



Special Guardianship Support Policy

[Subject]



Document Control

Document Title:

Summary

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Document Approvals

This document requires the following approvals.

Name	Title	Date of Issue	Version Number

Special Guardianship Support Policy

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1. Assessment for Support Services

In all cases where an application for a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) is made to the court, the local authority will carry out an investigation into the suitability of the prospective special guardian and the needs of the child. In carrying out such an investigation it may become apparent that support from the authority, or arranged by the authority, is necessary to promote the child's welfare.

If the authority decides that it is not necessary to carry out an assessment of the need for support the special guardian will be notified and given an opportunity to make representations as to why such an assessment should be carried out. Any such representations must be received within 28 days of receipt of the notification of the decision not to carry out an assessment. If representation is received, such representation will be considered by the responsible Head of Service.

All children who were Looked After by the authority at the time of the application for a Special Guardianship Order, or immediately before the Special Guardianship Order was made, will be assessed for support services, following which the authority will produce a 'notice of assessment' and where there is an ongoing need, a Support Plan, setting out the support it will provide.

Support may be provided in many ways such as advice, mediation, therapeutic, or financial e.g. by providing one-off payment for a 'settling-in' grant or where there is a recurring financial expenditure. The purpose of this support is to ensure that the child's needs are met and the relationship between the child and special guardian is preserved. Lack of support, financial or otherwise, should never be the reason why a special guardianship arrangement fails.

If it appears that, a child who is the subject of the Special Guardianship Order may have a need for support from another agency, such as health or education they will be consulted with in preparation of the SGO Support Plan.

Provision of Support

The legal framework governing Special Guardianship arrangements is set out within Section 14F of the amended Children Act, 1989 and the associated regulations (Special Guardianship Regulations 2005 (as amended by the Special Guardianship (Amendment) Regulations 2016).

This framework places a duty on the local authority to make arrangements for a range of services to support Special Guardianship arrangements.

Special Guardianship support services are defined as:

- Financial support;
 - Services to enable children, Special Guardians (including prospective special guardians) and parents to discuss matters relating to the special guardianship
 - Assistance including mediation in relation to contact between the child and their parents, relatives or significant others with whom the child has a relationship that the authority considers to be beneficial to the welfare of the child
 - Therapeutic services for the child
- Assistance to ensure continuance of the relationship between the child and the (proposed) Special Guardian, including training to meet any special needs of the child, respite care, and mediation
- Counselling, advice and information

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The framework emphasises the need for financial support to be seen as one component of the range of possible sources of support for these Special Guardianship arrangements. In addition, services should not be seen in isolation from universal mainstream services and it is important to ensure that special guardians are assisted in accessing these services, including accessing their entitlements to tax credits and social security benefits. Rochdale Borough Council is therefore committed to ensuring that holistic support needs are assessed before a Special Guardianship Order is made, and that this approach continues as part of regular reviews of holistic needs.

The Special Guardianship Support Plan

Where an assessment identifies the need for 'on-going' support services, a Special Guardianship Support Plan must be completed using the SGO Support Plan Template (**See Appendix 1**). The support plan should identify access to the full range of support services available (including those within Universal and targeted services as well as more specialist support) in order to ensure the child's needs are fully supported. A copy of a typical support plan is also available in Appendix 1 of this document.

The Special Guardianship Support Plan will need to be agreed by the Practice Manager and approval sought by the Rochdale Borough Council SGO Panel chaired by a Head of Service.

Once the necessary approval has been obtained, the social worker must send the proposed plan to the person requesting support, and allow 28 days for that person to make representations about the proposed plan. The SW should also give information to the person concerned about who to contact to obtain independent advice and advocacy.

Where representations are received with new or additional information, they should be referred to the Practice Manager who will discuss this with the responsible Head of Service to make a decision to amend or confirm the Plan. If a decision is made to amend the plan this should be referred to the SGO panel for final agreement. The allocated social worker must then write to the person concerned setting out the final plan.

NB: Particular attention must be given to the content of the Support Plan in relation to the financial information of the Special Guardian and ensure that this confidential information is not shared with birth parents when submitted to Court.

