable or the frequency of payments?

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No

Decision

The final decision of this review is that it partially upholds your complaint.

If you are not content with the outcome of this internal review, you then have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF; Tel: 0303 123 1113; Fax: 01625 524510 or <https://ico.org.uk> The Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the Council's internal review process has been completed.

Yours sincerely

Helen Sweeney
Senior Compliance & Customer Relations Officer
Cheshire East Council

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