

SCHEDULE 1

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS MAINTENANCE OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Agreed contributions

- 2 (1) Contributions towards a child's maintenance may only be recovered if the local authority has served a notice ("a contribution notice") on the contributor specifying—
- (a) the weekly amount which it considers should be contributed, and
 - (b) arrangements for payment.
- (2) The contribution notice must be in writing and dated.
- (3) Arrangements for payment must, in particular, include—
- (a) the date on which liability to contribute begins (which must not be earlier than the date of the notice),
 - (b) the date on which liability under the notice will end (if the child has not, before that date, ceased to be looked after by the authority), and
 - (c) the date on which the first payment is to be made.
- (4) The authority may specify in a contribution notice a weekly amount which is a standard contribution determined by the authority for all children looked after by it.
- (5) The authority may not specify in a contribution notice a weekly amount greater than that which it considers—
- (a) it would normally be prepared to pay if it had placed a similar child with local authority foster parents, and
 - (b) it is reasonably practicable for the contributor to pay (having regard to his or her means).
- (6) An authority may at any time withdraw a contribution notice (without affecting its power to serve another).
- (7) Where the authority and the contributor agree—
- (a) the amount which the contributor is to contribute, and
 - (b) arrangements for payment,
- (whether as specified in the contribution notice or otherwise) and the contributor notifies the authority in writing that he or she so agrees, the authority may recover summarily, as a civil debt, any contribution which is overdue and unpaid.
- (8) Sub-paragraph (7) is without prejudice to any other method of recovery.
- (9) A contributor may, by serving a notice in writing on the authority, withdraw his or her agreement in relation to any period of liability falling after the date of service of the notice.