The plan should not usually be amended outside the local authority process. However, if additional information on the need for support, such as, revised expert opinion, be received after determination of the final plan then the matter can be re-referred to the SGO Panel for re-consideration. In exceptional circumstances and where there is a pressing need for amendment, such as a determination of additional need arising at Court and it is not possible to re-convene the SGO Panel, then the issue of amendment can be referred to the responsible Head of Service or similar Head of Service.

Provision of Financial Support

Carers who are proposing to care for a child under a Special Guardianship Order, or who are caring for a child under a Special Guardianship order can request an assessment for support, including financial support. Rochdale Borough Council may provide support to a Special Guardian, or prospective Special Guardian, in order to maintain or achieve permanence for a child or young person, via Special

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Guardianship. This policy applies where Special Guardianship support has been assessed to be in the best interests of the child or young person

Regulation 7 (Special Guardianship Regulations 2005 (as amended by the Special Guardianship (Amendment) Regulations 2016) states 'Financial issues should not be the sole reason for a special guardianship arrangement failing to survive. The central principle is that financial support should be payable in accordance with the Regulations to help secure a suitable special guardianship arrangement where such an arrangement cannot be readily made because of a financial obstacle'.

The payment of financial support is at the discretion of Rochdale Borough Council and is subject to an assessment of need and cannot be relied upon as a regular source of income.

It is important to ensure that special guardians are helped to access benefits to which they are entitled. Rochdale Borough Council will therefore provide the necessary information and support for special guardians or prospective special guardian to ensure they are aware of, and taking advantage of, all benefits and tax credits available to them. The statutory guidance makes it clear that any other payment available to the special guardian or prospective special guardian (e.g. grant, benefit, allowance or resource) in respect of their needs as a result of becoming a special guardian of the child must be taken into account when determining the amount of any allowance.

When considering providing financial support Rochdale Borough Council will normally consider the special guardian or prospective special guardian's means taking into account

- (a) the special guardian or prospective special guardian's financial resources (including significant income from any investments, but not their home), including any tax credit or benefit, which would be available to them if the child lived with them.
- (b) the amount required by the special guardian or prospective special guardian in respect of his reasonable outgoings and commitments, e.g. housing and transport costs, and daily living expenses (but not outgoings in respect of the child)
- (c) the financial needs that relate to the child (e.g. because of special diet or need for replacement bedding) and the resources of the child (e.g. a trust fund)

The Department of Work and Pensions has the primary duty to provide a level of income maintenance in circumstances where parents are unable to provide an adequate level of financial support to a child who is subject of Special Guardianship Order. Where the local authority is considering undertaking a financial assessment regarding ongoing payments (allowances) in respect of Special Guardianship Orders, advice will be provided to the carer to ensure they are claiming all relevant and appropriate benefits and/or tax credits available to them

Circumstances in which Financial Support may be payable

Financial support may be provided to those who are granted Special Guardianship Orders in respect of children who were previously looked after or who would, in the opinion of the Practice Manager, otherwise have become looked after if such orders had not been granted.

Circumstances where financial support may be payable:

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1. Where it is necessary to ensure that the carers can look after the child, where this would not be practicable without financial support and where this is not available from another source;
2. Where the child needs special care which requires greater expenditure of resources by reason of illness, disability, emotional or behavioural difficulties or the consequences of past abuse or neglect;
3. Where the local authority consider that it is appropriate to contribute to any legal costs including court fees associated with the making of a Special Guardianship;
4. Where such support is to meet recurring costs in respect of travel for the purpose of visits between the child and a related person, in line with the child's support plan;

N.B. Where assistance would normally be provided by another agency (e.g. adaptations to the home for a disabled child) these should be applied for separately by the carers to the appropriate agency.

Financial support to Former Foster Carers

Specific provision is made in regard of financial support for Special Guardian(s) who were formerly foster carers for the specific child or young person. The general principle underpinning this is that financial support should not include any element of remuneration (skills payment) but former foster carers are exempted from this for a period of up to 2 years. This principle is to allow for a period of financial adjustment following the making of the SGO and will not usually be extended beyond that period.

In exceptional circumstances linked to the specific needs of the child(ren) such an element could continue beyond 2 years, which is at the discretion of Rochdale Borough Council. The support plan will outline the level of financial support to be paid to the Carers and how this will be assessed on an annual basis.

The carers will be able to review and agree this prior to the application being made to the Court.

