

## **Cabinet – 15 March 2017**

### **Review of Fee and Allowance Scheme for Walsall Foster Carers**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Rose Burley

**Related portfolios:** N/A

**Service:** Fostering Service-Specialist Children's Services

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Forward plan:** No

#### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Walsall Fostering Service operates a fee and allowance scheme for mainstream foster carers based on an open fee approach with approval categories for a particular age group of children. Essentially this means that regardless of whether a carer has a child in placement they will continue to receive a fee for being available to foster. It also means that we can't easily approach carers to have a placement of a child outside of their age approval category unless they are willing to consider a child outside of their approval category and this then being subject to an amendment to their approval.
- 1.2 Over time Walsall's open fee approach has resulted in an increase in carers suitable to care for predominately children under 10 years and a decrease in carers suitable to care for children over 10 years and for children with complex needs. This has resulted in the use of more costly Independent Fostering Agency (IFA's) provision for older children and sibling groups. Carers have also had an element of choice about not accepting a placement knowing that their payment of the fee will be unaffected if they do say no.
- 1.3 There is a balance to be reached whereby carers are not financially rewarded when there are no children in placement alongside the need to ensure our fostering scheme is competitive to attract new carers to Walsall. In addition to this, it is equally important to ensure that once people make the decision to foster for Walsall they make the decision to remain with the Council for the duration of their fostering career.
- 1.4 The fostering service has looked at eight fostering schemes from other Local Authorities; this has been narrowed down to four on the basis that they each offer a similar scheme to what Walsall currently offers and are financially viable. There are advantages and disadvantages for them all which will be detailed below. In summary, when choosing a new scheme for implementation, any new fostering scheme should have as its primary objectives:

- Increase internal fostering provision to enable more children to remain in local placements.
- Offer carers an attractive financial, training and support package so that carers choose to foster for Walsall as opposed to other local authorities or IFA's and once they make the decision to foster for Walsall that we retain them as Walsall foster carers.

1.5 Initial consultation has already been undertaken with foster carers, they are aware that we are looking to implement a new fostering scheme although at that stage there was no specific scheme in mind.

1.6 This report will briefly summarise the four schemes that have been considered and will provide the rationale as to why one particular scheme with some further measures to protect some individual carers is being suggested as the scheme on which to consult with carers.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet gives approval to consult with Walsall Foster Carers and stakeholders on the preferred scheme identified. Once this has been undertaken further agreement from Cabinet will be sought to implement the agreed revised scheme from 1 September 2017 for all new carers and to transition all existing carers to the new scheme within 6 months of this date.

## 3. Report detail

3.1 Fostering for any Local Authority or private provider means that carers are provided with two separate payments. The first is the child's allowance which is paid to support the maintenance of a child. The amount increases with the age of the child and is only payable when a child is in placement. Some Local Authorities pay Fostering Network recommended rates whilst others pay the Department for Education recommended rates. Fostering Network stopped issuing recommended rates in 2015 and directed agencies to consider the rates suggested by the Department for Education. The difference is as follows:

	Age band			
	Babies and Pre-Primary (0 – 4)	Primary (5 – 10)	11 - 15	16 – 17
Fostering Network	£142.86	£162.73	£202.58	£246.44
National Rates (Rest of UK)	£123.00	£139.00	£159.00	£185.00

3.2 The second payment is the professional fee paid to foster carers, Walsall's current fee payments are shown in **Appendix A**.

Walsall currently pays children's allowances based on the recommended rates from the Fostering Network and has done for many years. Walsall also operate an open fee approach which essentially means that carers are paid regardless of whether they have children in placement. The scheme is also based on the principle that carers are approved to care for an age category of children for example 0-5 years and 5-10 years.

