CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Response to Request for Information

Reference   FOI 002685
Date   21 August 2018

Foster Care

Request:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), for a copy of the documents containing the following information:

1.   Details of the lowest, highest and average weekly fee rates agreed with external suppliers of Independent Foster Care Services for the current year (2018/2019)?
        Lowest weekly fee on the Fostering framework is £595, the highest is £1265. The most common fee averages at £725.

2.   Details of the lowest, highest and average weekly fee rates paid to local authority carers?
        Allowances for Carers and Children placed with them will vary from carer to carer given different tiers of caring responsibility and differing ages of the children placed. However, please find our response below:

        Highest level 3 allowances are £255 per week and £191 per week Children's Allowance for an older child.
        Total = **£446** per week.

        Lowest Level 1 carer (Family and Friends Team) is £85 per week carers Allowance and 133 per week Children's Allowance for a young child/baby
        Total = **£218** per week.

        Average Allowances (The figure the majority off our carers receive is £255 per week Carer's Allowance and £133 Children's allowance per week.
        Total = **£388** per week.

        (Please note that for questions 1 and 2, we do not require details of all rates paid to individual suppliers, simply minimum, maximum and average rates payable.)

3.   Details of the rates of each tier for independent fostering agencies (if there is a framework agreement in place), or confirmation that tier rates have not changed from the previous year?
        The lead for the Fostering Framework is Birmingham City Council, the tiers have not changed in the last year.

4. The number of looked after children in foster care as at 31 March 2018 and of those children, the percentage looked after by independent foster agencies?
492 children placed in foster care at 31st March 2018
226 placed with an agency carer – 46%