

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

You should ensure that:

- ❖ You read, understand and when appropriate act on this information
- ❖ All staff you are responsible for, read, understand and where appropriate act on this information.
- ❖ You identify any training in relation to this policy for yourself and staff you are responsible for and notify the training forum or include in annual training needs assessments
- ❖ You have a system for recording that staff, you are responsible for, have been told of the existence of this policy/procedure.

Policy/Procedure Number	
Date of Issue of this Edition	March 2011
SECTOR (to whom it applies)	Safeguarding – Social Work
Distribution (to whom sent)	Service Managers, Team Managers Social Work, Child Care Solicitors
Lead Manager	
Other Contacts: (if applies)	
Previous Policy/Procedure Cancelled	April 2010 - 2011
Review Date	Feb 2012
Signature:	Date:

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

FINANCE
2012

APRIL 2011 - MARCH

CHILDREN - FOSTER CARE ALLOWANCES - SCALE OF ALLOWANCES

PURPOSE

The objective of this procedure is to set out the scale of allowances to be paid by the Children's Services and Learning Directorate.

SCOPE

This procedure relates to children in foster care, including specialist schemes, and to carers' training courses. The scale of allowances only applies to children who are looked after by the local authority and are not under the control and custody of parent, relative, guardian or friend.

POLICY

To pay allowances to approved foster carers for children who are looked after (in care or accommodated) and in foster care, and for immediate placements made under Regulation 24 of the Fostering Services Regulations 2011. All allowances are based on the needs of the child placed and financial resources available.

To ensure that carers do not find themselves worse off financially because of their role as foster carers for this directorate.

Other than in an emergency, carers are expected to have the required approval before expenditure is incurred.

REFERENCES TO LEGAL, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER EXTERNAL DOCUMENTS

Children Act 2004 and associated Guidance

Fostering Services Regulations 2011

Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

CITY/SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE REFERENCES

Social Policy Committee meeting 30th January 1998 agreed that no further reference to Committee need be made while allowances are increased in line with Fostering Network minimum basic allowances.

At Health and Social Care Directorate Council Meeting in July 2002, Members agreed to increase allowances to foster carers above the rate of inflation, striving to match best practice, in order to improve recruitment and retention.

Where children can be maintained outside the care system by “family or friends” as an alternative to care, payments may be made through Section 17 Children Act 1989 in line with procedure Children Away from Home (03/01).

DEFINITIONS

An approved foster carer is a person who has been assessed and accepted under the Fostering Services Regulations 2011, by the appropriate Decision Maker on behalf of the Executive Director, Children’s Services and Learning. Regulation 24 allows a “connected person” to be approved as a temporary foster carers for up to 16 weeks in an emergency by the “Nominated Officer”.

DELEGATION

Payment of allowances must be in accordance with the Procedures and authorised by one of the following Officers depending upon the type of allowance/ placement:-

	<u>Authorising Officers</u>
Standard Fostering Allowance	Foster Care Services Team Manager/Fostering Service Senior Practitioner
Supplementary payments, and all other payments	Foster Care Services Team Manager/ Fostering Service Senior Practitioner
Emergency Care, Level 1,2 & 3	Foster Care Services Team Manager/ Fostering Service Senior Practitioner

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

Training Courses	Foster Care Services Team Manager to approve course tutors' claims (Form Sal 30 Rev FF) and course members' claims (AF24) for those courses run by Directorate Staff, and course tutors' and course members' claims for courses funded and run by the Fostering Team.

The Officer authorising a payment must not be the same Officer who has recommended/proposed the allowance.

AUTHORITY TO VARY THE PROCEDURE

In exceptional circumstances only, Service Managers or Foster Care Services Team Manager may approve payment outside the scale of allowances identified in these procedures. Requests to seek authority to vary the procedure in individual cases only should be referred to the Service Manager or Foster Care Services Team Manager. Full details of the individual case should be included with the request.

SCALE OF ALLOWANCES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE AND SPECIAL SCHEMES

PROCEDURE

This procedure is arranged in the following sections:-

1. Rates Payable for Foster Children from 3rd April 2011.
- 2-5. Special Schemes

1.0 RATES PAYABLE FOR FOSTER CHILDREN FROM 3rd April 2011

1.1 Standard Rates (from 3rd April 2011)

These are the "recommended rates" by the Fostering Network.

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

Age	Maintenance, including Pocket Money and Clothing*
0 - 4	£131.47 per week (£18.78 per day)
5 - 10	£149.76 per week (£21.39 per day)
11 - 15	£186.43 per week (£26.63 per day)
16+	£226.74 per week (£32.39 per day)

All Age Groups

These rates are payable for both short and long term placements and cover normal maintenance, pocket money, clothing, and local travelling up to 46 miles per week. The Fostering Network recommends the following breakdown of the allowance:

Age	Food	Clothing	Transport	Personal	Household	TOTAL
0-4	44.70	28.92	10.51	7.88	39.45	£131.47
5-10	47.93	38.94	10.49	11.98	40.42	£149.76
11-15	59.66	48.47	20.51	18.65	39.15	£186.43
16+	68.02	58.96	20.41	38.55	40.80	£226.74

Please note Fostering Allowances cease when a young person reaches 18 years or is no longer looked after by the Local Authority. However, under the care leavers legislation, it may be possible for some payments to continue until the young person reaches 21 years, or 24 years if education is continuing.