The level of financial assistance paid to Foster Carers will commence at the level of fostering payments they receive at the time of the Special Guardianship Order being granted. Additional payments relating to holiday, birthday and Christmas or Festival Allowances will not usually be paid. Where the annual Support Plan Review indicates that the need for financial support remains; payments will be linked to the fostering rates payable at the time the review is undertaken. The amount payable will also be linked to the age of the child according to the fostering allowance age bandings applicable at the time the review is undertaken. Details of the current payments are included in Appendix 2 of this policy.

The payment age bandings are: 0-4 years; 5-10 years; 11-15 years; 16+

The decision to grant or continue with a Special Guardianship Allowance will be made by Rochdale Borough Councils SGO Panel. The SGO Panel consists of key senior professionals within Children's Services. Cases will be presented to the panel by the assessing social worker and/or their Practice Manager. Any views of Special Guardian's or prospective Special Guardians will be represented via that reporting mechanism. The role of the SGO panel will be to consider all aspects of support to the child of which allowances are only one element. To this end any assessment and support plan should focus on the holistic needs and support to maintain the arrangement.

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Non Means Tested Financial Support

The Local Authority will not means test the prospective Special Guardian(s) where it considers it appropriate to make a contribution towards:

1. expenditure on legal costs,
2. expenditure associated with a child or young person's introduction to a prospective permanent carer or

Types of Financial Support

In accordance with its overall policies and procedures in this regard, financial support may be provided in the following ways:

- Periodic financial support - In determining the amount of any ongoing financial support, Rochdale Borough Council will take into account the amount of fostering allowance which would have been payable if the child were fostered. Rochdale's core maintenance allowance plus any enhancement that would be payable in respect of the particular child, will make up the maximum payment. The standard means test carried out as appropriate to the circumstances would use this maximum payment as a basis and deduct any calculated amount. (Appendix 2 of this document outlines some specific cases in more detail.
- A lump sum payment, which will cover items or adaptations that are required as a consequence of assessment of a child's individual needs and as determined by the Local Authority
- The commissioning by the Local Authority, possibly alongside other agencies, of specific items or services

Method of Payment

In line with Regulation 8 (Special Guardianship Regulations 2005 (as amended by the Special Guardianship (Amendment) Regulations 2016) financial support may be paid either:

- i) periodically, if it is provided to meet a need which is likely to give rise to recurring expenditure; or
- ii) by a single payment; or
- iii) if the local authority and the Special Guardian or prospective Special Guardian agree, by instalments.

Decision to provide support

The decision to provide support must be sought from the SGO Panel which acts as a quality-assurance and approval mechanism, and ensures that the SGO Court Report, Support Plan and financial assessment (where appropriate) are completed to the required standard within the required timescales.

Exceptionally, where time does not allow for this, the designated Head of Service should have sight of the reports and agree these in advance of submission to court.

Following changes to the support plan, reviews and receipt of appeals, the appropriate documentation (including a financial assessment) must be submitted to Panel following which the appropriate Practice Manager will inform the SG in writing of the outcome of the Panel's decision.

In summary the SGO Panel will have 4 main roles:

- To oversee the process of completing assessments is undertaken within the given timescale;
- To ensure that proposals for financial support are discussed;

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- To assure the quality of the assessment and report;
- To recommend the level and type of support (if any) to be offered by Children's Services.

Notice of Decision

After approval has been sought and a decision made to provide support financial support, the Special Guardian will be provided with a 'Notification of Entitlement' letter, sent by the Children's Services Payment Team which sets out the following information:

- The method of determination of the amount of financial support
- Whether financial support is to be paid in regular instalments and if so, the frequency of payment;
- Where financial support is to be paid as a single payment, when the payment is to be made;
- The amount of financial support;
- The period for which the financial support is to be paid;
- When payment will commence;
- Arrangements and procedure for review and termination
- Any conditions attached to the payment
- Details of the support plan
- The onus on the (proposed) Special Guardian to inform the local authority without delay of any change in their own, or the child's circumstances

Any notice must be given in writing and accompanied by a copy of the support plan where it is proposed to provide specified services.

Review of Support (including financial support)

Regulation's 17 and 18 requires that where the local authority provides general and/or financial support periodically, it must review the financial support:

- a) Annually, requesting appropriate documentary evidence;
- b) If there is any change of circumstances or breach of any condition (see Terms & Conditions Agreement);
- c) At any stage in the implementation of the plan that the local authority considers appropriate. the Special Guardianship Allowance will be reviewed annually and each year Special Guardians will be required to re-complete the financial assessment document.