The vast majority of fostering schemes in operation across the country now operate a fee per bed scheme, similar to Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA's); this means that carers only receive payment when there are children in their care. This is confirmed by recent research undertaken by Fostering Network that highlighted 80% of foster carers only receive payment when a child is in placement and because of this it is imperative that the fostering fee offered is competitive and offers a realistic amount of money to enable carers to have this as their sole income (Fostering Network 2017)

The cohort of carers and children identified as 'in-scope' for this exercise are those that are receiving a fee payment, these are 131 approved carers offering a total of 215 placements. 164 of these placements are filled with children whom we are also paying an allowance for. There are currently 24 legitimate beds on hold for example due to a carers request to deal with a family crisis. Very few of these are being paid unless we decide to continue to pay for the benefit and protection of other children in placement. This leaves 27 vacancies for future matching and for which carers continue to be in receipt of a fee.

Also in scope are 80 Families and Friends carers, of which only 22 are receiving a Fee payment as they have completed the required level of training in order to receive the fee payment. There are a total of 127 children placed in family and friend arrangements.

### **3.3 Why does Walsall need to change the current scheme?**

- In Walsall there has been a significant increase in Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) costs to provide placements for sibling groups and older children because there have been limited internal vacancies available. Current information suggests there are approximately 27 vacancies for children, the majority of which are for children 10 years and under with only 2-3 vacancies for older children. The vast majority are single placement vacancies with only two carers able to offer sibling placements. This is not meeting the current needs of Walsall's LAC population.
- Increase in the use of Staying Put, which is where children are able to stay with their carers post 18. This has resulted in the loss of a number of teenage carers. There are now 20 Staying Put arrangements and this is a fantastic resource for these children. However, in previous years at least half of these children would have moved on to independent living creating more internal foster care capacity for older children. Any new scheme has to therefore adequately target placements for older children.

- Majority of carers are approved for a rigid age category and are inflexible in their willingness to consider children outside of this, hence the vacancies listed above not matching the referral data for children requiring placements.
- The progression criteria for foster carers has not been robust and has resulted in carers being able to progress to the highest level of payment and still only offering to care for relatively straight forward young children.
- Some carers have said no to placements despite professionals identifying them as a good potential match and in the current scheme they continue to be paid when this happens.
- Needs of children requiring placements has changed over recent years, growth in teenage placements, sibling placements and baby placements.
- New carers coming to foster for Walsall are paid an open fee for the first 18 months of fostering before they can progress. However, the low level of this open fee does not act as an incentive to foster for Walsall when other agencies and IFA providers are offering a much higher starting fee albeit based on fee per bed.

#### 3.4 What has been achieved so far?

- Recruitment activity has increased over recent years, for the period April 15 to end of March 16, the service recruited 18 new households. The projection for April 16 to March 17 is 22 newly approved households. There is now a dedicated marketing officer and a dedicated marketing budget to support all recruitment activity.
- Since the beginning of last year, all new fostering approvals are approved 0-18 with a clear matching preference and not a rigid age category so there is more flexibility with new carers which enables us to support carers to think more broadly about their ability to consider a broader age range of children.
- Foster carers have been advised that if they continue to refuse placements unreasonably, then their fee may be stopped.
- Foster carers have been advised the fee scheme needs to change as the needs of the Looked After Children population has changed and we need a more flexible approach. First carer consultation took place in November 2016 and over 75 carers attended. The general themes coming through from the consultation were as follows:
  - The vast majority of carers wish to retain the existing scheme; there was some agreement that level 4 carers should be willing and able to take any child. Carers were concerned about how they would manage financially without an open fee as the majority do fostering as their main income.
  - Agreement that level 2 payments are too low and don't encourage new carers to Walsall.
  - Some view that if carers refuse a placement three times then the fee should stop.
  - Some view that the money available for the allowance for a teenage is too high and unrealistic for care leavers who will be reliant on benefits for their

main source of income. The gap between the benefit rates available to care leavers and the current level of allowance for 16-18 is significant and does not allow carers to assist young people in developing their budgeting skills.

- Others commented that some Local Authorities have moved to offering the Department for Education recommended rates, which are lower than what is currently offered in Walsall, this will adversely affect family and friend carers, the majority of whom have not accessed the fee scheme so are only in receipt of the child's allowance.
  - Some concern regarding carers feeling bullied to take placements of children outside of their age category and concern if there was a fee per bed approach, this may increase.
  - Consensus view that whilst carers don't have children in placement, in order to justify the fee payment they should be asked to supervise contact, support other carers, support with training etc.
  - Overall consensus that a move to a fee per bed scheme may result in loss of carers and a loss of confidence in Walsall fostering service.

