

PROPOSED FOSTERING ALLOWANCES AND OTHER RATES FOR 2014/15

Fostering allowances

The age related fostering allowance is set at the level recommended by the Fostering Network which is based on the direct cost of looking after an average child in each age band.

For 2014/15 the Fostering Network recommendation is for an increase of 2.3%. Their recommendation is based on the CPI inflation rate forecast for 2014 in order to ensure that age related allowances continue to cover the full cost of caring for a child in each age band

Current fostering allowances:

<u>AGE BAND</u>	<u>2013/14 WEEKLY RATES</u>
0 – 4	£137.18
5 – 10	£156.52
11 – 15	£194.53
16+	£236.64

Proposed fostering allowances:

<u>AGE BAND</u>	<u>2014/15 WEEKLY RATES</u>
0 – 4	£140.34
5 – 10	£159.85
11 – 15	£199.00
16+	£242.08

Fostering Fees

Level one – basic fee for meeting criteria for high standards of foster care

2014/15 fee £50 pw

No change to 2013/14 rates.

Level two – enhanced fee for carers meeting level one and additional criteria relating to caring for children with complex needs

2014/15 fee

£70.00 for children aged 5-10 yrs
£125.00 for children aged 11+ yrs.

No change to 2013/14 rates.

Level three – fee for therapeutic foster placements

A fee based on national residential care worker grade 6 (Hay grade L), in 2013/14 this was between £474 to £520 per week depending on length of service.

This therapeutic fee is paid for two placements where both child and carer meet very tightly assessed criteria under the therapeutic fostering scheme, funded from the pooled budget for children with multiple and complex needs and as an alternative to residential placement.

This fee will increase in line with Local Government pay – expected to be 1%.

Permanence (adoption, special guardianship and residence order) allowances

The Fostering Network recommended rate is the starting point for calculation for all adoption, special guardianship and residence order allowances, reflecting the direct costs of looking after an average child at each age.

Allowances are based on assessed need, calculated and approved in accordance with the adoption and special guardianship allowance schemes as set out in our procedures.

Current starting point for calculation (2014/15):

<u>AGE</u>	<u>WEEKLY RATE</u>
0 – 4	£140.34
5 – 10	£159.85
11 – 15	£199.00
16 +	£242.08

Family Link Rates

Current daytime rate (2013/14) = £5.51 per hour

Proposed new daytime rate (from 1st April 2014) = £5.75 per hour.

This hourly rate has not changed for a number of years. Family Link carers provide an essential role in providing episodes of care to children in need, including children with complex medical needs.

Current overnight rates (2013/14)

Lower rate £43.00

Higher rate £53.76

No change.

Savings scheme

The weekly rate of contributions set aside by the authority for all children in care, and paid with annual interest in the event of adoption, special guardianship, residence order or leaving care aged 16 or over.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>RATE 13/14</u>	<u>RATE 14/15</u>
0 – 4	£2.14	£2.16
5 – 10	£3.24	£3.27
11 – 15	£4.75	£4.79
16 +	£6.90	£6.97

Supported lodgings and board and lodgings rates

Current supported lodgings rates (2013/14):

Rent	£65
Support	£76
Young Person contribution	£13
Total received by provider	£154

Proposed supported lodgings rates (2013/14):

Rent	£65
Support	£87
Young Person contribution	£13
Total received by provider	£165

We are proposing that the support element paid to lodgings providers for care leavers is increased from £76 to £87 per week. The supported lodgings rate has not changed for a few years and the gap between what 'staying put' carers receive for care leavers and what lodgings providers receive is significant. An increase of £11 per week will better acknowledge the skills and demands made of lodgings providers to some of our vulnerable care leavers.

Care leaver maintenance

Current rate = £56.80 per week (based on Job Seekers Allowance as required by regulations and guidance).

Proposed new rate (from 1st April 2014) = the maintenance rate will be maintained/increased in line with Job Seekers Allowance.