

Northern Health and Social Care Trust Board Meeting in Public - Cover Sheet

Subject:	Ex Gratia Payment approval		Date of Meeting: 28 November 2024	
Prepared By:	Emma Taylor, Risk Manager			
Approved By:	Anne O'Reilly, Chair			
Presented By:	Dr Dave Watkins, Medical Director			
Purpose				
As per the Trust's Ex Gratia Payment Policy an ex gratia payment between £8,001 and £10,000 requires Trust Board approval.			Approval	✓
			Assurance	
			Update	
			Noting	
Strategic Objectives				
Build Northern Partnerships and Integrate Care	Continue to improve Outcomes & Experience	Deliver value by optimising Resources	Nurture our People, Enable our Talent & Build Our Teams	Improve population Health & address health & social care inequalities
		✓		
Risk				
Not applicable				
Committees/groups where this item has been presented before				
Not applicable				
Acronyms				
CYP – Children and Young People LAC – Looked After Child				
Executive Summary				
A couple were matched at Trust Adoption Panel in November 2021 and advised of this formally via Trust Decision Maker's letter 20 January 2022. At this stage the SOSCare system should have been updated and Boarded Out Allowance for the two children in their care, ceased. However, both LAC social worker and Fostering social worker were absent from work and payments continued until September 2022 creating an overpayment. The couple made a complaint to the Trust, which was eventually escalated to the NI Ombudsman. The NI Ombudsman adjudicated that the couple should be reimbursed as error occurred due to the fault of the Trust. Payment totals £9,000. Evidence: - The Head of Service for Fostering and Adoption and the Director of CYP Division have signed the ex gratia form to confirm the circumstances in which payment should be made. The ex gratia form has also been approved by the Chief Executive and was approved by the Chair in order to expedite the payment. Learning includes amendment to the Decision Maker's letter advising adopters to contact social worker if continue to receive Boarded Out Allowance and guidance was reviewed around the adoption process.				

We provide compassionate care with our community, in our community

Trust Board Reference Number: TB161/13/H

Trust Board are asked to retrospectively approve the payment. A copy of the form is available on request for members.

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