

Children's Centre Fees 2013/14

Background

Barnet Council reviews childcare fees in children's centres on an annual basis.

In Barnet we have 7 Children's Centres that have childcare, of which Wingfield and Newstead CCs are managed by the Local Authority. The rest are managed by the schools governing body.

Proposed fees 2013/14

The fees proposed would apply to Wingfield and Newstead CC, however we would recommend other CCs with childcare to follow in line with the proposed fees.

£ (per hour)	Current		Proposed		Market Average	
	Aged 2-3	Aged 3-5	Aged 2-3	Aged 3-5	Aged 2-3	Aged 3-5
Newstead CC	6.00	5.75	6.25	6.00	8.25	7.56
Wingfield CC	5.75	5.50	5.85	5.60	6.02	5.92

The proposed fees have been discussed and agreed with Newstead and Wingfield CC.

The retail price index for August is 2.9%. This would be the maximum increase we could apply without seeking Councillor clearance.

However the proposed increases, in particular Newstead CC are 4% plus. The proposed increases are below the market average and Children's Centres are required to become cost neutral from the financial year 2014/14.

Currently families accessing all day provision and tea-time provision at Newstead CC receive a discount of up to £11.75 (full day) or £0.30 (tea-time) to encourage take-up. We are proposing this discount remains the same. Wingfield CC no longer offers discounted sessions.

Previously when we have submitted childcare fees for approval we have included a detailed breakdown of the sessions including lunch costs. This time round, we are not clear what the lunch cost will be as these have not been fully costed. Once the lunch costs are confirmed, the costs will be added to the relevant sessions.