

## **Foster Carers Fees – Communication**

Further to Jo Olsson's letter to all foster carers dated 11 May 2018, detailed work has continued in relation to finalising a new Foster Carer Fees Model that is open, fair and consistent for all.

The Project Team, which includes foster carer representation has met regularly to progress the fee model options and assess the impact of each option on each foster carer, the most recent meeting took place on Weds 6<sup>th</sup> June.

The detailed financial modelling has now been completed. This has proved to be a time consuming but nevertheless very worthwhile exercise. We have taken more time than we originally planned as we adopted the approach of 'getting it right slowly' rather than 'wrong quickly'.

A thorough assessment of each placement has taken place to fully understand what a new model will look like for each individual foster carer. We have assessed upwards of 90% of all placements, with the remaining placements being progressed.

With this information to hand it allows everyone to see a full picture of how each model will affect each placement financially.

The Foster Carers Strategy Group was updated at a meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June and senior managers will be updated mid-June.

Foster carer consultation open days are now being organised at venues across Devon. These sessions, likely to be towards the end of July/early August, will give you the opportunity to attend and view the new proposed model.

As these open days are likely to fall within the school summer holidays we will be arranging many different sessions across different weeks to accommodate the demands on carers during this busy time. We will also hold an additional session towards the end of August for anyone unable to attend earlier open days.

We will be running an 'open door' approach so that you can attend at your convenience and not be constrained to a set start and finish time. More information on these days will be sent to you shortly.

Following the consultation days, we will be assessing any comments and feedback received before attending the Children's Scrutiny Panel on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

A final decision is due at Devon County Council's Cabinet meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Throughout this process we have adopted an approach of 'co-production'. The design of the model has been produced by foster carers for foster carers with the aim of creating an open, fair and consistent fee structure for all.

The project team would like to thank you all for your patience during this process.

If you have any questions or would like to contact the project team, please email us at the following address: [childsc.fosteringallowancesconsultation-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:childsc.fosteringallowancesconsultation-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)