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SCHOOL AGE MOTHERS PROGRAMME

REGIONAL GUIDANCE FOR CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

SCHOOL AGE MOTHERS' PROGRAMME

Childcare Costs: Arrangements from 1 July 2016

What is the School Age Mother's (SAM) Programme?

The SAM Programme supports pregnant teenagers and young mothers to remain at school to complete compulsory schooling and where appropriate up to age 19 years. The SAM Programme is managed by the Education Authority. We offer a holistic model of support to enable school age mothers to get the best out of their education while bringing up their child. A wide range of different supports are offered, including assistance towards childcare costs.

Which young women get assistance with childcare costs?

Assistance with childcare cost is provided to young women who request it subject to the following conditions:

- Under 19 years at the start of a course of study in a school or under 19 years and committed to returning to school once the baby is born;
- An appropriate assessment has been completed, including confirmation that childcare is required to enable the young women to continue with studies in school; and
- The SAMs Co-ordinator will request evidence that the childcare provider appears on the trust's current register and has appropriate public liability insurance.

Continued support with childcare costs is dependent on the young women attending school on a regular basis.

What funding is provided towards childcare costs?

Assistance with childcare costs is provided through the Education Authority.

From 1 September 2012, the following costs are covered under current arrangements:

- Assistance will be provided on the basis of actual costs of childcare up to a maximum of £165 per week for each child.
- Deposits to secure places will be paid in-line with the provider's terms and conditions, to a maximum of £300.
- A retainer fee may be paid to ensure that the childcare place is kept available during such periods as school term and summer breaks. This must be agreed separately between the Education Authority and the childcare provider.

How will payments be made?

The Education Authority will pay the childcare provider directly. This is normally done on a monthly basis upon receipt of an invoice made out to the EA and accompanied by the monthly time sheet. All invoices must clearly state the name of the mother, the baby and the period covered by the invoice.

If the placement is terminated prematurely, the EA will honour any existing notification agreement, in line with the childcare provider's normal contractual arrangements.

Your local SAM coordinator is

Name:

Address:

Tel No:

E-mail:

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Tel:

Signature: Date: