

## Proposed changes to foster carer fees and allowances for consultation



Foster Carer Fees	Present Weekly Amount	Proposed Weekly amount	Weekly Increase
Fee - Level 1	£80.00	£120.00	£40.00
Fee - Level 2	£120.00	£150.00	£30.00
Fee - Level 3	£140.00	£200.00	£60.00
Fee - Fostering Plus	No changes proposed to level 4 payments		
Fee - Children with Disabilities			
Fee - Parent & Child			
Foster Carer Allowances*			
Allowance – 0 - 4	£136.00	£138.86	£2.86
Allowance – 5 -10	£156.00	£159.28	£3.28
Allowance – 11 - 15	£195.00	£199.10	£4.09
Allowance - 16+	£232.00	£236.87	£4.87
Birthday / Holiday Allowances	Present Annual Amount	Proposed Annual amount	Annual Increase
Birthday Allowance - 0-4	£136.00	£138.86	£2.86
Birthday Allowance - 5-10	£156.00	£159.28	£3.28
Birthday Allowance - 11-15	£195.00	£199.10	£4.09
Holiday Allowance - 0-4	£272.00	£277.71	£5.71
Holiday Allowance - 5-10	£312.00	£318.55	£6.55
Holiday Allowance - 11-15	£390.00	£398.19	£8.19
Holiday Allowance 16+	£464.00	473.70	£9.70

\* Allowances increased in line with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) including owner-occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) which shows an increase of 2.1% in the 12 months to July 2021.

We will review payments on an annual basis.

## **Fee level criteria**

### **Level 1**

The Level 1 fee will be £120 per week, per child. To gain the level 1 fee you must have undertaken a Form F or Form C assessment, completed the relevant Skills to Foster pre-approval training and been approved by the Agency Decision Maker following fostering panel. The foster carer will have to meet the training quota set in the Learning and Development Policy and continually meet the Fostering Minimum Standards. If training quotas or the Fostering Minimum Standards are not adhered to then consideration could be made to hold a Standards of Care meeting and potentially a foster home review will be convened and consideration could be made to decrease the fee level you receive. This reduction will be until the fostering standards are being met and the fostering manager has agreed that your fee should increase.

### **Level 2**

The Level 2 fee will be £150 per week, per child. To qualify for this level you must have qualified for the level 1, had a foster home review which has been approved by the Agency Decision Maker, completed the Training Support and Development Standards (TSDS) and completed the mandatory training as per the Learning and Development Policy. It is an expectation that all foster carers keep up to date with their training and attend the required amount of training each year, as per the Learning and Development Policy and continually meet the Fostering Minimum Standards. If training quotas or the Fostering Minimum Standards are not adhered to then a Standards of Care meeting will be convened and consideration could be made to decrease the fee level you receive. This reduction will be until the fostering standards are being met and the fostering manager has agreed that your fee should increase. Any foster carers that are transferring to Telford and Wrekin who meet the above criteria would automatically be awarded the Level 2 fee.

### **Level 3**

The Level 3 fee will be £200 per week, per child. To qualify for this level you must have been an approved foster carer for a minimum of two years and foster children that were not known to you prior to becoming foster carers. The foster carers must be active carers who are offering regular placements to children (minimum of 24 nights per year). The foster carer should have also maintained the expected amount of training as per the Learning and Development policy. Level 3 carers must also be willing to be a 'buddy' or 'mentor' to other foster carers and complete this role in line with the guidance set by Telford & Wrekin fostering service. The foster carer will have to meet the training quota set in the Learning and Development Policy and continually meet the Fostering Minimum Standards. If training quotas or the Fostering Minimum Standards are not adhered to then a Standards of Care meeting will be convened and consideration could be made to decrease the fee level you receive. This reduction will be until the fostering standards are being met and the fostering manager has agreed that your fee should increase.

Any foster carers who are transferring to Telford & Wrekin Fostering Service who meet the above criteria would automatically be awarded the Level 3 fee.