

## PROPOSED FOSTERING ALLOWANCES AND OTHER RATES FOR 2012/13

### ***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, plus 50% to reflect the additional costs of looking after a child in care.

In the year 2010/11 age related allowances were increased by 5.1%, having been frozen in 2009/10, both years in line with Fostering Network recommendations.

For 2012/13 the Fostering Network recommendation is for an increase of 2.3%. Their recommendation is based on the CPI inflation rate forecast for 2012 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>2011/12 WEEKLY RATES</u>
0 – 4	£131.47
5 – 10	£ 149.76
11 – 15	£186.43
16+	£226.74

#### **Proposed fostering allowances:**

<u>AGE BAND</u>	<u>2012/13 WEEKLY RATES</u>
0 – 4	£134.49
5 – 10	£153.20
11 – 15	£190.72
16+	£232.00

## ***Fostering Fees***

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

2011/12 fee £50 pw

2012/13 fee £50 pw

No change, in line with local government pay.

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

2011/12 fees

£68.02 for children aged 5-10 yrs

£120.36 for children aged 11+ yrs.

2012/13 fees

£68.02 for children aged 5-10 yrs

£120.36 for children aged 11+ yrs.

No change, in line with local government pay.

Level three – fee for therapeutic foster placements

A fee based on national residential care worker grade 6 (Hay grade L), currently from £474 to £520 per week depending on length of service.

This therapeutic fee is paid for a limited number of 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 continue to be frozen in line with local government pay.

### ***Family Link Rates***

Current daytime rate (2011/12) = £5.51 per hour

Proposed new daytime rate (from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012) = £5.51 per hour.

No change.

Current overnight rates (2011/12)

Lower rate    £43.00

Higher rate   £53.76

Proposed overnight rates (2012/13)

Lower rate    £43.00

Higher rate   £53.76

No change.

### ***Savings scheme***

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.

<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>RATE 11/12</u></b>	<b><u>RATE 12/13</u></b>
0 – 4	£2.14	£2.14
5 – 10	£3.24	£3.24
11 – 15	£4.75	£4.75
16 +	£6.90	£6.90

No change.

### ***Permanence (adoption, special guardianship and residence order) allowances***

The rate given is the starting point for calculation for all adoption, special guardianship and residence order allowances and reflects the direct costs of looking after an average child at each age as advised by the Fostering Network. This starting point is uprated each year in line with fostering allowances to maintain this link.

Allowances are based on assessed need, calculated and approved in accordance with the adoption and special guardianship allowance schemes set out in the child care quality manual. The standardised means test model is used to calculate allowances following local guidance.

While special guardianship allowances are assessed within the same framework as adoption allowances this link is not rigid and both schemes allow for flexibility and discretion in response to the assessed needs of the individual child and family.

#### **Current starting point for calculation (2011/12):**

<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>WEEKLY RATE</u></b>
0 – 4	£87.56
5 – 10	£99.74
11 – 15	£124.16
16 +	£151.01

#### **Proposed starting point for calculation (2012/13):**

<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>WEEKLY RATE</u></b>
0 – 4	£89.66
5 – 10	£102.13
11 – 15	£127.15
16 +	£154.67

### ***Supported lodgings and board and lodgings rates***

#### **Current supported lodgings rates (2011/12):**

Rent	£65
Support	£76
Young Person contribution	£13
<b>Total received by provider</b>	<b>£154</b>

#### **Proposed supported lodgings rates (2012/13):**

Rent	£65
Support	£76
Young Person contribution	£13
<b>Total received by provider</b>	<b>£154</b>

No change.

### ***Care leaver maintenance***

Current rate = £53.45 per week (based on Job Seekers Allowance as required by regulations and guidance).

Proposed new rate (from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012) = the maintenance rate will be maintained/increased in line with Job Seekers Allowance.