### **3.5 What will a new fostering fee and allowance scheme offer to Walsall Council?**

A move to a revised scheme will offer us greater placement choice and therefore reduce Walsall's reliance on external provision. Whichever new scheme is selected it has to fulfil the following criteria:

- Be competitive with IFA's and other Local Authorities so that carers see fostering for Walsall as a positive choice which offers them competitive rates and high levels of support.
- Continue to support carers to transfer from their current IFA provider to foster for Walsall; this has been the recent experience of the service. From the knowledge of those carers who have resigned from Walsall fostering service over the past five years, the majority have either ceased fostering altogether or have relocated and have applied to foster for the Local Authority in which they live. There is no evidence to suggest carers resign from Walsall and then go onto foster for an IFA.
- Ensure that foster carers offering placements to non-specified looked after children are not financially disadvantaged through a reduction in their fee payment as this will have a significant impact on retention of existing carers.
- Careful consideration to be given to the position of family and friend foster carers, if there is a reduction in the child's allowance as would be the case if Walsall implemented the Department for Education rates, these carers would need to be supported to manage their income more effectively to ensure that children and young people are not adversely affected.
- Offer a robust training and support package as a recruitment and retention incentive.

- Ensure that placement vacancies are fully utilised for all age children and that carers are approved for a broader age range of children dependent on their individual circumstances.
- Potentially offer us some savings where carers who do foster are adequately recompensed whereas those who don't accept placements are not financially rewarded.
- Be able to protect available beds and pay a carer for that bed if carers are caring for a complex child who would otherwise have needed an external placement or where we are holding a bed for a child, for example in the case of an unborn baby.
- Offer a smooth transition for those children remaining in 'Staying Put' or 'Shared Lives' arrangements. For those children transitioning on from foster care at 18, better preparation for those children in managing on a small budget when living independently.

### 3.6 The schemes that were looked at in some detail are as follows:

#### Wolverhampton's current scheme

##### *Fee payments*

Level	Training (basic)	Assessment	Fee (1 child) £'s	Fee (2 childr en) £'s	Fee (3chil dren) £'s	Fee (4+ childr en) £'s
Basic	Skills to Foster training course  Completion of training, support and development standards	Form C assessment as specified under the fostering regulations	85	102	119	154.70
Generic	Skills to Foster training course  Completion of training, support and development standards Personal Development Plan outcomes focused	Skills to Foster assessment as specified under the fostering regulations	255	306	357	464.10
Advanced	Completed all of above criteria  Diploma in Child Care Studies/Fostering or working towards equivalent	Skills to Foster assessment as specified under the fostering regulations	331.50	397.70	463.40	602.00

Specialist	Completed all of above, offer solo placement for mother and baby, remand placements, complex placements etc	Skills to Foster assessment as specified under the fostering regulations	600	N/A	N/A	N/A
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*Child's allowance rates based on DfE rates*

Age of child	Weekly Rate £'s
0-4	126
5-10	139
11-15	159
16+	185

*Additional payments*

Age	Pocket money (weekly) £'s	Long term savings (weekly) £'s	Birthday (annually) £'s	Festivals (annually) £'s
0-5	nil	5	100	100
6-10	4	6	110	110
11-15	7	8	150	150
16-17	10	13	180	180

This is a fee per bed scheme based on approval categories of 0-18 with a clear matching preference. This scheme has been operational in our neighbouring authority Wolverhampton for just over one year. The basic premise is that carers are only paid the fee and allowance when there are children in placement, vacant beds are not paid for. This means that carers are more open to a wider range of placements for which they receive payment.

In addition to this, Wolverhampton pay two weeks allowance for holidays and will pay a retainer of up to 50% to hold a placement for a maximum of 4 weeks if a child has not been able to be placed or if they are holding the bed for another child. The additional progression criterion is not available for this report. However, this will be linked to the skill level of the foster carer and their level of experience in dealing with complex issues.