An early review may be initiated if:

- Rochdale Borough Council become aware of any significant changes in the circumstances of the family
- The Special Guardian(s) notifies Rochdale Borough Council of any significant changes or requests an early review because of a change in financial circumstances.

In Rochdale we are keen to ensure that finance is not the only element of support that is considered on an annual basis. We all know that children's needs may increase or decrease over time and the annual review of support enables the authority to respond according to any fluctuating need that may require additional practical, health, educational or other support.

Any significant changes to the financial circumstances of the Special Guardianship (s) household are likely to result in a change in the level of allowance that is awarded. The SGO Panel will always take note of the Court agreed support plan, which will identify a level of payment and support. However depending on the means testing assessment and the level of benefits received, this may change each year in line with the annual review, depending on the Special Guardian's circumstances

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Terms & Conditions

Regulation 10 provides that financial support that is to be paid periodically is not payable until the special guardian or prospective special guardian agrees to the following conditions. As the local authority has the discretion to impose any appropriate condition this will apply for the purpose of any financial support provided.

As outlined within the Terms & Conditions, financial support will always cease to be payable to the Special Guardian or prospective Special Guardian if the child or young person:

- a) ceases to have a home with him or her; or
- b) ceases full-time education or training and commences employment; or
- c) qualifies for income support or job seeker's allowance in his or her own right; or
- d) attains the age of 18 years, (unless he or she continues in full-time education or training, when it may continue until the end of the course or training he or she is then undertaking)

The Special Guardian or prospective Special Guardian must agree to:

- a) inform the local authority immediately if the Special Guardian changes his or her address, the child/young person dies, or there is a change in the financial circumstances of the Special Guardian or the needs or resources of the child, or if any of the events occur which would lead to the cessation of the support.
- b) complete and supply the local authority with appropriate annual financial documentation of his or her financial circumstances, the financial needs and resources of the child or young person, and his or her address and whether the child/young person still has a home with him or her.

The Special Guardian must also sign the 'Terms & Conditions' Agreement and adhere to the conditions set out within this Agreement.

Rochdale Borough Council may suspend or terminate the payment of financial support, and seek to recover all or part of the financial support paid, if any of the above conditions are not complied with, but where the non-compliance is the failure to provide annual financial documentation, the local authority is under a duty to send the Special Guardian a written reminder of the need to provide this documentation and to give the person 28 days within which to comply.

Notice of any change of circumstances of the Special Guardian or the child/young person may initially be given orally, but must be confirmed in writing within 7 days.

12. Making Representations/Appeals Process

If the carer(s) wishes to make representations and appeal against a decision or wants the terms of a decision to be reconsidered, he/she would need to appeal in writing and send the Appeal to the Special Guardianship Team within 28 days of receipt of the letter. The letter must clearly provide full details of the additional costs incurred as a result of ceasing financial support.

Applicants who remain dissatisfied with the decision will be entitled to use the Rochdale Borough Council Complaint's Procedure.

Appendix 1.: SGO Support Plan template



SGO Support Plan -
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Example SGO
support plan Octob

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Appendix 2:

**SGO payments to former foster carers in years 1 & 2 post order
(nb. These rates are applicable as at 1st April 2019 and subject to revision periodically)**

Level 1	Basic Weekly Allowance	Additional Weekly Payment (Skills)	Maximum Amount Payable
0-4	132	0	132
5-10	146	0	146
11-15	167	0	167
16+	194	0	194
Level 2			
0-4	132	75	207
5-10	146	75	221
11-15	167	75	242
16+	194	75	269
Level 3			
0-4	132	140	272
5-10	146	140	286
11-15	167	140	307
16+	194	140	334
Level 4			
5-10	146	280	426
11-15	167	280	447
16+	194	280	474

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**Current Fostering Payments: SGO payments to former foster carers years 3+
(nb. These rates are applicable as at 1st April 2019 and subject to revision periodically)**

Level 1	Basic Weekly Allowance	Additional Weekly Payment (Skills)	Maximum Amount Payable
0-4	132	0	132
5-10	146	0	146
11-15	167	0	167
16+	194	0	194
Level 2			
0-4	132	0	132
5-10	146	0	146
11-15	167	0	167
16+	194	0	194
Level 3			
0-4	132	0	132
5-10	146	0	146
11-15	167	0	167
16+	194	0	194
Level 4			
5-10	146	0	146
11-15	167	0	167
16+	194	0	194

Appendix 3: Finance Examples

Example 1.

