

## **In-house versus Independent Sector Foster**

Payments made to in-house foster carers are primarily made up of 2 elements:

- a professional fostering fee – which depends on the level of skills/experience of the carer (and the number of children placed in their care)
- a weekly allowance – based on the age of the child (and the number of children placed in their care)

A schedule of the current scale of fees and allowances is attached as an Appendix.

Typically the payment made to a professional in-house foster carer with one child ranges from £371 per week (if the child is aged 0 to 4 years old) through to £458 per week (if the child is 16+). NB These figures do not take account of the cost of in-house services engaged in recruiting/supporting Children's Service's own in-house foster carers. If the cost of these in-house services are taken into account then the typical cost of a child placed with an in-house professional carer is estimated to be circa £500 per week.

The cost of purchasing foster care for a child through an independent Fostering Agency is typically £800 per week.

<b>Fostering Fees and Allowances</b>
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Effective from Monday 4th April 2011/12

**1 Basic Weekly Allowance**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Fostering Placements £</b>
0-4	111.00
5-10	124.00
11-12	155.00
13-15	155.00
16+	195.00

**2 Professional Fostering Fees**

	<b>£</b>
1 child in placement	261.00
2 children in placement	429.00
3 children in placement	538.00
4 or more children in placement	604.00
Individual agreed fee	168.00

**3 Payment for Skills Level 2**

	<b>£</b>
First Child in Placement	52.00
Each subsequent Child	26.00

**4 Maximum Initial Clothing Allowance**

	<b>£</b>
Under 10	326.00
11-13	394.00
14 and over	436.00

**5 Birthday and Christmas Allowance**

One weeks basic allowance linked to age of young person and type of care.

**6 Holiday Allowance**

Two weeks basic allowance linked to age of young person and type of care.