

# Public Document Pack

## North Yorkshire Council Children and Young People's Service - Executive Members & Corporate Director Meetings

Tuesday, 3 March 2026 / 1.00 pm

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### A G E N D A

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- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Declarations of Interest**
- 3 **Exclusion of the public from the meeting during consideration of item 4 on the grounds that it/they each involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to information)(Variation) Order 2006**

#### **Items for Executive Member decision**

- 4 Recommendations re 2026/2027 Payment Rates for NYC Foster Carers

To agree the increase in Payment Rates for NYC Foster Carers (including Kinship Carers, Short Break and Specialist Short Break Carers and Staying Put arrangements) for the 2026/2027 Financial Year. This will be for all Allowances, Premiums and Fees (including the Day Care rate) – with the exception of the original protected higher rate for Advanced Foster Carers (of £314.62 a week) that is being honoured for the duration of current placements from the introduction of the NYC Fostering Framework in April 2015 (only one placement now remains under this legacy arrangement).

#### **Items for Corporate Director decision**

##### **Any Other Business**

- 5 Date of future formal meetings

#### **Circulation:**

##### **Executive Members**

Janet Sanderson  
Annabel Wilkinson

##### **Officer attendees**

El Mayhew  
Mel Hutchinson  
Amanda Fielding  
Howard Emmett  
Lisa Cowley

##### **Presenting Officers**

Rosie Appleby

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE  
CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS  
3 MARCH 2026

**FOSTERING NORTH YORKSHIRE SERVICE:  
Recommendations re 2026/2027 Payment Rates for NYC Foster Carers**

This report

Requires a decision	✓	Seeks views	✓
Provides a briefing		Reports on performance	
Is presented in advance of an Executive Member decision			

The following implications are associated with this report:

Financial Resources	✓	Staff/HR	
Performance	✓	Community	
Legal	✓		

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the increase in Payment Rates for NYC Foster Carers (including Kinship Carers, Short Break and Specialist Short Break Carers and Staying Put arrangements) for the 2026/2027 Financial Year. This will be for all Allowances, Premiums and Fees (including the Day Care rate) – with the exception of the original protected higher rate for Advanced Foster Carers (of £314.62 a week) that is being honoured for the duration of current placements from the introduction of the NYC Fostering Framework in April 2015 (only one placement now remains under this legacy arrangement).

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As an authority, NYC is a member of the national charity The Fostering Network. In the past, The Fostering Network published their recommended Payment Rates for Foster Carers and North Yorkshire had always adopted these rates and thus increases.
- 2.2 Primarily due to the increasing differentials in housing costs across the country, in 2016 The Fostering Network ceased recommending Payment Rates and instead issued the following guidance:

Allowances should be reviewed annually and adjusted to keep up with costs; at least the annual rate of inflation should be applied. Allowances should not be shaved as a result of the financial pressures affecting the majority of services.

2.3 The Fostering Network did not indicate which would be their recommended or preferred measure of inflation.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY ESTABLISHED FOR THE 2016/2017 PAYMENT RATES AND RECOMMENDATION FOR 2026/2027 PAYMENT RATES**

3.1 Following the guidance issued by The Fostering Network, in April 2016 North Yorkshire County Council (as it was then) increased fostering payments by the rate of CPI (Consumer Price Index) in December 2015 (which at the time was 0.2%).

3.2 The 2016/2017 methodology has been adopted every year since. In 2023/2024 there were also other additional payment increases: above inflation increase to the Accredited Foster Carer Premium, introduction of bridging payments for Accredited Foster Carers and payment to all Foster Carers of the first 100 miles of travel (that had previously been expected to be paid from the child's/young person's Allowance).

3.3 As such, the proposal for 2026/2027 Payment Rates is an increase by the rate of CPI in December 2025 – which was 3.4%.

3.4 Sufficient budget provision has been incorporated into the North Yorkshire Council MTFS (Medium Term Financial Strategy) to cover a 3.4% increase in Fostering payments.

3.5 Justification for utilising the December 2025 CPI rate of 3.4% is twofold:

- To use a month different to December 2025 to identify the rate of CPI to utilise for the 2026/2027 Payment Rates would differ from the now established and accepted practice in North Yorkshire
- To remain as competitive as possible with Independent Fostering Agencies and neighbouring authorities with respect to future recruitment and the Allowances, Premiums and Fees that North Yorkshire pays Foster Carers

### **4.0 DAY CARE RATE**

4.1 The National Living Wage will rise by 50p per hour to £12.71 per hour in April 2026, the day care rate has in previous years been calculated in line with this figure with a deduction made for the basic rate of tax as the majority of carers do not pay Income Tax on fostering income. A day care rate in line with the new National Living Wage is calculated without including the basic 20% rate of tax – thus be 80% of £10.17.

4.2 It is proposed that the same methodology is adopted for this years increase, with the day care rate increasing to £10.17 per hour (an increase of £0.40 per hour).

4.3 On average, about 1,040 hours of day care a month take place (equating to 12,483 hours of Day Care a year).

4.4 An increase of £0.40 per hour would equate to an uplift of 4.01% and would cost approximately £4,993 extra a year. This is in line with a budgeted inflationary uplift of 4%.

