



Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies

Registered address:  
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22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

To: Department of Health (Northern Ireland)

CC: Family Care Adoption Services, Family Routes, Barnardo's NI

Dear Colleague,

### **Inflationary Increase in the Interagency Fee for 2024/25**

On 14th February 2024 the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) published the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) level for January 2024 for the preceding 12 months, which was 4.2%.

Due to the exceptional circumstances last year, CVAA limited the uplift to well below the published inflation rates, however, given the current financial environment it is not possible for VAAs to do this again this year. **In line with the agreed policy the inflationary increase in the interagency fee from 1st April will therefore also be 4.2%.** We fully acknowledge the challenges all Health and Social Care Trusts continue to face with funding, which are reflected in the VAA sector too. The uplift will ensure that VAAs are able to continue to provide a significant proportion of all adoptive families, particularly for the children from priority groups, who need them.

This means that, from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, the interagency fee levels are as follows:

<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Fee Level</b> <i>(additional weighting of 10% applied for agencies operating in the Greater London Area)</i>
For 1 child	£37,059
For 2 children	£59,771
For 3 children	£81,289
For 4 children	£93,241
For 5 or more children	To be negotiated on an ongoing basis
Ongoing supervision	£1027

The interagency fee covers the costs borne by HSCTs and VAAs in recruiting and assessing adopters, matching and placing children, and providing supervision and support up to the point of the adoption order, or for one year from placement, whichever is the sooner.

The interagency fee [guidance](#) on the CVAA website will be updated with the new figures towards the end of March.

Interagency fees continue to provide real value for money, both in comparison with the lifetime costs of other permanency placements and in relation to research which calculated the cost of an adoptive placement for a single child as £36,905 in 2014 ([Selwyn et al](#)).

Crucially, adoption continues to have very positive outcomes for care experienced children, as reflected in the recently published a social value report on adoption [A Home for Me?](#) which showed a saving to the public purse of £1.3m for every child adopted. This cost avoidance flows directly from the better outcomes adopted children achieve relative to children in other care pathways and their reduced interaction with other public services including the police and criminal justice system.

We look forward to working with you in the year ahead to find more loving families for the children in your care who need the lifelong permanence that adoption provides.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [myself](#) or CVAA's Head of Policy and Membership Services, [Liz Crowhurst](#).

Warm regards,



Satwinder Sandhu  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies UK**