

**Name**  
**Address**

*Direct* (01622)

*Fax* (01622)

*E-mail:*

*Date:* **DATE**

Dear

You are all hopefully aware that KCC has made a 'Pledge' to Looked After Children to provide good memories of their time in care for their futures. One of the ways of achieving this has been identified as improving their opportunities to pursue hobbies and leisure activities. There is work taking place on developing an initiative with sports & leisure centres (run by district councils) to provide free access to looked after children to some or all of their facilities. Arrangements have been agreed with a very small number of district councils regarding use of their sports and leisure centres and as foster carers you will be notified of this if an agreement is reached in your district so you can take full advantage of it on behalf of the children you are caring for.

In addition to this we recognise children and young people may wish to, and hopefully they do, engage in activities not connected to sports and leisure centres. Therefore, I am please to inform you that in order to assist you as foster carers to support and develop these interests **you will receive an extra £5.00 per week**, per child with your maintenance allowance. Payments will be commence on a child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and cease on 31<sup>st</sup> August following their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. This payment will be made for the next two years, and a review of this initiative will take place prior to March 2011.

Secondly I am pleased to inform you that **you will receive a lump sum payment of £50.00** as a contribution to you keeping memories for the children you care for (not payable per child). How you spend this money will be at your discretion and could, for example go towards the cost of purchasing a digital camera or getting photos printed and/or buying photo albums.

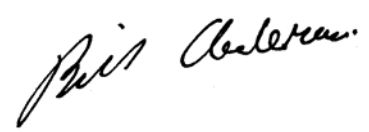
Payments will be backdated to 1st February and should be included in the payments for weeks commencing 16th February, 23rd February and 2nd march.

As you will appreciate we are required to account for how we use public money, and rather than invent another process we have agreed to do this during LAC reviews. Independent Reviewing Officer will ask you in the review what activities young people in your care are enjoying and how you are ensuring you are keeping good memories for children and young people in care placed with you.

Your fostering social worker will be asked to discuss the contents of this letter with you when s/he next visits you but please contact her/him sooner if you have any questions about anything in this letter.

Once again thank you for your hard work and commitment to our Kent Looked After Children.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "B".

Bill Anderson  
Director Children's Social Services