

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION



REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children's Young People and Education
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Children's Services and Education
DATE:	3 rd January 2020

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Children's Young People and Education
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WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
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SUBJECT: Fees and Charges associated to Early Help and Adolescent Service Areas
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposal to increase a number of identified existing fees and charges associated with Early Help and Adolescent Services to remain in line with other departments.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member: approves the revised charges in Appendix 1 and agrees an implementation date of 1st February 2020.

3. BACKGROUND

Fees and charges are reviewed on an annual basis by service areas to support progression towards income targets. Fees and charges are in line with other similar charges across the council and are reviewed to ensure that they remain competitive with external provision.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Children Centre Room Hire fees

Each Children's Centre has a small income target associated with the hire of rooms and spaces. It is proposed to increase charges for the larger rooms only, as this is where most income is generated. Smaller spaces tend to be used by partners and for statutory meetings, and these do not attract an income. The proposed increases will ensure that costs remain in line with those across other departments.

Early Years Training

The Early Years' Service has an income target for the delivery of training. It is proposed to increase charges for weekend delivery only this year, to ensure that the service remains competitive. In the last quarter, three early years' settings have closed and two more have indicated that they are likely to cease delivery in the next year due to financial difficulties. The borough is reliant on early year's settings to support children being ready for school and training is key to supporting settings to improve outcomes. Increased charges may see fewer providers accessing training.

Child Care Fees

The business model for children centres nurseries is based around income from Free Early Education (FEE) income for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. A small income is achieved from parents paying for additional hours or lunchtime provision. It is proposed to apply an inflationary rate increase to childcare fees to ensure that we continue to attract parents to purchase additional hours.

Young People's Services

Where fees and charges can be increased without affecting competitiveness, the services proposes that increases be applied from the 1st February 2020. Charges associated to the Barge and water sports will remain the same for this reason. Due to the changes with the boroughs insurance policy and excesses, the service will no longer hire minibuses from external organisations.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed increased charges will support services in meeting their income targets. Any increase in income received will be dependent on the demand for services and as such may well be nominal.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a contractual requirement for one month's notice to be given to parents and partners regarding the increase in charges relating to childcare and room hire.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA attachment*)

10. CONSULTATIONS

None

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION: 2

CONTACT OFFICER: Joanne Stewart, Head of Early Help & Support

DATE: 27th November 2019

BACKGROUND PAPER: Appendix 1 – Fees & Charges