I am a family and friend’s foster carer approved under Regulation 24 temporary approval and have been receiving a level 1 payment. I am going to take an SGO in relation to my 2 year old nephew. Neither me or my partner work and we have children of our own. What payments will I receive from the local authority?

For the first 2 years, unless there is a significant change in your financial circumstances you will receive the same payment as you are getting as a foster carer (£132) minus child benefit and any other child related benefits that you are able to claim. The allowance will change in line with changes to Rochdale Borough Council fostering allowances. If changes in line with fostering allowances do occur then these will usually take effect from 1st April.

A general review of support needs will take place annually and this will usually include a financial assessment using the Standard Means test tool to determine any amount you will continue to be paid. When the child you are caring for moves through one of the payment age bandings your allowance will increase accordingly. The first age related increase will occur when the child becomes 5 years old (£146 plus any uplift that was put in place on 1st April in each of the years since the making of the order). Depending on the outcome of the any means test, and any benefits including child benefit you receive will usually be deducted from the maximum amount payable)

Worked Example Year 3+

1) PROJECTED FAMILY INCOME

i) Pay	Parent 1	Parent 2
Basic net monthly pay	0	0
Drawings if self employed	0	0
Total subsection 1i	0	

ii) Benefits and pensions (parents)	Parent 1	Parent 2
Employers' sick pay (after compulsory deductions)	0	0
Incapacity benefit	0	0
Statutory maternity, paternity and/or adoption pay and/or maternity allowance	0	0
Bereavement benefit	0	0
Working tax credit (if paid directly and not as part of pay and excluding any childcare element paid)	0	0
All pension payments being received	0	0
Other benefits	0	0
Total subsection 1ii	0	

iii) Benefits (family/children)	
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Income Support/Jobseeker's Allowance per household	396.50
Child tax credit per household	954.20
Child benefit for each child, excluding child/children who are the subject of this assessment application	
Total subsection 1iii	1350.7

iv) Other sources of income	
Income from capital, savings and investments - net monthly interest	0
Income from boarders/lodgers (see guidance for details of calculation)	0
Income from unfurnished properties	0
Income from furnished properties	0
Maintenance payments received for any child in household	0
Existing adoption or special guardian 'allowances' (including any enhancements or specific payments for special needs) paid for any child	
Total subsection 1iv	0

v) Income relating to child(ren) being adopted or becoming a special guardian child	
Any regular interest on capital and/or income in which the child(ren) has a legal interest and entitlement e.g. trust fund, property or other type of legacy. Do not include payments from Criminal Injuries Compensation Awards	0
Any other income	0
Total subsection 1v	0

TOTAL PROJECTED FAMILY INCOME	1350.7
DISREGARD FIRST 20%	270.14
FAMILY INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF TEST	1080.56

2) PROJECTED FAMILY EXPENDITURE

i) Home	
Mortgage payments (capital and interest) including any endowment payments linked to mortgage	0
Rent (after any housing benefit payable)	0
Council tax (after any council tax benefit payable)	7.5
Total subsection 2i	7.5

ii) Other outgoings	
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Loan repayments for essential purposes (see guidance notes)	0
Maintenance payments	0
Court orders	0
Private pension contributions	0
National insurance if self employed	0
Reasonable child care costs including nursery fees (after any childcare element paid as part of the working tax credit)	0
Total subsection 2ii	0

iii) Core regular family expenditure	
Based on 125% income support allowances per household	1693.71
Total subsection 2iii	1693.71

TOTAL PROJECTED FAMILY EXPENDITURE:	1701.21
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CALCULATION		
Total projected net family income (per month):	1080.56	
Total projected family expenditure (per month):	1701.21	
Disposable income (per month):	-620.65	
Local Authority Maximum Payment	ENTER MANUALLY: 528.00	4x132
Amount of payment to adopters or special guardian	528.00	
Minus child benefit for child/children who are subject of this application	ENTER MANUALLY:	per month
Final payment to adopters or special guardian:	528.00	per month
	121.85	weekly payment

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Example 2

I am a Level 3 foster carer with a monthly income and would like to take an SGO in relation to my 10 year foster child who has been living with me for the last 3 years. How will my payments be structured. I work part time and my partner is retired.

