

Financial Claims Information in Respect of Prospective Adopters

Derbyshire County Council is committed to ensuring that all adoptive placements have the best possible start. To this end the Department will assist prospective adoptive parents during the introductions and in the early part of the placement.

Below is a list of what prospective adopters may claim. Each point provides guidance on how the claim can be made and who the adopters must contact to do so:-

Introductions

During introductions prospective adopters may claim the following if required:-

- a) Self-catering accommodation or Bed and Breakfast if necessary for prospective adopters who live further than 60 miles from the foster carers. Self-catering accommodation is thought to be preferable as it gives prospective adoptive parents more opportunity to relax 'in their own space' and, if appropriate, use the accommodation during the introductions. Costs for accommodation should be about the same level as a Travel Lodge. If the child's social worker feels the prospective adopters require alternative accommodation or have special requirements then it is their responsibility to seek agreement from the Adoption Team Manager.

- b) Subsistence expenses will be paid but alcohol is not included. The allowances are:

Breakfast	£6.37
Lunch	£8.77
Tea	£3.45
Evening Meal	£10.88
Bed and Breakfast	£44.32

Receipts must be provided.

If staying in self-catering accommodation there is an expectation that prospective adopters will provide the majority of the food necessary. The Department will pay up to £15 a day maximum. This is on the basis that people would have to feed themselves if they were at home.

- c) Payment will be made for reasonable activities and an allowance for food in order for the adopters to facilitate activities during introductions. Receipts for the activities must be given to the adopter's social worker. If the placement is an interagency placement then the receipts must be sent

to the child's social worker. The receipts should be accompanied by a list detailing what each of the receipts is for. It is expected that prospective adopters will exercise restraint and use moderately priced activities that they would expect to continue in their home. Activities should be of the type that will build attachments.

- d) If the child needs things during the introductions such as nappies, toys, crockery etc there is an expectation that the prospective adopters will pay for these. The child's foster carers should supply what is necessary.
- e) Travel expenses incurred during introductions will be paid at public transport rate (at 2014 this is 16.4p/mile). It is the responsibility of the adopters to log all journeys made, the date and the mileage on the form provided. They should then submit this to the adopter's social worker or child's social worker if the placement is an out of county placement. It is the responsibility of the social worker to check the above dates and miles are correct and pass on to the Adoption Manager or the Fostering Payments scheme.

Settling in Grant

- a) Up to £500 per child will be available as a settling in grant to prospective adopters whose child meets the criteria for an adoption allowance. That is children in sibling groups; disabled children; children over the age of 4; and children with a medical condition. Where prospective adopters are on a low income and would attract an allowance if their child met the criteria then a settling in grant will be paid to them. This enables the adopters to buy essential items for the child, such as:-

- Bed / Bedding
- Bedroom Furniture
- Safety gate
- Car Seat
- Fire Guard

The settling in grant does not include clothing as children being placed for adoption should have adequate clothing from their foster carers. Neither does it include toys, as they should take their own toys from the foster home with them.

The prospective adopters must send all receipts to their social worker - or the child's social worker if the placement is with adopters from another agency. Payment is only made on the production of receipts. A list should be provided detailing what each of the receipts is for.

Additional Support – Post Adoption Support

- a) Should additional financial support be identified in a child's adoption support plan, e.g. to assist with practical support, i.e. ironing, cleaning or childcare, the child's social worker should seek agreement that the additional support is appropriate from the Adoption Team Manager. It

needs to be made clear how long the service will be required and how much it will cost. It is expected that the adoptive parents will pay the cost of the service required and send receipts direct to the Fostering & Adoption Finance Section for reimbursement.

- b) Derbyshire County Council will pay the cost of the adoption order application. It is expected that the adoptive parents will pay for the application and send the receipts to the Fostering & Adoption Finance Section who will arrange reimbursement. If this is difficult then a cheque may be released in advance. Where children are being placed with DCC adopters then their worker will ensure a cheque is available from DCC to accompany the application.
- c) Derbyshire County Council will pay any costs arising from contact arrangements agreed by DCC, including transport, subsistence and reasonable activities.
- d) Where it is thought that a child needs on-going therapy this will be paid by the district responsible for the child when the child is placed. If, after the adoption order but before the child has been adopted for 3 years, additional therapy is thought appropriate then referral must be made to the local Children & Adolescents Mental Health Services in the area in which the child lives. Any difficulties in getting a service should be referred the adoption support service in Derbyshire who will liaise with the adoption support services in the area in which the child lives.

Details of expenditure should be agreed at the Inter-Agency Planning Meeting