4.5 The Department for Education has released the minimum weekly allowance for 2026/2027 which are below:

**Weekly allowances for the tax year from 6 April 2026 to 5 April 2027**

<b>Child's age</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>Rest of England</b>
<b>0 to 2</b>	£205	£195	£176
<b>3 to 4</b>	£208	£203	£182
<b>5 to 10</b>	£233	£223	£201
<b>11 to 15</b>	£266	£255	£227
<b>16 to 17</b>	£309	£298	£267

4.6 North Yorkshire's fostering allowances are benchmarked competitively against the DfE minimum weekly allowance for 2026/27. Consideration will be given to any national reforms which may be made considering the Children's Minister's recent announcement to address the decline of foster carers and improve the foster care system in England.

4.7 North Yorkshire Councils proposed fees from April 2026 for pre-accredited carers are detailed below which remain above the minimum allowance set by the government. Please note one of our age brackets slightly differs:

<b>Child's age</b>	<b>North Yorkshire basic fee</b>
<b>0 to 4</b>	£200.71
<b>5 to 10</b>	£228.68
<b>11 to 15</b>	£284.51
<b>16 plus</b>	£346.12

4.8 North Yorkshire's fees are split into three scales which includes pre-accredited (basic fee), accredited, advanced and specialist fees.

## **5.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 See Appendix 1

## **6.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 See Appendix 2

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 For the 2026/2027 Payment Rates for NYC Foster Carers (including Kinship Carers, Short Break and Specialist Short Break Carers and Staying Put arrangements) to be increased by 3.4% (in line with the December 2025 rate of CPI).

7.2 To increase the Day Care rate to £10.17 per hour (to keep in line with 80% of the level of the National Living Wage being introduced in April 2026).

CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

*Report prepared by Portia Staveley 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026*

## Initial Climate Change Impact Assessment (Form created August 2021)

The intention of this document is to help the council to gain an initial understanding of the impact of a project or decision on the environment. This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. Dependent on this initial assessment you may need to go on to complete a full Climate Change Impact Assessment. The final document will be published as part of the decision-making process.

If you have any additional queries, which are not covered by the guidance please email [climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk)

<b>Title of proposal</b>	<b>Proposed Uplift to Foster Carer Fees and allowances paid for looked after young people</b>
<b>Brief description of proposal</b>	Apply an annual uplift to the fees and allowances which are paid to foster carers who have Looked after Children placed with them and to increase the day care rate paid to Foster Carers who provide support to other carers.
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>CYPS</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>Placements and Fostering</b>
<b>Lead officer</b>	<b>Rosie Appleby</b>
<b>Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment</b>	<b>Portia Staveley</b>

The chart below contains the main environmental factors to consider in your initial assessment – choose the appropriate option from the drop-down list for each one.

Remember to think about the following;

- Travel
- Construction
- Data storage
- Use of buildings
- Change of land use
- Opportunities for recycling and reuse

<b>Environmental factor to consider</b>	<b>For the county council</b>	<b>For the county</b>	<b>Overall</b>
Greenhouse gas emissions	No effect on emissions	No Effect on emissions	No effect on emissions
Waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste
Water use	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage
Pollution (air, land, water, noise, light)	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution
Resilience to adverse weather/climate events (flooding, drought etc)	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience
Ecological effects (biodiversity, loss of habitat etc)	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology
Heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape

If any of these factors are likely to result in a negative or positive environmental impact then a full climate change impact assessment will be required. It is important that we capture information about both positive and negative impacts to aid the council in calculating its carbon footprint and environmental impact.

<b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b>	Full CCIA not relevant or proportionate:	x	Continue to full CCIA:	
<b>Reason for decision</b>	The request is for consideration of an increase to fees and allowances , therefore there is no discernible impact on external environmental factors.			
<b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b>				
<b>Date</b>				

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<b>Initial equality impact assessment screening form</b>			
This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
<b>Directorate</b>	CYPS		
<b>Service area</b>	Placements and Fostering		
<b>Proposal being screened</b>	Proposed uplift in fees and allowances paid to foster carers		
<b>Officer(s) carrying out screening</b>	Portia Staveley		
<b>What are you proposing to do?</b>	Apply an annual uplift to the fees and allowances which are paid to Foster Carers who have Looked after Children placed with them and to increase the day care rate paid to Foster Carers who provide support to other carers.		
<b>Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?</b>	The allowances paid to carers need to be maintained at a level which covers the costs of caring for a child placed in their care, the allowances need to match or exceed the minimum rates as advised by the Department of Education. Applying an increase to the level of allowances paid to foster carers supports the retention of foster carers.		
<b>Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources?</b> Please give details.	The uplift applies to the next financial year as it is reviewed annually. It will require an ongoing financial commitment for this period.		
<b>Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics</b>			
As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?</li> <li>Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?</li> <li>Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to?</li> </ul>			
<b>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your <a href="#">Equality rep</a> for advice if you are in any doubt.</b>			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		X	
Disability		X	
Sex		X	
Race		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender reassignment		X	
Religion or belief		X	
Pregnancy or maternity		X	
Marriage or civil partnership		X	
People in rural areas		X	
People on a low income		X	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		X	
<b>Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts</b> (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	None identified		

<p><b>Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.</b></p>	<p>No, this is an internal payment to a defined cohort and there is no impact on other organisations.</p>			
<p><b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b></p>	<p>EIA not relevant or proportionate:</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Continue to full EIA:</p>	<p>x</p>
<p><b>Reason for decision</b></p>				
<p><b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b></p>				
<p><b>Date</b></p>				