## **Advantages**

- This is the same scheme as a neighbouring authority, given the Regional Adoption Agency movement, there is a likelihood that fostering may also regionalise within next 3-5 years so having the same scheme would support this.
- Borders between Walsall and Wolverhampton are extremely close, if we choose a scheme that is totally different, we risk losing carers to Wolverhampton.
- This scheme offers carers progression which is similar to what we currently operate, it also recognises the need for solo placements.
- The scheme offers fee payments which are significantly higher than what Walsall currently offers especially for new carers and those operating in the generic band and means that if carers are at their full capacity, they will receive an overall increase in their monthly income from fee payments.

## **Disadvantages**

- Carers caring for 3 or more children on a longer term basis will be financially disadvantaged on the generic and advanced rates as Walsall currently pays a higher rate for the placement of 3 children. If we were to implement this scheme, we would need to protect the current fee being paid to these carers to support the longevity of these placements.
- Family and friend carers receiving the allowance aspect only would be financially disadvantaged.
- We would need to consider funding NVQ courses where these are not available locally to enable carers to progress.
- Potential loss of carers if we don't utilise all the baby placements we have by encouraging those carers to offer care to a wider age range.

## **Coventry model**

Standard fostering fee £139.37 per child per week

Enhanced fostering fee £214.41 per child per week

Children's allowances currently paid at same rate as Walsall (fostering network rates)  
Additional 5 weeks allowances payable to all carers for birthdays, Christmas, holidays and clothing.

## **Advantages**

- Reasonably simple to administer as based on fee per child.
- Maintains the fostering network rates so family and friends won't be disadvantaged.



## **Disadvantages**

- No differentiation for family and friend carers, so assumption is all family and friends receive £139.37 per week, this is significantly higher than we pay now.
- Only one progression available for carers.
- Relies on categorisation of children and not carers, may lead to disagreement with carers about who is 'complex' and who is not.

## **Leeds model**

Leeds operates a scheme similar to Walsall, skill level criteria 1-4. Allowances are the same as Walsall's current allowances.

### **Skill level 2**

1<sup>st</sup> placement £120 2<sup>nd</sup> placement £120 subsequent placement £60

### **Skill level 3**

1<sup>st</sup> placement £170 2<sup>nd</sup> placement £170 subsequent placement £85

### **Skill level 4**

1<sup>st</sup> placement £220 2<sup>nd</sup> placement £220 subsequent placement £110

5 weeks additional allowance is given for holiday, Christmas and birthdays

Level 4 carers are paid a retainer of up to 16 weeks between placements, so this does not operate as fee per bed. It is not clear from the policy if carers receive any payment when no children are in placement for levels 2 and 3

## **Advantages**

- Only pay for the actual children in placement, so if approved for 3 this relates to capacity but if one child placed, only pay for that one.
- Carers will recognise the scheme as it is similar to existing scheme.
- Family and friends are not disadvantaged.
- Simple to administer, although could lead to debate about the length of time the retainer is paid for.

## **Disadvantages**

- Progression criteria not clearly defined.
- Limited incentive to take on the care of more children.

## **Proposal to enhance Walsall's existing model**

Consultation feedback indicated that carers wish to retain the current scheme. However, there is clear recognition that the most highly paid carers should be offering the service more in return for the payment of the fee. If we were to retain the existing scheme, the following amendments are recommended:

### **Level one:**

Remains the same as allows for payment for family and friends and mainstream carers choosing not to receive a fee

**Level two:**

All carers approved 0-18 with matching criteria which is adhered to so that new carers can become used to fostering within a year and develop their skills. Open fee to be paid to these carers. Given feedback from carers and managers, the level of payment for this scheme would need to increase

**Level three:**

Carers can progress up to level 3 on the understanding they are approved 0-18 but that their matching criteria must extend to enable them to consider a broader range of children. For example if their matching preference was 0-5, we would expect them to extend to 0-8. If they refuse a placement more than twice where it has been assessed they can meet the needs of the child in question, the fee will cease until such time the carer feels able to consider a broader age range

