

Allowances:

Fostering allowances are payable to foster carers to cover all the needs of children and young people. The weekly fostering allowances from 1st April 2017 – 31 March 2018 are:

0-4	£143.57
5-10	£163.54
11-15	£203.59
16+	£247.67

The basic fostering allowance covers the full cost of caring for a foster child, including:

- Food
- Pocket money
- Equipment
- Dental and optical needs
- School activities
- Clothing
- Personal and household expenditure
- Special outings
- Activities – including clubs and hobbies
- Telephone expenses

Fees:

All foster carers are paid a fee to reflect the type of placement they offer and the skills, experience and commitment they bring to fostering. This is in addition to the allowance received for the child. The fee scheme provides a clear career pathway for foster carers to progress through the levels if they wish to. One of the fee scheme's central principles is that the skills, experience and training of foster carers are recognised and properly regarded.

Approval at the different levels will depend on:

- The carer's assessed core skills;
- The length of experience as an approved carer;
- The training that has been undertaken.

Fostering	Allowance plus fee per child £75 fee – 1st child in placement £100 fee – 2nd and 3rd child in placement
Fostering Plus *If there is a need for a carer of a school aged child to be home based, a fee of £225 may be applicable.	Allowance plus fee per child £175 fee – 1st child in placement *£225 fee– 2nd and 3rd child in placement
Specialist Fostering	Treatment Foster Carer Oregon (TFCO): £375 Family Assessment and Support Team (FA&ST) Parent and Child Fostering: £375 Single Placement Scheme and complex medical needs: £375 Allowances for children and adults in placement are paid in addition to the fees.

Connected persons foster carers receive the allowance for the child or children they are caring for during their temporary approval. They will then receive the Level 1 fee in addition to this upon full approval at Fostering Panel.

Fees paid for specialist schemes:

Parent and Child:

The fee paid to carers on this scheme is £375 per week in addition to a 16+ fostering allowance for the parent in placement, and the appropriate rate for the child. The £375 fee is paid throughout the year to enable carers to take a break and to retain the placement.

School Holiday and Weekend Fostering:

Carers receive the fostering allowance when the child stays and a retainer of £25 per week for maintaining contact when they are not there. There is an additional payment to the carer of £500 per annum for every 12 month period of commitment to the child.

Stepping Stones:

Foster carers on this scheme for 16+ young people are paid depending on the level of support needed, which starts from £185 per week plus £27.50 for food, utilities etc., paid by the young person from their allowance.

Therapeutic Foster Care:

The fee paid to carers on this programme is £375 per week in addition to the fostering allowance for the child. The £375 per week is paid to the carer throughout the year to enable carers to take a break and to retain the placement.

Remand Fostering:

The fee paid to carers on this programme is £300 per week in addition to the fostering allowance for the child. A retainer of £300 per week is also available.

Short Break Care:

Short Break carers care for children with a range of disabilities. Most Short Break carers will meet the requirements of Fostering Plus through the skills and experience that they have for this specific fostering task. Short Break carers are paid a proportionate allowance and fee on the days they foster children. Those carers who care for children who are CHC funded (that is those with complex medical needs) will then receive the £375 pro rata.