For the first 2 years unless there is a significant change in your financial circumstances you will continue to receive the amount you were getting as a foster carer (£286 minus any child related benefits). The maintenance element will increase from the date the child becomes 11 years old (£307), this will again increase when the child becomes 16. You will continue to receive the skills element of your payment during this initial 2 year period. The allowance will change in line with changes to Rochdale Borough Council fostering allowances. If changes in line with fostering allowances do occur then these will usually take effect from 1st April.

A general review of support needs will take place annually and this will usually include a financial assessment using the Standard Means test tool to determine any amount you will continue to be paid.

After 2 years the skills payment element will usually cease and the general review of support needs will include a financial assessment using the Standard Means test tool to determine any amount you will continue to be paid.

We will continue to pay a maintenance allowance up to a maximum of subject to the outcome of the Standards means test based on your income and outgoings. The starting point will be the standard fostering allowance for the age of the child (£167) minus the usual benefits and any amount that the means test tool determines

Worked Example Year 3+

1) PROJECTED FAMILY INCOME

i) Pay	Parent 1	Parent 2
Basic net monthly pay	1,102.00	
Drawings if self employed		
Total subsection 1i	1,102.00	

ii) Benefits and pensions (parents)	Parent 1	Parent 2
Employers' sick pay (after compulsory deductions)	0	0
Incapacity benefit	0	0
Statutory maternity, paternity and/or adoption pay and/or maternity allowance	0	0
Bereavement benefit	0	0
Working tax credit (if paid directly and not as part of pay and excluding any childcare element paid)	0	0

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All pension payments being received	0	103
Other benefits	0	0
Total subsection 1ii	103	

iii) Benefits (family/children)		
Income Support/Jobseeker's Allowance per household	0	
Child tax credit per household	63.92	
Child benefit for each child, excluding child/children who are the subject of this assessment application	0	
Total subsection 1iii	63.92	

iv) Other sources of income		
Income from capital, savings and investments - net monthly interest	0	
Income from boarders/lodgers (see guidance for details of calculation)	0	
Income from unfurnished properties	0	
Income from furnished properties	0	
Maintenance payments received for any child in household	0	
Existing adoption or special guardian 'allowances' (including any enhancements or specific payments for special needs) paid for any child	0	
Total subsection 1iv	0	

v) Income relating to child(ren) being adopted or becoming a special guardian child		
Any regular interest on capital and/or income in which the child(ren) has a legal interest and entitlement e.g. trust fund, property or other type of legacy. Do not include payments from Criminal Injuries Compensation Awards	0	
Any other income	0	
Total subsection 1v	0	

TOTAL PROJECTED FAMILY INCOME	1268.92
DISREGARD FIRST 20%	253.784
FAMILY INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF TEST	1015.136

2) PROJECTED FAMILY EXPENDITURE

i) Home	
Mortgage payments (capital and interest) including any endowment payments linked to mortgage	
Rent (after any housing benefit payable)	
Council tax (after any council tax benefit payable)	£122.61

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Total subsection 2i	£122.61
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ii) Other outgoings	
Loan repayments for essential purposes (see guidance notes)	0
Maintenance payments	0
Court orders	0
Private pension contributions	200
National insurance if self employed	0
Reasonable child care costs including nursery fees (after any childcare element paid as part of the working tax credit)	0
Total subsection 2ii	200

iii) Core regular family expenditure	
Based on 125% income support allowances per household	975.15
Total subsection 2iii	975.15

TOTAL PROJECTED FAMILY EXPENDITURE:	1297.76
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CALCULATION		
Total projected net family income (per month):	1015.14	
Total projected family expenditure (per month):	1297.76	
Disposable income (per month):	-282.62	
Local Authority Maximum Payment ENTER MANUALLY:	668.00	per month
Amount of payment to adopters or special guardian	668.00	167 x 4
Minus child benefit for child/children who are subject of this application ENTER MANUALLY:	89.7	per month
Final payment to adopters or special guardian:	578.30	per month
	133.45	weekly payment

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Example 3

I am a level 2 foster carer with a total household income of £4,500 per month and would like to take an SGO in relation to my 15 year old foster child.

