

	ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BY OFFICER December 2015
Title	Family Services Fees and charges 2016/17
Report of	Nicola Francis – Director of Family Services
Wards	All
Status	Public
Enclosures	Appendix A: Full Fees and Charges for Family Service
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Summary

Decision to approve proposals to update fees and charges for Youth Services and Children Centres from 1 April 2016, where fees and charges need to be increased in line with inflation (assumed to be 2%).

Decisions

1. Fees and charges detailed in this report are approved to take effect from 1 April 2016.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 To approve proposals to update fees and charges for Youth Services and Children Centres from 1 April 2016, where fees and charges need to be increased in line with inflation (assumed to be 2%).

2. REASONS FOR DECISIONS

- 2.1 As part of the budget setting process we need to consider any changes to the fees are set at the appropriate level in line with inflation (assumed to be 2%). The model is based on a zero budget approach and the expectation is that the charges will cover all costs. However, currently, not all costs are being covered by the income generation, as detailed in paragraph 5.2.2 below. It would not be appropriate to raise fees and charges above inflation at this time due to the impact that this may have on users of services.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 3.1 There is an alternative option to increase fees and charges for Youth Services and Children Centres above 2%. However, this alternative option would not be relevant for Youth Services and Children Centres as a cost recovery model can be managed with increases that are in-line with inflation.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Once the increase in fees and charges has been approved in line with the Financial Forward Plan they will be implemented from 1 April 2016.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Regularly reviewing fees and charges enables the Council to ensure it is making the best use of its resources, supporting the corporate priority of 'better services with less money'. The resources generated by changes to fees and charges will help to support the priorities of the Corporate Plan.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 The impact of the revised fees and charges will be taken into account in the 2016/17 Financial Forward Plan process and the subsequent revenue monitoring reports. The costs proposed are in line with a cost recovery model for both Youth Services and Children's Centres. However, not all costs are being recovered at present, as detailed below.
- 5.2.2 The income raised through Parkfield and Newstead children's centres in 2014/15 year was £317k. The 2% increase will support cost recovery by an additional £6.3k. The child care increase will only affect families who access additional hours above the 2/3/4 year old entitlement and families who are not entitled to free childcare.

The income raised through play services within the Youth Service in 2014/15 year was £57k. The increase will support cost recovery. The estimated additional income this is likely to generate is £1.5k.

Please see table A below showing services where there will be increases taking place:

TABLE A: DESCRIPTION OF INCREASED FEES AND CHARGES OF 2%							
Fee/Charge	Description	Current Charge £	Unit of Measure	Cost Adjustment £	Proposed 2016/17 Fee/Charge £	Total % Increase	Statutory/ Discretionary
Children centres							
Parkfield child care	Age 2	6.00	Per Child Per Hour	0.12	6.12	2%	Discretionary
Parkfield child care	Age 3-4	5.75	Per Child Per Hour	0.12	5.87	2%	Discretionary
Meals	Children Centre - Parkfield	2.26	Per Child Per Hour	0.05	2.31	2%	Discretionary
Wingfield child care	Age 2	5.85	Per Child Per Hour	0.12	5.97	2%	Discretionary
Wingfield child care	Age 3-4	5.60	Per Child Per Hour	0.11	5.71	2%	Discretionary
Meals	Children Centre - Wingfield	2.10	Per Child Per Hour	0.04	2.14	2%	Discretionary
Newstead child care	Age 2	6.25	Per Child Per Hour	0.13	6.38	2%	Discretionary
Newstead child care	Age 3-4	6.12	Per Child Per Hour	0.12	6.24	2%	Discretionary
Meals	Children Centre - Newstead	2.10	Per Child Per Hour	0.04	2.14	2%	Discretionary
Play Team charges							
Out of school provision	After school provision	6.00	Per session	0.12	6.12	2%	Discretionary
Holiday programmes	Holiday Schemes	18.00	Per day	0.36	18.36	2%	Discretionary
Holiday programmes	Holiday Schemes - Siblings charge	14.50	Per day	0.29	14.79	2%	Discretionary
Holiday programmes	Holiday schemes including aftercare	22.50	Per day	0.45	22.95	2%	Discretionary
Holiday programmes	Holiday Schemes including aftercare - Siblings charge	19.00	Per day	0.38	19.38	2%	Discretionary

5.2.3 All third party contracts are in-line with the Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs).

5.2.4 Changes to fees and charges have the potential to affect accessibility of services and staffing however where increases have been proposed there are no impacts on staffing requirements or services being provided.

5.2.5 Please see Appendix A attached providing a full breakdown of current levels of fees and charges for all of Family Services. There is no proposal to increase the fees and charges in the appendix in the 2016-17 year. There are no other implications foreseen.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 4.3.10 of the Council's Financial Regulations states Chief Officers may approve changes to fees and charges annually where the change is broadly in line with inflation. The date for annual increases need not be 1 April.

Where fees and charges need to be increased in line with inflation (assumed to be 2%), these should be made by way of a Delegated Powers Report and following consultation between Commissioners and Delivery Units be approved by the end of January 2016.

Where fees and charges need to be increased over and above the rate of inflation or a new fee/charge needs to be introduced these will be considered by the appropriate theme committee and then approval will be provided to Policy and Resources in January 2016.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 There is a risk that the take up of services may reduce if fees and charges increase. However, there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the increase in line with inflation will not impact on take up of services. The evidence is based on the current charging model that is already in place and has not negatively affected service take up.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

It is not anticipated that the increase in line with inflation will have any disproportionate impact on any group with protected characteristics.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.6.1 Relevant managers across Family Services have inputted into the decision to increase the services outlined in table A in section 5.2.1 above in line with inflation. This takes into account the needs of families, children and young people using those services.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

25/03/13 – Item 10: Children’s Service and Libraries Fees and Charges:
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MID=6758#A13019>

7. DECISION TAKER’S STATEMENT

- 7.1 *I have the required powers to make the decision documented in this report. I am responsible for the report’s content and am satisfied that all relevant advice has been sought in the preparation of this report and that it is compliant with the decision making framework of the organisation which includes Constitution, Scheme of Delegation, Budget and Policy Framework and Legal issues including Equalities obligations.*

8. OFFICER’S DECISION

I authorise the following action

- 8.1 To approve the fees and charges for 2016/17 detailed in this report and Appendix A to take effect from 1 April 2016.

x' Signed



Date

20/01/16

Appendix A: Attached all Fees and Charges for Family Services