



TRAFFORD
COUNCIL

Services for Children, Young People and Families

Children in care

Children's homes

Pocket money and personal finance

Reviewed April 2020

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Date to be Reviewed: January 2022

Guidance

Children have pocket money allowances. Some young people will have earnings and/or training allowances.

Children should be encouraged to manage their own finances and are to be given as much freedom as possible (taking into account their age and understanding) in making decisions about spending their own money.

Staff should assist and support children in their decision making and in helping them to develop the knowledge and skills to manage their finances successfully. Children need to learn budgeting skills and need to be assisted in using appropriate financial organisations such as banks, building societies and government savings schemes. If possible, parental guidance should be sought on these matters for those under sixteen

Children's money is to be kept safe. Young people should be offered the facilities of storing their money in individual named containers in a lockable safe or secure cupboard/cabinet.

Allowances

Pocket money/allowances for children in residential care are set annually and vary according to the age of the child/young person.

When a young person is earning, on a Government Training Scheme or unemployed there are set allowances and contributions.

If a young person has refused to attend Youth Training or has given up such a programme, or has been dismissed from employment there is a maximum amount allowed by the Director under delegated authority.

If a child/young person had been admitted to hospital procedural pocket money should still be provided whilst the child remains on the homes register.

Deductions of pocket money

Deductions can be taken from pocket money as a form of reparation for the following reasons:

- Deductions towards any damage to the home's property as a form of reparation (maximum weekly deduction of 2/3rds).
- Deductions for misspending money provided for other purpose. For example if a child fails to attend school after being given bus fares or dinner money and returns to the home having spent these funds, deductions will be made to pay the amount misspent.
- Court Fines – if a Court directs that a young person is to pay fines from pocket money then deductions will be taken and paid to the Court.

- Any deductions agreed with the child, social worker and parent and carer.

Recording

any deductions from pocket money must be recorded on:

- Deduction record
- Incident sheets
- Pocket money records
- The child's file
- The sanctions/consequences record at the home

Rationing

Pocket money can be withheld from a young person, as a sanction with the agreement of the Registered Manager.

If pocket money is withheld the young person is placed on daily pocket money usually for a period of one week. For example – if a young person was found to have on their possession or in their bedroom evidence of smoking they may be placed on daily pocket money for one week. Daily pocket money is their full allowance divided into 7 days e.g. £7.00: 7 = £1.00 a day.

When it is agreed that money is withheld, it must be recorded in the pocket money records. The allowance is to be placed in the young person's container until it is no longer withheld and the young person can then spend it.

Recording of pocket money

All pocket money must be clearly recorded on a Record of Pocket Money Sheet.

Staff entering pocket money into the record must date and sign it. Young people taking out pocket money must also date and sign it. The remaining balance must be entered by staff.

Any deductions to pocket money must be recorded on a deduction record (incident sheets referring to any deduction and sanction records must also be completed where applicable), pocket money records and the child/young person's file.