

Written statement of a non-key officer decision
Director for children's wellbeing

Title	Increase in basic foster carers allowances 2018
Decision maker	Director for children's wellbeing
Date of decision	4 May 2018
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	To approve an increase in the foster carers basic fostering allowance in accordance with the recommended guidelines for foster carers published by the Department for Education.
Decision	That: (a) An increase for 0-10 year olds to the recommended DFE published minimum rate and a 1% increase for all other Herefordshire foster placements with effect from 1st April 2018
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=I50025987
Consultation	
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to increase allowances. This is not recommended as it would mean that the council does not meet with the Department of Education guidelines (DfE). 2. Increase the allowance to the youngest age bands only at a higher level of 2- 3%. This is not recommended because it would adversely affect the care placement strategy which aims to attract and retain carers for the older and more challenging placements. This helps to reduce dependence on independent fostering agencies for this cohort. The council does not have as much difficulty in recruiting foster carers for the younger children under 11 years.
Declarations of interest	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in)	11 May 2018

where special urgency provisions apply)	
---	--

Officer:	Date 4 May 2018
Director for children's wellbeing (Chris Baird)	