**Level four:**

All carers must be willing and able to consider any placement 0-18 years for children with any complexity. Level four carers will be fee per bed

**Level five:**

Solo placement-diversion from residential/IFA for high complexity £600 per week

**Advantages**

- Recognises the concerns of foster carers raised at first consultation event, supports carers as they develop their skills and become more experienced.
- Those carers not wishing to do fee per bed 0-18 can opt to move down a skill level.
- Ensures that our most highly paid carers are accountable for the money they receive.
- Introduces solo placement fee for highly complex children. There are already some children currently in placement who would meet this criteria.

**Disadvantages**

- Does not eradicate an open fee policy and may still result in carers saying no to placements.
- May result in carers remaining at level 3 and not wishing to progress to level 4 or 5, so continued costs of IFA provision.

**3.7 Preferred model**

The fostering service has carefully considered the four schemes identified and the view supported by the Directorate Management Team is that the Wolverhampton model is our preferred option on which to consult with carers. The reasons for this are that it fulfils the following objectives:

- It will increase internal fostering provision by having a 0-18 approval category so that more dialogue can be had with foster carers about their ability to care for a wider age range of children.
- Offer carers an attractive financial, training and support package so that carers choose to foster for Walsall as opposed to other local authorities or IFA's and

once they make the decision to foster for Walsall that we retain them as Walsall foster carers.

Wolverhampton scheme is a fee per bed approach, which means carers will only receive payment if there is a child in placement unless we are holding a bed for the placement of a pre-existing child. This means that based on the current figures we would not be paying for 27 vacancies. It is also based on the payment of the DfE rates similar to what a number of other authorities are also moving towards as this offers a more realistic amount of money needed to care for a child in an average family. It offers a progression scheme for carers offering to care for non-specified Looked after Children and it recognises the need for solo placements. The scheme will also offer some potential savings in the longer term and it will support any future move towards a regional fostering provision similar to what is currently underway for the provision of adoption services.

As an amendment to the Wolverhampton Model It has been recognised by the service and its management team that there is a need to ensure that becoming a foster carer with Walsall is an attractive proposition, especially with the service having savings targets around the increased recruitment of carers to be used to convert independent foster placements into internal ones. As such consultation with carers will also consider a 3 month 50% fee protection as part of the scheme which will provide new carers some financial reassurance while they are training and readying themselves to take a placement. Below is a table illustrating the potential financial impact of this fee protection scheme, based on 15/16 recruitment levels of 18 new carers at assumed levels of 301/Generic 1 and 401/Advanced 1 the illustrative cost of protection for these new carers would be estimated at £32K.

Current Skill Level/Proposed Skill Level	Carers Recruited	Q1	Q2	Q3	Total
301/Generic 1	9	3,443	3,443	3,443	3,443
401/Advanced 1	9	4,475	4,475	4,475	4,475
<b>Cumulative Cost</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7,918</b>	<b>15,836</b>	<b>23,753</b>	<b>31,671</b>

#### 4. Council priorities

- 4.1 Key Council priority of **Pursue inclusive economic growth**: This will be addressed by offering Walsall residents the opportunity to foster Walsall children and to be offered an attractive fee payment scheme in return. This will be addressed through the continuation of Walsall's Fostering recruitment campaign which is targeting all those interested in fostering and especially those interested in fostering older children and sibling groups.
- 4.2 Key Council priority of **Children are safe from harm, happy and learning well with self-belief, aspiration and support to be their best**: This will be addressed through effective recruitment and retention of skilled foster carers who are able to meet the diverse range of needs of children cared for by the local authority. It will also support our aim of providing more placements for Looked after Children in Walsall so they are able to maintain placements in local schools, contact with family and friends and to support their ongoing social and emotional development.

## **5. Risk management**

- 5.1 There is a risk that a change to a new scheme may result in a loss of Walsall foster carers in the short term if carers are unhappy with the move to a fee per bed approach and a need to offer placements to a broader range of children. However, other neighbouring authorities aside from Birmingham don't offer any more financial reward for fostering so the only option for existing carers would be to consider a move to a private IFA provider. IFA providers have no control over their referrals for placements as most Local Authorities will only approach an IFA if there is no internal provision, so carers are more likely to have placements for children in line with their matching preferences if they remain with Walsall.

