

EX57. ADOPTION ALLOWANCES CRITERIA

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Social Work Services presenting an Adoption Allowance Scheme.

The Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 and the Adoption and Support (Scotland) Regulations 2009 widened the definition of adoption allowances to cover areas such as set up and legal costs and established a clearer link between allowances and additional financial costs. An Adoption Allowances Scheme was presented for approval. It was proposed that eligibility, with the exception of set up and legal costs, should be means tested, with a suggested threshold of a gross income (excluding benefits) equivalent to Band K on the Council's salary scale (currently £40, 160).

It was also proposed to use the same means test for the purpose of charging prospective adopters for the actual costs of assessments for inter country adoptions and the provision of residence payments.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- 1) the Adoption Allowances Scheme, and its application to inter country adoption and residence allowances;**
- 2) the charging policy for inter country adoption, and**
- 3) to note developments in relation to a shared adoption and fostering service and request the Director of Social Work Services to update members as the work progresses.**