

Delegated Decision

21 March 2024

Annual Review of Fees and Charges 2024-25



Report of, Rob Davisworth, Head of Finance and Commercial Services

Councillor Ted Henderson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young Peoples Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To set out details of the proposed fees and charges for 2024/25.

Executive summary

- 2 Fees and charges should be reviewed at least annually and adjusted where appropriate.
- 3 Increases in fees and charges are necessary to take into account current and future pressures on budgets and the need to achieve MTFP savings through maximising service income as well as reducing expenditure. However, the difficult economic climate means that careful consideration must be given to increasing prices in all discretionary fee generating areas.

Recommendation(s)

- 4 It is recommended that:
 - (a) The revised fees as detailed in the report are implemented for the financial year 2024/25. If approved a delegated decision record will be signed by the Corporate Director.
 - (b) The Corporate Director and Heads of Service will have delegated discretionary powers to vary these charges as deemed appropriate to maximise income generation, in consultation with

the relevant Portfolio Holders. This will need a delegated decision to be recorded.

Background

- 5 The Constitution provides delegated powers to each Corporate Director, in consultation with their respective Portfolio Holders, to introduce, review or amend fees and charges.
- 6 Fees and charges should be reviewed at least annually and adjusted where appropriate. Increases in fees and charges are necessary to take into account current and future pressures on budgets and the need to achieve MTFP savings through maximising service income as well as reducing expenditure. However, the difficult economic climate means that careful consideration must be given to increasing prices in all discretionary fee generating areas.

Inter-Agency Adoption Fees – Between Local Authorities

- 7 The inter-agency adoption fee is a nationally agreed mechanism for covering the costs incurred in the preparation, approval and matching of prospective adopters, and the support provided during the first 12 months of a placement.
- 8 The increase in interagency fees has been confirmed at 4.2% in 2024/25. From 1st April 2024 to 31 March 2025 the interagency fee levels are as follows:

Number of Children	Fee Level
For 1 child	£37,059
For 2 children	£59,771
For 3 children	£81,289
For 4 children	£93,241
For 5 or more children	To be negotiated on an ongoing basis
Ongoing supervision	£1,027

Aycliffe Secure Centre - Contract Beds

- 9 The Secure Centre is a trading operation and has a contract for 8 beds with the Youth Custody Service (YCS) to 31 December 2025 at a current price of £910 per bed per night. It is proposed that the new contract bed price in the Secure Centre in 2024/25 is the subject of a further report later this financial year.
- 10 The current spot purchase bed night price is £1,380 (based on the price of a welfare bed night) for any beds purchased above 8. It is proposed

that an increase of **circa 4%** is applied to charges in 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 2.

- 11 The bed night prices in the current contract are index linked to the Average Weekly Earning (AWE) Index for staff costs and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for non-staff costs. The contract does not specify the date to be used for indexation, however, the YCS have indicated that any price increases are linked to indices to be published in January.

Aycliffe Secure Centre – Welfare and Enhanced Care Beds

- 12 Welfare Beds are also offered to local authorities in addition to the YCS contract and the standard price in 2023/24 is £1,380 per bed per night. It is proposed that an increase of **circa 5%** (to £1,445 per night) is applied to charges in 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 2.
- 13 Enhanced Care beds for young people with higher needs are offered at a current bed night price of £1,795. It is proposed that an increase of **circa 4%** (to £1,875 per night) is applied to charges in 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 2.
- 14 New admissions to ASC are charged at the Enhanced Care bed price and are reviewed at 28 days in line with the young person's looked after review. Following review, the placement would either reduce to the Welfare bed price or be retained at the Enhanced Care price depending on the level of need.

Aycliffe Secure Centre – Transition Home

- 15 Maple House (a transition home) offers 4 beds for young people transitioning from the Centre. The current bed night price is £1,145. It is proposed that an increase of **circa 6%** (to £1,210 per night) is applied to charges in 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 2.

Music Service

- 16 The charges to parents are for tuition and hiring instruments. In addition, the service has service level agreements available for schools to buy into on a per hour per year basis. The main SLA charge for music tuition has been determined but all other SLA offers for the next academic year are in the process of finalisation.
- 17 The proposal is to increase prices by between **circa 5 and 6%** as per the details provided at Appendix 2.

Early Years Childcare charges

- 18 There are a range of childcare charges for the provision at Selby Cottage, Shildon, Ferryhill and the Louisa Centre (see detail in Appendix 2).
- 19 It is proposed to increase Early Years Childcare charges at all settings by increases of between **circa 5 - 42%** for financial year 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 2. These increases vary due to the need to standardise charges in line with DfE funding rates receivable from April 2024.
- 20 Further increases of £35.00 (circa 55%) are proposed for the 0–2-year-old full day rate with effect from 1st September 2024 and an increase of £21.00 (circa 55%) against the 0-2-year-old half day rate, also with effect from 1st September 2024. Again, this is in line with expected DfE funding rates when under 2's funding is introduced in September 2024.

Background papers

- Fees and Charges 2024/25 – Finance Clinic (November 2023)

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

N/A

Finance

All charges approved will be implemented for the 2024/25 financial year.

