

PROPOSED FOSTERING ALLOWANCES AND OTHER RATES FOR 2011/12

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 frozen in line with Fostering Network recommendations. For 2011/12 the Fostering Network recommendation is for an increase of 5.1% to ensure 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>2010/11 WEEKLY RATES</u>
0 – 4	£125.09
5 – 10	£ 142.49
11 – 15	£177.38
16+	£215.74

Proposed 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

Fostering Fees

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

2010/11 fee £50 pw

2011/12 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

2010/11 fees

£68.02 for children aged 5-10 yrs
£120.36 for children aged 11+ yrs.

2011/12 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 (2010/11) = £5.51 per hour

Proposed new daytime rate (from 1st April 2011) = £5.51 per hour.

No change.

Current overnight rates (2010/11)

Lower rate £43.00

Higher rate £53.76

Proposed overnight rates (2011/12)

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.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>RATE 10/11</u>	<u>RATE 11/12</u>
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

Maximum rate for all adoption, special guardianship and residence order allowance calculations is based on two thirds of the age related allowance payable to foster carers, which reflects the direct costs of looking after an average child at each age as calculated by the Fostering Network.

Allowances are calculated and approved in accordance with the adoption allowance scheme set out in the child care quality manual. The standardised means test model is used to calculate allowances following local guidance. The rates and calculation take account of the fact that adopters and other carers with parental responsibility are able to claim child benefit and child tax credit unlike foster carers.

Current maximum allowances (2010/11):

<u>AGE</u>	<u>WEEKLY RATE</u>
0 – 4	£83.31
5 – 10	£94.90
11 – 15	£118.14
16 +	£143.68

Proposed maximum allowances (2011/12):

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

Set at 66.6% of fostering age related allowances (it is a statutory requirement that the maximum permanence allowance is based on age related fostering allowances).

Supported lodgings and board and lodgings rates

Current supported lodgings rates (2010/11):

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

Proposed supported lodgings rates (2011/12):

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

No change.

Care leaver maintenance

Current rate = £51.85 per week (based on Job Seekers Allowance)

Proposed new rate (from 1st April 2011) = the maintenance rate will be maintained in line with Job Seekers Allowance.