

Appendix 3

What about finance?

Fostering Allowances and Fees

An allowance is paid in respect of each child cared for by a foster carer. The allowance is intended to cover the cost of caring for the child including a proportion of the carers' household costs. Allowances are paid fortnightly in advance.

Fees are paid to foster carers who have reached the relevant skill levels and are paid per carer per week.

Level 1 Carers

Will be paid the basic fostering allowance. The allowance is paid per week per child.

Age	Allowances
0 - 4 years	£127.59
5 - 10 years	£145.34
11 - 15 years	£180.93
16+ years	£220.05

For example if you have a 4 year old and a 7 year old in placement you will receive £272.93 per week.

Level 2 Carers

Will be paid the basic fostering allowance plus a fee of £155 if they have one or two children in placement and £180 if they have three or more children in placement.

For example, if you have a 4 year old and a 7 year old in placement you will receive £427.93. If the children's baby brother is then placed with you you will receive £580.52 per week.

Level 3 Carers

This group will be paid the basic fostering allowance plus a weekly fee of £230 for one or two children and £255 for three or more children.

For example, if you have a 4 year old and a 7 year old in placement you will receive £502.93. If the children's baby brother is then placed with you you will receive £655.52 per week.

Level 4 Carers

Will be paid the basic fostering allowance enhanced by 50% to recognise the complex needs of the young people who will be placed. In addition, they will receive a weekly fee of £305.

The allowance per week per child is:

Age	Allowances
0 - 4 years	£191.38
5 - 10 years	£218.00
11 - 15 years	£271.39
16+ years	£330.07

Supplementary to the levels of allowances and fees, a number of other set payments to carers will be in place as follows. An additional five weeks allowance will be paid in a year. These will be:

- At a child's birthday
- In December for religious festivals
- Two weeks extra allowance will be paid in June to cover the extra expenditure incurred during the summer school holidays
- A further week's allowance will be paid in September to contribute towards

expenditure over the year for items such as school trips and extra curricular activities.

Other payments

An amount will be paid to purchase basic equipment when applicants are approved. This will be paid on a sliding scale depending on the age and number of children for whom carers are approved. It is expected that the wear, tear and replacement costs will be covered from the allowance.

The majority of circumstances where children become accommodated are of an emergency nature. Children often do not have the basic necessities such as school uniform, nightwear, underwear etc. A grant of £150 will be paid at the start of each placement to take account of the extra costs involved in ensuring basic needs are met at the initial stages of each placement.