

## **FOSTER CARER ALLOWANCES AND FEES**

The Current and Recommended Basic Allowances as per National Government Minimum Rates:

All Carers receive the following: -

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Current Scales</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
	<b>Weekly Allowance</b>	<b>Weekly Allowance</b>
0 - 4	£141.00	£159.00
5 – 10	£156.00	£175.00
11 - 15	£177.00	£199.00
16 - 17	£207.00	£233.00

## **Holiday, Birthday and Religious Festival Allowances**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Holiday Current</b>	<b>Birthday Current</b>	<b>Religious Festival Current</b>
0 – 4	£397.50	£159.00	£159.00
5 – 10	£437.50	£175.00	£175.00
11 – 15	£497.50	£199.00	£199.00
16 – 17	£582.50	£233.00	£233.00

## **ENHANCEMENTS**

In March 2022, the Service carried out a review and introduced a revised payment structure. The previous Skill Fee Allowance was replaced with the following:

- Foster Carer Fee, an age-related fee with different fees for age banded groups 0-10 and 11-17
- Fee Plus, a wide structure of additional fees set out under two distinct categories
- Contributions to the service, at specified rates depending upon a number of specific roles
- Payments for Long Service Award, Referral Fee and Welcome Fee
- Payments for sibling group placements

These payments are uplifted each year in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

### **DISCRETIONARY ALLOWANCES**

In addition to the basic allowances referred to above, certain other allowances are payable and it is proposed that these also remain the same these allowances ensure all children coming into care have adequate clothing. It is a one off payment only for those newly entering the care system.

1) **Initial clothing**

Senior Managers have discretion to make allowances up to the following amounts:

0 - 7 years	£484.00
8 - 10 years	£489.00
11-12 years	£643.00
13 -17 years	£764.00

2) **School outfits, tools and protective clothing**

Senior Managers have authority to make available to foster carers an allowance of up to £289.00 to assist towards the purchase of a school uniform for a child entering school or transferring to a school where a different uniform is required or to assist a young person taking up employment. This will remain unchanged for 2023/24.