The risk of losing carers will need to be assessed on an individual basis and on the particular circumstances of individual carers. Existing carers will need a period of transition from one scheme to the other during which time they will need to be offered additional training and support. It will also be important to consider matching preferences to ensure that these are realistic and manageable for carers dependent on their individual circumstances.

There is the risk of the impact this is likely to have on Family and Friend carers. The majority of these carers are currently considering or are being approached to consider Special Guardianship Orders (SGO). Securing a child's long term future via the granting of an SGO is the right course of action for the vast majority of children placed in family and friend arrangements and carers need to be encouraged and supported to apply for these in line with a child's care plan. For existing carers wishing to consider an SGO, if this was concluded within the next 6-12 months, they will be unaffected by the changes as ongoing allowance payments until children reach the age of 18 will be agreed at the existing rates.

For new family and Friend foster carers, the timescale for applying for an SGO is being addressed from the outset and they will be made fully aware of the change to new allowance rates in line with DfE recommended rates.

## **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1 The current budget for internal fostering placements is £5.359m, and the forecast position for 2016/17 is currently £5.186m, this represents an under spend of £172k against the budget for 2016/17. The Cabinet paper, 'Corporate Budget Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20', approved at Full Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, includes saving proposals of £135k for each financial year associated with the conversion of an additional 7 independent fostering placements to internal fostering placements each year (i.e 21 conversions in totality over the Medium Term Financial Outlook). The changes to the fostering fee and allowance scheme set out in this paper are aimed at enhancing the Walsall offer to support increased recruitment activity, which is necessary to deliver the above saving proposals each year.
- 6.2 Due to the difficulties in forecasting future children and carer levels, the financial modelling that has been undertaken with regard to the revised fees and allowances has been based on the current position of Internal fostering placements, i.e. The modelling is based on the existing numbers of children and

carers and the current mix of skills and complexities of carers. As such the actual financial outcomes may vary in the future should the mix of carers and children change. A number of additional assumptions have been made in the analysis of the financial impact, which includes:

- The existing 27 current vacancies (as at the end of Jan 2017) will no longer attract a fee (i.e. as a result of adopting the fee per bed scheme)
- New carers with vacancies will get the 3 month 50% pay protection.
- The number of family and friends carers attracting a fee does not increase beyond the current 22 as a result of the reduction of the allowances received by the child in their care, as detailed earlier in the report.
- Any existing internal foster carers where a financial loss could be incurred should a revised scheme be implemented has been included with an uplift on the proposed fee structure to ensure those carers do not incur a reduction on the fee they currently receive.

6.3 A summary table is presented below to show the comparable financial impact of all schemes considered:-

<b>Potential cost/(saving)</b>				
<b>Coventry</b>	<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>Leeds</b>	<b>Walsall Existing Enhanced (Level 4 FPP only)</b>	<b>Walsall Proposed New Rate (Based on Wolverhampton Model)</b>
<b>267,096</b>	<b>(305,580)</b>	<b>217,265</b>	<b>(38,369)</b>	<b>(55,847)</b>

6.4 The preferred proposal would for a full financial year reduce total spend for the authority by £56K. However, the full implementation will not be achievable until next year; the part year effect in 2017/18 would be £28K cost reduction.

## **7. Legal implications**

7.1 Legal have been consulted and their view is that consultation with existing carers needs to be thorough and robust so that carers feel their views are being listened to and acted upon. At this stage there are no particular implications. However, it is likely that some carers who are unhappy with the new proposals will seek to make a complaint using the council's complaints process, if carers remain dissatisfied they may take their complaint to the ombudsman.

## **8. Property implications**

8.1 None

## 9. Health and wellbeing implications

9.1 The health, wellbeing and positive outcomes for both Foster Carers and Looked After Children are paramount in the fees and allowances scheme that is approved.

