

Cost Calculator for Children's Service: Local Authority Finance Data

Development of the Edge of Care Cost Calculator (EoC CC)

The current version of the Cost Calculator for Children's Services (CCfCS) comes with a set of pre-defined cost sheets. However, as with all data systems, the more accurate the data in the CCfCS, the more accurate the calculations that will be produced. Customised finance data will allow for more accurate and informative cost calculations and reporting functions.

There are three types of finance data in the cost calculator:

- i. Staff salaries
- ii. Overheads (applied to staff salaries)
- iii. Placement/ service fees and allowances

1. Staff Salaries

The cost calculator uses the unit costs of social work activities as the basis for building up the costs over time of placements, part placements and services. The salaries of those social care personnel who are undertaking those activities, therefore, form the basis of the unit cost calculations.

The salaries (including oncosts, national insurance and pension contributions) are required for all children's social care personnel involved in the child's care journey. Included in the current CCfCS are:

- Social Worker
- Administrator
- Team Manager
- Service Manager
- Head of Children's Services
- Independent Reviewing Officer
- Personal Adviser
- Social Work Assistant/Family Support worker
- LAC Nurse
- Translator

Question: Which other job roles need to be included in the EoC CC?

Unit costs can be customised using either:

- A. the *mid point* of the salary scales (including oncosts) for each of the staff types listed
OR
- B. *an average salary* based on current actual personnel

To customise the salary information for the CCfCS, you will need EITHER:

- A. the standard salary scales for each of the staff types listed
OR
- B. the current salaries of each member of staff for each staff type listed above

2. Overheads

The CCfCS comes with a standardised overhead calculation based on the work of Selwyn et al (2009), along with the ongoing costs and outcomes programme of research at CCFR (<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/research/ccfr/research/exploring/>). The overhead figure (45%) is applied to salary information.

Should you want to calculate a customised overhead percentage for your local authority please contact the CCfCS research team at CCFR (contact details below).

3. Fees and allowances for placements and services

The fees and allowances can be customised in two ways: Individual fees and allowances or Average Fees and Allowances for each placement/ service type.

Questions:

- a) What services are provided to children on the edge of care in your local authority?**
- b) What financial information does your local authority have for children on the edge of care, and the services provided to them?**
- c) How is that information structured or organised?**
- d) Can it be linked to individual children or is it service specific?**

Next steps, action points, and “To Do” list:

You can use this space to write some ideas about how you could answer the questions on page 1 and 2 in your local authority. Think about ‘what’, ‘who’ and ‘when’.

More information about the current CCfCS is available.

CCfCS research team contact:

Helen Trivedi, Research Associate, Centre for Child and Family Research,
H.L.Trivedi@lboro.ac.uk, 01509 228 759