

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001331
Date 18 July 2017

Foster Care Allowances and Payments

Request:

- 1) Please could you tell me your 2017-18 weekly foster care allowances for all age bands, NOT including any fee/reward element for foster carers.

The weekly fostering allowances are as follows:

0-4 years	£128.00
5-10 years	£141.00
11-15 years	£161.00
16+ years	£188.00

- 2) Please detail your current fee/reward structure for foster carers (NB this is different to allowances for the child). Please include:
In Wolverhampton, we use a payment for skills structure to guide the fostering fees.

- i) Details of the levels/bands for carers and how much you pay per week at each level/band.

	One Child	Two Children	Three Children	Four Children
Level One	£85.00	£102.00	£119.00	£154.70
Level Two	£255.00	£306.00	£357.00	£464.10
Level Three	£331.50	£397.70	£463.40	£602.00
Level Four	£600.00	N/A	N/A	N/A

- ii) The number of foster carers on each level/band, including those that receive no fee on top of the child's allowance.

Level One	Fifty three Foster Carers
Level Two	One hundred and one Foster Carers
Level Three	Twenty-one Foster Carers
Level Four	One

- 3) Please could you tell me your weekly allowances to former foster carers looking after young people in Staying Put 18+ arrangements, broken down by year 1, year 2, and year 3+ if necessary?

Payments are static irrespective of year one, two or three. Maximum care payment is either £255.00 or £331.50 depending on level of Foster Carer. It is broken down into three components totalling a maximum care payment:

1. Local Housing Allowance for accommodating Authority e.g. Wolverhampton

is £86.30

2. Contribution from young person - £25.00.

3. Care Payment from Wolverhampton to total up to maximum care payment.

4) Please detail your current fee/reward structure for former foster carers looking after young people in Staying Put arrangements. Please include:

i) Details of the levels/bands and how much you pay per week at each level/band?.

There are two maximum care payment bands, £255.00 or £331.50.

ii) The number of former foster carers on each level/band, including those that receive no fee on top of the child's allowance?

Currently there are three carers on the higher maximum care payment and twenty-six on the lower care payment.