

Freedom of information request Ncc-032465-18

Thank you for your recent freedom of information request for ease we have provided our response alongside each point as follows;

1. Does the council use the department of Education formula without alteration in means testing payments for Families with Special Guardianship orders?

The Department for education and skills model is only a test suggestion, please see below paragraph 2 from taken from http://kinshipcarers.co.uk/documents/Means_test_guidance.pdf
"Please note that this test is a suggested model only. It is not a statutory requirement for local authorities to use this model in place of their existing system. However, we do recommend its use by local authorities, as we believe that the model developed is fair and that adoptive or special guardian families would benefit from a consistent approach by local authorities"

2. If the formula has altered what are the changes?

There is no actual formula, the means test is constructed from the guidance.
http://kinshipcarers.co.uk/documents/Means_test_guidance.pdf

3. Is Disability Living Allowance payments included in the means test?

Yes it is, it is a practice we have used since 2011. Please see below paragraph 17 from taken from http://kinshipcarers.co.uk/documents/Means_test_guidance.pdf
"Any other benefits received by the parents, for example help with costs associated with disability or mobility, should be recorded in the 'other benefits' section"

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

If you are unhappy with the way your request was dealt with and wish to make a complaint, please write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP or email foi@nottsc.gov.uk quoting the reference above.

With kind regards

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