Consultation

N/A

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

N/A

Human Rights

N/A

Crime and Disorder

N/A

Staffing

N/A

Accommodation

N/A

Risk

N/A

Procurement

Appendix 2: Proposed charges for 2024/25

Service Manager	Fee/Charge/SLA	Charging basis	Current Charge 2023/24	Proposed Charge 2024/25	Increase/decrease	Rounded % Change
Early Help Inclusion and Vulnerable Children						
Anne Haigh	Aycliffe Secure Centre:					
	Contract Bed	per night	£910.00	TBC	-	-
	Spot Purchase Bed	per night	£1,380.00	£1,445.00	£65.00	5%
	Welfare Bed	per night	£1,380.00	£1,445.00	£65.00	5%
	Welfare High Dependency Bed – Enhanced Care	per night	£1,795.00	£1,875.00	£80.00	4%
	Maple House -Transition Bed	per night	£1,145.00	£1,210.00	£65.00	6%
Education Services						
Michael Summers	Music Service:					
	1 hour per week	per annum	£2,875.00	£3,050.00	£175.00	6%
	Instrument maintenance (Ukulele, string and guitar)	per programme	£66.50	£70.00	£3.50	5%
	Instrument maintenance (brass and woodwind)	per programme	£66.50	£70.00	£3.50	5%
Helen Nixon	Early Years Childcare Charges-Selby:					
	Day care 0–2-year-olds	per day	£57.00	£63.00*	£6.00	11%
	Day care 0–2-year-olds	per half day	£34.00	£38.00**	£4.00	12%
	Day care 2–3-year-olds	per day	£50.00	£71.00	£21.00	42%
	Day care 2–3-year-olds	per half day	£31.50	£42.50	£11.00	35%
	Day care 3–5-year-olds	per day	£46.00	£51.00	£5.00	11%

Day care 3–5-year-olds	per half day	£29.00	£30.50	£1.50	5%	
Before School Care	per session	£6.30	£7.00	£0.70	11%	
Before School Care	per week	£29.00	£32.00	£3.00	10%	
After School Care	per session	£14.00	£15.40	£1.40	10%	
After School Care	per half session	£8.50	£9.35	£0.85	10%	
After School Care	per week	£60.00	£66.00	£6.00	10%	
Holiday Club 4-14 years	per day	£37.00	£41.00	£4.00	11%	
Holiday Club 4-14 years	per half day	£23.00	£25.00	£2.00	9%	
Holiday Club 4-14 years	per week	£163.00	£179.00	£16.00	10%	
Holiday Club Extra Sessions 4-14 years	per session	£8.00	<i>Charge now obsolete.</i>			
Extra Sessions 0-2 year	per hour	£9.40	<i>Charge now obsolete.</i>			
Early Start 0–2-year-olds	per session	£4.05	<i>Charge now obsolete.</i>			
Early Start 3-5-year-olds	per session	£3.50	<i>Charge now obsolete.</i>			
Day care 0–2-year-olds	per week	£251.00	<i>Charge now obsolete.</i>			
Day care 2–3-year-olds	per week	£223.00	<i>Charge now obsolete.</i>			
Extra Sessions 2–3-year-olds	per hour	£8.75	<i>Charge now obsolete.</i>			
Early Start 2–3-year-olds	per session	£4.00	<i>Charge now obsolete.</i>			
Day care 3–5-year-olds	per week	£203.00	<i>Charge now obsolete.</i>			
Extra Sessions 3–5-year-olds	per session	£8.10	<i>Charge now obsolete.</i>			
Helen Nixon	Early Years Childcare Charges-Shildon:					
	Day care 0–2-year-olds	per day	-	£63.00*	-	-
	Day care 0–2-year-olds	per half day	-	£38.00**	-	-
	Day care 2–3-year-olds	per day	-	£71.00	-	-
	Day care 2–3-year-olds	per half day	-	£42.50	-	-

Day care 3–5-year-olds	per day	-	£51.00	-	-
Day care 3–5-year-olds	per half day	-	£30.50	-	-
Day care 2–5-year-olds	per day	£47.45	Charge now obsolete.		
Day care 2–5-year-olds	per half day	£26.50	Charge now obsolete.		
Day care 2–5-year-olds	per week	£178.00	Charge now obsolete.		
Day care 2–5-year-olds	per hour	£6.05	Charge now obsolete.		

Helen Nixon

Early Years Childcare Charges-Ferryhill:

Day care 0–2-year-olds	per day	-	£63.00*	-	-
Day care 0–2-year-olds	per half day	-	£38.00**	-	-
Day care 2–3-year-olds	per day	-	£71.00	-	-
Day care 2–3-year-olds	per half day	-	£42.50	-	-
Day care 3–5-year-olds	per day	-	£51.00	-	-
Day care 3–5-year-olds	per half day	-	£30.50	-	-
Day care-all	per week	£205.00	Charge now obsolete.		
Day care-all	per day	£42.75	Charge now obsolete.		
Day care-all	per half day	£24.00	Charge now obsolete.		

Helen Nixon

Early Years Childcare Charges-Louisa Centre:

Day care 0–2-year-olds	per day	£44.50	£63.00*	£18.50	42%
Day care 0–2-year-olds	per half day	£29.00	£38.00**	£9.00	31%
Day care 2–3-year-olds	per day	-	£71.00	-	-
Day care 2–3-year-olds	per half day	-	£42.50	-	-
Day care 3–5-year-olds	per day	-	£51.00	-	-
Day care 3–5-year-olds	per half day	-	£30.50	-	-

Day care 0–2-year-olds	per week	£198.50	Charge now obsolete.
Day care 2 years and over	per day	£43.00	Charge now obsolete.
Day care 2 years and over	per week	£187.00	Charge now obsolete.
Day care 2 years and over	per half day	£26.00	Charge now obsolete.

* Note – this charge will increase to £98.00 per day from 1st September 2024, in line with government funding

**Note – this charge will increase to £59.00 per half day from 1st September 2024, also in line with government funding.