**Payment to carers where children have been removed due to an allegation made against a foster carer or member of their household**

Torbay Council acknowledges the impact of the allegations process on fostering families and some of the uncertainty that can arise during the investigations period, whereby a decision is made about the carer’s continuing suitability to be a foster carer.

In situations such as this, Torbay Council will continue to pay foster carers the fostering fee, minus the child element and in line with the number of children placed at the point of the investigation being initiated, for a period of three months, or until the investigation is concluded.

The payment will be the fostering skill fee for each child removed and will be on a sliding scale decreasing over a three month period, or until the outcome of the investigation, whichever is sooner. Carers will only be paid for the actual children removed, not the potential number of children by terms of the carer’s approval.

The fee that will be paid to carers will be:

* Full fostering fee for each child placed at the point of the investigation being initiated for the first month.
* 75% of the fostering fees for each child placed at the point of the investigation being initiated for the second month.
* 50% of the fostering fee for each child placed at the point of the investigation being initiated for the third month.

If at the point of three months the investigation has not been concluded, the Fostering Service will consider the current circumstances of the foster carer, the investigation and its progress, and whether the carer should receive further payments. Any recommendation for further payments will be considered by the Head of Service, Regulated.

Torbay Council has the authority to cease these payments at any point, for example where a foster carer has been formally charged by the police.