

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

POSSIBLE FEES OPTIONS FOR SAFEGUARDERS

Question 1: Do you agree that the current fee scheme should be abolished and replaced?

Yes No

Comments The current Scheme lost credibility once CoSLA ended its annual review of fees. This led to disparity in rates for safeguarders around the country as it was left to individual authorities to fix their own payment rates. So a safeguarder working in more than one local authority area could well find that the payment rates for essentially the same work varied significantly between areas. This clearly had implications for recruitment and retention of safeguarders, and was a headache for anyone involved in administering the Scheme.

Safeguarders are an important constituent part of the national Children's Hearings System. It is essential that the Fee Scheme be standardised across Scotland, so restoring credibility to that system.

Question 2: Which of the fees options (1 - 4) would you support?

Option 1 Option 2 Option 3 Option 4

Comments

For the reasons outlined in Paragraph 15.

Question 3: Do you have a suggestion as to alternative method of fees payments? If so, please provide details.

Comments

None.

EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES FOR SAFEGUARDERS

Question 4: Do you accept the proposal to apply Scottish Government Rates for expenses and allowances?

Yes No (if you have answered 'No' please give your reasons below)

Comments

This seems a reasonable way forward, and emphasises the status of the safeguarder as a Scottish Minister appointee. It also simplifies the administration of the fee scheme.

The new Scheme must be fair and reasonable for safeguarders; standard across Scotland with identical rates for similar work; simple to administer; and efficiently run with timeous payments being made to safeguarders, all in order that the safeguarders can act as they should, in the interests of the child to whom they are assigned.

Question 5: Are there other expenses or allowances you would like to be added to the proposed list?

Comments

None

Question 6: If you support an alternative set of expenses and allowances, please provide detail.

Comments

None.

