

## Appendix 1- Allegations against Foster Carers- Payments

### Aim:

To support foster carers and reflect that no assumptions are made about the outcome at the point of any allegation made against foster carers where the foster children are removed from their care. If an allegation is made against Newport City Council approved foster carers, and the foster children are removed from their care and placed elsewhere, this will not result in an immediate financial hardship for the foster carers.

### Process

Under the new Allegations policy, foster carers will continue to be paid the placement fee and the fostering allowance for the fostered children who were placed in the home for the first 28 days after the children have been removed from their care. For the next 28 day period the carers will be paid a sum equivalent to half the placement fee and fostering allowance payment they would have received if the children had remained in their care. If an outcome of the allegation is known before the 28 days then payments may stop before this date.

The payments will then be reviewed by the Service Manager for Resources and Team Manager for Fostering to determine if any further payments should be made. This discussion and decision will be recorded on WCCIS by the Service Manager. The decision of the Service Manager is final and there is no right to appeal.

Exceptions to receiving payments:

- Payments to respite carers for children on pre-arranged periods of respite care - these carers will be paid up to the end of the respite period that had been agreed
- Supported lodgings carers – no further payments will be made after the young person has left
- When I'm Ready carers – no further payments will be made after the young person has left
- Further payments will not be made to foster carers who have already given notice on the placement for the child/young person concerned, or where there was already a planned move for the child/young person to move within a month
- IFA carers

The payments made will not include any additional payments that may have been made in relation to the children placed, eg. PASS payments, DCT additional payments, and these will cease when the child leaves this placement. This is because these additional payments are only agreed on the basis that the child is within the household.

When the placement ends, the childcare social worker **must** complete the Change of Circumstance form on WCCIS to record the end of the placement. This will end the payments to the foster carer, and to arrange the continued payments due under this policy the supervising social worker **must** complete a payment request, giving details of payments to be made, and send to Business Support/Fostering Payments.

The Fostering Team Manager and Service Manager for Resources **must** be informed of any allegations against Foster Carers by the supervising social worker so this can be recorded.

The supervising social worker **must** inform the Team Manager for Fostering and Service Manager for Resources when the foster carers' payments are due to be reduced to half the amount, and **must** book a meeting in to discuss any on-going payments before the payments end. The supervising social worker **must** be able to update on the progress of any investigation at this meeting.