For the first 2 years unless there is a significant change in your financial circumstances you will continue to receive the amount you were getting as a foster carer (£242) minus any child related benefits to which you are entitled. The maintenance element will increase from the date the child becomes 16 years old to create an overall payment of £269). You will continue to receive the skills element of your payment during this initial 2 year period. The allowance will change in line with changes to Rochdale Borough Council fostering allowances. If changes in line with fostering allowances do occur then these will usually take effect from 1st April.

A general review of support needs will take place annually and this will usually include a financial assessment using the Standard Means test tool to determine any amount you will continue to be paid.

After 2 years the skills payment element will usually cease and the general review of support needs will include a financial assessment using the Standard Means test tool to determine any amount you will continue to be paid.

Given the level of your income it is highly likely that the standard mean's test model will determine that no further allowance is payable.

Should your financial circumstances e.g. through redundancy or retirement, we will re-assess your circumstances using the standards means test model.

Worked Example Year 3+

1) PROJECTED FAMILY INCOME

i) Pay	Parent 1	Parent 2
Basic net monthly pay	2,000.00	2500
Drawings if self employed		
Total subsection 1i	4,500.00	

ii) Benefits and pensions (parents)	Parent 1	Parent 2
Employers' sick pay (after compulsory deductions)	0	0
Incapacity benefit	0	0
Statutory maternity, paternity and/or adoption pay and/or maternity allowance	0	0
Bereavement benefit	0	0

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Working tax credit (if paid directly and not as part of pay and excluding any childcare element paid)	0	0
All pension payments being received	0	
Other benefits	0	0
Total subsection 1ii	0	

iii) Benefits (family/children)	
Income Support/Jobseeker's Allowance per household	0
Child tax credit per household	63.92
Child benefit for each child, excluding child/children who are the subject of this assessment application	0
Total subsection 1iii	63.92

iv) Other sources of income	
Income from capital, savings and investments - net monthly interest	0
Income from boarders/lodgers (see guidance for details of calculation)	0
Income from unfurnished properties	0
Income from furnished properties	0
Maintenance payments received for any child in household	0
Existing adoption or special guardian 'allowances' (including any enhancements or specific payments for special needs) paid for any child	0
Total subsection 1iv	0

v) Income relating to child(ren) being adopted or becoming a special guardian child	
Any regular interest on capital and/or income in which the child(ren) has a legal interest and entitlement e.g. trust fund, property or other type of legacy. Do not include payments from Criminal Injuries Compensation Awards	0
Any other income	0
Total subsection 1v	0

TOTAL PROJECTED FAMILY INCOME	4563.92
DISREGARD FIRST 20%	912.784
FAMILY INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF TEST	3651.136

2) PROJECTED FAMILY EXPENDITURE

i) Home	
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Special Guardianship Support Policy

Mortgage payments (capital and interest) including any endowment payments linked to mortgage	
Rent (after any housing benefit payable)	
Council tax (after any council tax benefit payable)	£122.61
Total subsection 2i	£122.61

ii) Other outgoings	
Loan repayments for essential purposes (see guidance notes)	0
Maintenance payments	0
Court orders	0
Private pension contributions	200
National insurance if self employed	0
Reasonable child care costs including nursery fees (after any childcare element paid as part of the working tax credit)	0
Total subsection 2ii	200

iii) Core regular family expenditure	
Based on 125% income support allowances per household	975.15
Total subsection 2iii	975.15

TOTAL PROJECTED FAMILY EXPENDITURE:	1297.76
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CALCULATION		
Total projected net family income (per month):	3651.14	
Total projected family expenditure (per month):	1297.76	
Disposable income (per month):	2353.38	
Local Authority Maximum Payment	ENTER MANUALLY: 776.00	194 x 4
Amount of payment to adopters or special guardian	-400.69	
Minus child benefit for child/children who are subject of this application	ENTER MANUALLY: 89.7	per month
Final payment to adopters or special guardian:	-490.39	per month
	-113.17	weekly payment



Special Guardianship Support Policy

Year 3 – due to level of income, the outcome of the means test assessment is a negative amount therefore no further payments are to be made by Rochdale BC.

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