



Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies

Registered address:  
Caritas Care  
Att. CVAA  
218 Tulketh Road  
Ashton on Ribble  
Preston PR2 1ES

To: DCSs, RAA leaders  
CC: ADCS, LGA, DfE, VAAs

### **Increase in the interagency fee for 2019/20**

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published the Consumer price inflation including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) level for 2018, which was 2.0%. This means that, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, the interagency fee levels are as follows:

<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Fee level</b> <i>(additional weighting of 10% applied for agencies based in the Greater London Area)</i>
For 1 child	£31,620
For 2 children	£51,000
For 3 children	£69,360
For 4 children	£79,560
For 5 or more children	To be negotiated on an ongoing basis
Ongoing supervision	£877

The interagency fee covers the costs borne by LAs, VAAs and RAAs in recruiting and assessing adopters, matching and placing children, and providing supervision and support up to the point of the adoption order. The system relies on interagency placements: 53% of all children placed for adoption are placed interagency, and this rises to 63% of those who are considered 'harder to place'.

In June 2018 the interagency fee rose for the first time since 2011, from £27,000 to £31,000 for a single child. Consumer prices (measured by CPIH) were approximately 14% higher in 2018 than in 2011, putting upward pressure on staff salaries and increasing staff costs. The introduction of the new workplace pensions, with compulsory employer contributions, have also introduced higher costs for some agencies.

There have also been significant developments in the complexity of the work involved in adoption placements and support in recent years. Such developments have greatly benefited the hardest to place children but have also introduced new cost implications.

All of the above played a part in the decision to link the interagency fee to the CPIH measure of inflation for the preceding calendar year, and to uprate the fee accordingly on 1<sup>st</sup> April each year.

Discussions regarding the structure of the fee for sibling groups are ongoing between CVAA and ADCS, and we hope to have a resolution to this issue before too long, which will be communicated in due course.

CVAA UK. Registered Office:  
Caritas Care, 218 Tulketh Road, Ashton on Ribble, Preston, PR2 1ES

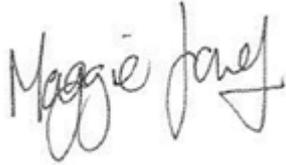
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Company Registration number 5275491  
Charity Registration Number 1108318

The guidance on CVAA's website will be updated with the new figures towards the end of March; the terms and conditions which currently accompany the figures will remain the same.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for the life changing work you do in supporting families to provide permanent homes for children placed for adoption.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a stylized 'J'.

Maggie Jones, Chief Executive Officer  
**Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies UK**