

APPENDIX 5

17th December 2013	Rory Patterson Director Children's Social Care Direct Dial: 020 7525 3626 Facsimile: 020 3014 8756; 8196 2355
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Dear Foster Carer

Subject line: Consultation on new proposal for Southwark Payments and Allowances to Foster Carers

As you may know Southwark has been reviewing its allowance scheme for foster carers to ensure that we provide a scheme that is fair and straightforward. As well as providing a general increase we plan to change the way we pay foster carers. We have attached the proposal for your consultation.

The basic Fostering Allowance covering the costs of caring for a child will still be based on the National Fostering Network London rate and will be reviewed annually. We however want to change the Fostering Fee by providing the opportunity for an increase depending on the level of training foster carers complete to further develop their skills and experience.

In this scheme there are no enhancements based on the difficulty of the child. We wanted to move away from this approach because it can disadvantage foster carers who work very hard to help children improve their behaviour and are therefore seen as less difficult. Furthermore recent judgements on local authority schemes have indicated that best practice is to use criteria such as training or qualification.

If you look at the last page (16) of the proposal you will be able to work out how much you would receive under this scheme.

We have worked out that foster carers should earn more under this proposal, however some foster carers haven't quite completed the Training Development Standards for Foster Carers. When they have completed these they will be Level 3 Carers and they should get a little more under this scheme compared to the one you are on.

Anyone who may receive less under this scheme will remain on their payments at the current rate so there will be no losers as we move from one scheme to another.

This is important because we need people like you to foster for Southwark and to keep looking after our children.

We would like to start this scheme at the beginning of the financial year which is the 1st of April 2014.

If you have any questions please send them to
michelle.whiting@southwark.gov.uk

We plan to hold a consultation meeting on Tuesday 14th of January 10am -12 noon at 7, Talfourd Place, London, SE15 5NW, Ground Floor Conference Room.

Please send your comments by Monday 10th of February by 12 noon.

You can either reply by email to michelle.whiting@southwark.gov.uk

**Or if you prefer send it to
Michelle Whiting
Southwark Council
PO Box 64529
SE1P 5LX**

Yours sincerely



**Rory Patterson
Director
Children's Social Care**

Consultation on new proposal for Southwark Payments and Allowances to Foster Carers

Name

Date

- 1) Do you think the scheme is clear?
- 2) Do you think the scheme is fair?
- 3) Do you think 2 pieces of training a year is enough to retain level 3 status?
- 4) Any other comments?