


## Decision Record – Irrecoverable Debts

<b>Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision</b>	Cllr Jeff Morgan Children's Services
<b>Date of Decision</b> (not before 15 March 2019)	15/3/2019 

### Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services agrees to the write-off of the debt as detailed in the report.

### Reasons for Decisions

The Portfolio Holder may approve the write-off of individual debts between £2,000 and £50,000.

### Background Information

An overpayment of adoption allowances was made to a family in respect of a child with high needs. The total amount overpaid was £17,027.21.

When the overpayment came to light, Mr & Mrs A stated that they had informed the Council of the change in circumstances. The senior Children's Services Managers therefore agreed to reduce the amount owed by deducting allowances for the weekends and holidays; a sum of £4,565.16. Since October 2016, the adoption allowances in respect of the child had been held back, and a sum of £7,709.07 had accumulated.

Through meetings with the adoption team and Mrs & Mrs A, it was established that the deduction probably should not have been applied. However, Children Services were strongly of the view that the family have gone over and above in caring for their adopted children, and their concern was that if too much financial pressure was put on the family, this may well undermine the placement.

It was agreed that the Council would not renege on the Manager's decision to reduce the debt. This was communicated to the family however they were also informed that the Council was not able to further reduce the debt, whether they paid in instalments or as a lump sum.

The accumulated adoption allowances of £7,709.07 will be retained by the Council, and Mr & Mrs A have agreed to pay the remaining amount of £4,752. They are currently making monthly payments of £141pm and have been making these payments since October 2017.

The service has now reviewed their processes to prevent any future overpayment occurring in the future.

The sum of £4,565.16, which is the amount by which Senior Managers agreed to reduce the debt, is submitted for write off.

### Financial Implications

As set out in the report.

<b>Report Author</b>	Craig Fletcher
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Lisa Kitto
<b>Joint Managing Director</b>	David Carter
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Jeff Morgan

## Checklist

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	No
<b>Confidential or Exempt?</b> (State the category of exempt information)	No
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

**List of Reports considered** - please include link to report

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/Calendarofmeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/4277/Committee/588/Default.aspx>

**List of Background Papers** - please include a contact for access to background papers

N/A

**Members and officers consulted or informed** – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jeff Morgan

Corporate Board

Legal – Jane Pollard

Finance – Virginia Rennie

Equality – Keira Rounsley

Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Councillors Dahmash, Chattaway, Williams, Hayfield, C.Davies, Morgan, Roodhouse, Chilvers