

**Children's Social Services
Fostering & Adoption**
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Your ref:
Our ref: F & A/TV/caa
Date: 4 September 2009

Dear Foster Carer

Re: Changes in Rates for Mileage and Day Care

You will be aware from previous newsletters, link as follows:

www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/children/carers_events.cfm

that the Foster Carers Advisory Board tasked a small working group of foster carers and Officers to look at the rates paid to foster carers for both Mileage and Day Care.

I know both of these payments have long been an issue for many carers (particularly the mileage rate). The "Payments Group" spent some time looking at these issues and made recommendations to the Children's Social Services Management Team (CSSMT) via a report in August 2009.

I am delighted to be able to report that CSSMT agreed the recommendations and therefore from the 1st October 2009 the rates for these services will be changed as set out below.

DAY CARE RATES:

From the 1st of October 2009

Day care for Disabled Children will now be paid at £7.50 per hour

Day Care for children who are not disabled will be paid at £6.00 per hour

MILEAGE RATES:

From 1st October 2009

Mileage rate will increase to 25p after the first 10% which is included in maintenance

From 1st April 2010

Mileage rate will increase to 35p after the first 10% which is included in maintenance.

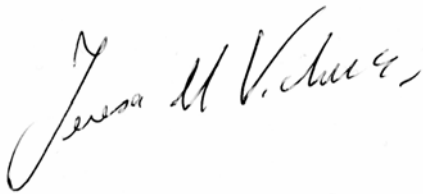
You will know that the claim form for mileage has been changed and has been simplified. This means that if you record ALL mileage undertaken, the Foster Payments team have agreed to work out the 10% for you, which we hope will make this whole process easier.

Transport to school and contact for looked after children has often caused some difficulty because of the rate paid; I hope that these increases will also see an increase in foster carers undertaking the transport of children to and from school and contact where practicable.

My thanks to all the members of the Payments Group who gave up a considerable amount of time in order to work on these issues on your behalf.

If you have any questions relating to these payments please discuss them with your fostering worker in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Teresa M. Vickers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Teresa Vickers
County Fostering Manager