## 10. Staffing implications

10.1 None.

## 11. Equality implications

11.1 None are identified at this stage. However, following consultation with carers there is a likelihood that some carers, most likely family and friend foster carers will raise concern about the adverse impact on them and the children they are caring for.

## 12. Consultation

12.1 Lynn Levesley – Legal Services Manager.  
Nilu Ghai – Senior HR consultant.  
Joseph Hall - Senior Accountancy Officer

**Background papers - None**

### Author

Lisa Preston

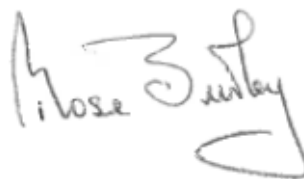
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David Haley  
Executive Director  
6 March 2017



Councillor Rose Burley  
Portfolio holder  
6 March 2017

**BOARDING OUT ALLOWANCE 2004/2005**

**N.F.C.A. % FORMULA**

Age	Boarding Out Rate	Food		Clothing		Personal	
		%	£	%	£	%	£
0 - 4		34%		22%		6%	
5 - 10		32%		26%		8%	
11 - 15		32%		26%		10%	
16 +		30%		26%		17%	

Transport		Household	
%	£	%	£
8%		30%	
7%		27%	
11%		21%	
9%		18%	



**FOSTER CARE PAYMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/16**

The following Rates to be applied 1st April 2015

Boarding Out Section 38 Residence Orders (Protected from previous scheme) <i>Fostering Network (LAC rate)</i>			Adoption Allowance Scheme AA, B, & C & Protected Residence allowances		Adoption Allowance Scheme D New & Reviewable Residence Orders Special Guardianship Orders (Non LAC rate)	
<u>Age Band</u>	<u>Per Week</u>		<u>Age Band</u>	<u>Per Week</u>	<u>Age Band</u>	<u>Per Week</u>
0 - 4	£142.86		0 - 4	£107.15	0 - 4	£93.22
5 - 10	£162.73		5 - 10	£122.05	5 - 10	£106.27
11 - 15	£202.58		11 - 15	£151.94	11 - 15	£132.26
16 +	£246.44		16 +	£184.83	(11-15 ageband only if this age at time of matching)	
			Scheme C only (11-15 ageband only if this age at time of matching)			
Fee Per Household			Fee Per Placement		Mileage	
<u>Per Week</u>			<u>Per Week</u>		34p per mile 13.3p excess mileage	
Level	201	£86.31	£395.43			
	202	£113.89	Equipment Grant			
	203	£170.85	£2.31 Per Week		Stand By	
Level	301	£132.74	Session/Training Fee			
	302	£228.94	£17.00 Per Session		£26.96 Per Session	
	303	£343.38				
Level	401	£224.38				
	402	£359.02				
	403	£538.55				

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOSTER CARE PAYMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/2017**

The following Rates to be applied 1st April 2016

Boarding Out Allowance Rates 100% Fostering Network		Fee Scheme's Payment Rates			Miscellaneous Payments	
<u>Age Band</u>	<u>Per Week</u>			<u>Per Week</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	
				Fee	E-Grant	
0 - 4	£142.86	Level 201		£86.31 +	£2.31	34.0p per mile
		202		£113.89 +	£2.31	
5 - 10	£162.73	203		£170.85 +	£2.31	13.3p per mile excess
11 - 15	£202.58	Level 301		£132.74 +	£2.31	
		302		£228.94 +	£2.31	<u>Stand By</u>
16 +	£246.44	303		£343.38 +	£2.31	£26.69 per Session
		Level 401		£224.38 +	£2.31	
		402		£359.02 +	£2.31	
		403		£538.55 +	£2.31	
		F.P.P. 1st child		£395.43 +	£2.31	
		each subsequent child		£395.43		

Short Term Breaks for Children with Disabilities (Voucher Scheme)

Rates per Session

<u>Age Band</u>	<u>STB3</u>	<u>STB4</u>
0 - 4	£26.56	£35.85
5 - 10	£27.98	£37.27
11 - 15	£30.82	£40.11
16+	£33.96	£43.25



