

REPORT NO 224/97

**ANGUS COUNCIL****SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE .....25 February 1997****REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK****PAYMENT RATES FOR FOSTER CARERS AND ARCH CARERS 1997/98****ABSTRACT**

This report recommends payment rates for foster carers and ARCH carers to be adopted by Angus Council for 1997/98.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee agrees that the rates detailed in this report be used for the payment of foster carers and ARCH carers during 1997/98.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

Over a five year period COSLA recommended increases in the rates to be paid to foster carers in order to bring the rates paid by Scottish local authorities into line with those paid by the National Foster Carers Association. This agreement came to an end in 1997. Angus Council is committed to maintaining meaningful partnerships and it is therefore desirable that payment rates for foster carers should be reviewed on an annual basis. The proposed increases detailed in this report represent an increase of 2.5% on last year's rates.

**3. ARCH CARERS**

ARCH carers provide respite care to children with disabilities in partnership with their families.

Payment to ARCH carers is currently linked to existing fostering rates with an enhancement. It is now proposed that ARCH carers are paid at a flat rate linked to the period of care.

#### 4. PROPOSAL

The rates recommended are as follows:

##### Foster Carers

Ages	Actual Rates <u>1996/97</u>	Recommended <u>Rates 1997/98</u>
	£ per week	£ per week
0 - 4	51.80	53.00
5 -10	64.19	65.80
11-15	79.94	81.94
16-18	103.53	106.10
Mainstay Carers	93.73	95.60

##### ARCH Carers

Period	Recommended <u>Rates 1997/98</u>
	£
Up to 8 hours	15.00
Over 8 hours (including overnight)	25.00

It is recommended that Angus Council adopt these rates for 1997/98

#### 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The budget for 1997/98 has been submitted at the same level as in 1996/97, however, given the strategic importance of the partnership with carers, it is proposed to implement the new rates set out above. The costs associated with the increased rates will be contained within the Social Work department revenue budget.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

By adopting these rates, Angus Council will be reinforcing the value of foster carers and ARCH carers to the Council

6 February 1997

W B Robertson  
Director of Social Work

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

