

Correspondence from Scottish Kinship Care Alliance

Official response to national allowance

27 October 2023

Good morning

Scottish Kinship Care Alliance
Official response to national allowance

Whilst we welcome the end of the “postcode lottery “
Scottish government has discriminated against the most vulnerable age group 11-15 year olds

How in plain sight anyone can say that the same amount of financial support for a 5 year old is the same of that needed for a 15 year old is not only in plain sight ridiculous but offensive as well

This was done in plain sight because most 11-15 year olds are in care at home / kinship care / or residential care

This will risk more children/teenagers being put into the residential /secure care system not less when a foster carer will receive the SAME allowance for a child whom being younger and in primary education will not come with the added traumas and problems in staying in education ,absconding , facing dilemmas in their identity , anger , stigma.

High school is a tough setting for any child we see the highlighted escalation in violence . Then add to that teens who are in residential settings receiving clothing grants , pocket money things that equate to the eye watering £250,000 PER CHILD and more for residential and secure accommodation .

We know that a child /teenager who goes into secure accommodation is far more likely to offend after release and also be “institutionalised “ in adulthood . Foster carers are on record recently saying the uplift is not even in line with that of what the yearly inflation rate would be ! That is true the former allowance was frozen and there was no yearly rise in 8 years !

The postcode lottery looks worse than it is only due to a small amount of local authorities only getting that amount . The smallest is confined to Shetland only . Most LAs were paying for 11/15 age group the same or in some cases more only a small number were paying less than the £195 most were £10 under or around that figure except Shetland Fife and a few other most LAs with the highest proportion of 11/15 in care were paying MORE than the £195 . Glasgow whom has the MOST kinship carers they will receive a rise of £1 in the 11/15 rear old group an absolute disgrace and an open door for this age group to go into the system .

We were NOT consulted on these figures at any point ! This was told to SCOT GOV at a meeting on Tuesday 24th October along with our anger which will result in demonstration and a petition

We are extremely concerned and really disappointed that not including us the people on the ground Kinship Carers that this means it was not about us .

If KCASS was fit for purpose they would have challenged this but as they are adoption and foster orgs and heavily funded by Scottish Government Kinship Carers were again discriminated against and their families and the most vulnerable age group let down by bogus figures and manufactured figures that it costs more to raise a child 6-11 year old . Every parent in Scotland will testify to the falsehood of that figure alone .

This added to the fact most kinship carers are on benefits in a cost of living crisis , bus passes allowing absconding all over Scotland and violence in secondary schools rising . Where are Scotland " keeping the promise " to this the MOST vulnerable age category ?

The answer is simple this allowance was designed to appease foster carers due to a severe shortage and to yet again make sure our first class care we provide KINSHIP remains undervalued while heavily funded NGOs are given millions to do zero on the ground except form expensive talking shops with ridiculous data on our most vulnerable .

We have constantly warned that if they do not respect us they can expect us this will be put into action later this year when we test how Glasgow will cope by finding up to 40 placements in one day for our 15 -17 year old without us this most certainly is not about us .

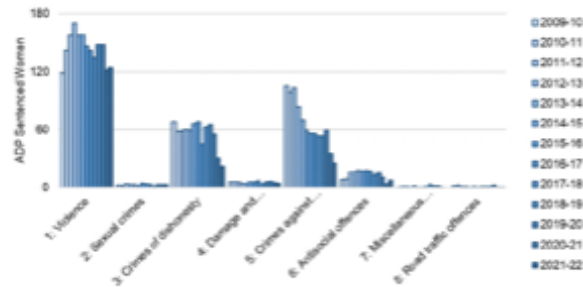
Micheleine Kane
Chair
Scottish Kinship Care Alliance

2	Local Authority	Age Ranges			
		0-4 years	5-10 years	11-15 years	16+ years
	Highland Council	£77.69	£96.40	£120.00	£155.36
	Fife	£100.40	£113.43	£140.77	£179.91
	Scottish Borders	£129.94	£129.94	£194.88	£194.88
	North Ayrshire	£200.00	£200.00	£200.00	£200.00
	East Lothian	£114.45	£133.70	£157.98-£163.74	£200.11
	Edinburgh	£108.37	£131.95	£164.27-£168.86	£202.64
	Midlothian	£126.00	£140.00	£162.00	£217.00
	South Ayrshire	£154.35	£154.35	£185.85	£217.35
	Inverclyde	£127.59	£145.34	£180.93	£220.05
	East Dunbartonshire	£128.22	£146.05	£181.81	£221.13
	East Ayrshire	£152.70	£152.70	£224.50	£224.50
	Dumfries & Galloway	£130.34	£148.47	£184.80	£224.77
	Falkirk	£137.18	£156.26	£194.53	£226.87
	East Renfrewshire	£132.70	£151.16	£188.18	£228.88
	Clackmannanshire	£134.40	£153.09	£190.58	£231.79
	Perth & Kinross	£134.47	£153.16	£190.68	£231.91
	Aberdeen City	£135.41	£154.24	£192.02	£233.55
	West Lothian	£117.11	£145.32	£180.82-£180.79	£234.22
	Stirling	£137.08	£156.15	£194.39	£236.42
	Glasgow City	£137.18	£156.30	£194.53	£236.60
	South Lanarkshire	£139.33	£158.72	£197.56	£240.30
	Argyll & Bute	£196.71	£196.71	£240.40	£240.40
	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	£140.00	£160.00	£199.00	£242.00
	Dundee City	£141.89	£161.62	£201.19	£244.76
	North Lanarkshire	£142.82	£162.69	£202.51	£246.33
	Moray	£142.86	£162.73	£202.58	£246.44
	Orkney Islands	£142.86	£162.73	£202.58	£246.44
	West Dunbartonshire	£145.00	£165.00	£205.00	£250.00
	Shetland Islands	£145.00	£165.17	£205.62	£250.00
	Aberdeenshire	£150.12	£170.65	£212.12	£250.00
	Angus Council	£151.60	£172.68	£214.97	£250.00
	Renfrewshire	£112.16			£250.00



Compared to the previous year, there was a small increase in the population with index sentences in Group 1 (Violence) – from 122 to 125 on the average day – and Group 6 (Anti-social offences) – from 4 to 8 on the average day. Across other offence groups populations fell slightly or remained stable (see Figure 10).

Figure 10: Sentenced index offence groups of women – average daily populations, 2009-10 to 2021-22



The population of women serving sentences for index offences in Group 3 (Dishonesty) and Group 5 (Crimes against society) have more than halved from pre-pandemic levels. Group 3 index offence populations fell from 55 in 2019-20 to 23 (around 11% of sentenced women) in 2021-22, while Group 5 index offence populations fell from 59 to 25 (around 13% of sentenced women).