Regulation 24

A Regulation 24 placement must be approved by a “Nominated Officer” before a placement is made. An appointment at the Fostering Panel must be booked within the sixteen weeks, unless the nominated officer has agreed a further 8 weeks extension time.

The standard rates ONLY can be paid for immediate placements made under Regulation 24 of the Fostering Services Regulations 2011 where a child is placed with a “connected person” who is not an approved foster carer. Such immediate placements must not exceed sixteen weeks unless the 8 week extension period has

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

been agreed by the “Nominated person” and no other fostering allowance is payable until the carer is approved by the Fostering Panel as a foster carer. Social workers should always consider whether it is appropriate and in the child's best interests to bring them within the care system, even for a brief period. It may be more appropriate for a friend or relative to care for the young person, and, if necessary, the Local Authority can contribute towards care costs through Section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Section 17 carers should be reminded about possible entitlement to Child Benefit, Child Tax Credits and Working Tax Credits.

1.2 Special Rates/Enhancements

The rates paid by Southampton City Children’s Services and Learning Directorate to its carers, take into account the difficulties and costs experienced with all placements.

Where a child with a disability is placed with a foster carer, the social worker should ensure that the foster carer is aware of all state benefits which may be claimed in respect of caring for the child.

Note: In exceptional circumstances only a Service Manager (Children) or Foster Care Services Team Manager may approve payment outside the scales identified in these procedures for particular activities.

1.3 School Photos - A contribution of up to £17.13 will be paid towards the purchase of school photographs.

1.4 Clothing

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

1.4.2 Initial Clothing

There is no initial clothing grant.

All children must be adequately clothed and sometimes when a child is newly placed, particularly if they have entered the care system in an emergency, they may not bring with them sufficient clothing. When children begin to be looked after, or have a change of placement, every effort must be made to ensure that their clothing is brought with them. If further clothes are required, parents should be asked to supply them. However, where clothing is still inadequate the social worker should discuss with the foster carer the clothes that the child needs, bearing in mind the Plan for the child.

When a list has been agreed the Case Holding Team Manager can authorise a payment of no more than £150.00 to ensure the child has an appropriate stock of clothing. Carers should then maintain this wardrobe through the weekly clothing allowance.

Carers of particular age groups, such as babies, are expected to maintain a supply of appropriate clothing which may be used for subsequent placements.

1.4.3 CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

A clothing allowance is included in the standard weekly fostering allowance (paragraph 1.1). The Fostering Network recommends that clothing should be between a tenth and a third of the total allowance. The carer is expected to use their discretion about the amount spent on a foster child's clothing. An appropriate proportion of the fostering allowance is expected to be used to keep the child adequately clothed. The amount used for clothing will vary from child to child and from week to week. However, foster carers have requested some guidance about age related amounts, and the percentage recommended on page 3 should be used.

1.4.4 School Uniform, School Sports Clothing and School Equipment

School uniform is only funded at the beginning of a placement or when a change of school occurs. In all other circumstances the Fostering Allowance is intended to cover ongoing costs. When a

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

child joins a new school or changes school for a significant period of time, the social worker should discuss with the foster carer what uniform items, sports clothing and school equipment is necessary. Many items of uniform, equipment and sports clothing can transfer from one school to another, and be replaced when outgrown, particularly if the child is unlikely to remain in the school permanently. The Foster Care Services Team Manager can authorise the purchase of agreed items.

1.5 Travelling Expenses

Routine travelling expenses, up to the first 46 miles in any one week, are included in the standard Fostering Allowance, including local clinic, occasional hospital appointments, travel to the local school, visits and outings. Bus passes should be bought by foster carers from the weekly allowance. Additional travelling expenses incurred in undertaking the following journeys, when these are at a significant distance or very frequent, may be paid, subject to the approval of the Foster Care Services Team Manager.

1.5.1 Introductory visits to new foster homes or adoptive homes.

1.5.2 Taking foster children to contact visits.

1.5.3 Frequent hospital appointments

1.5.4 Taking foster children to a school that is not local, provided this is for educational reasons, has been agreed with the Team Manager, and the Education Support and Planning Services has stated in writing that assistance with travel to and from school will not be paid by them.

Other than in very exceptional circumstances, children at secondary schools, aged 11+, should make their own way to school by bus, bicycle or foot. If carers, or the child, are anxious about travelling an unfamiliar route to school by bus, it may be possible to provide a support worker to accompany them and familiarise them with the route for the first few days. The Children and Family Resource Forum must agree any time-limited exceptions, which should be accompanied by an action plan to achieve more independence: see Transport Policy. If they have passed their cycling proficiency test, and the foster carers have

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

discussed with them the safest route to school, and they have a helmet, they should be safe to travel to school by bike.

Expenses paid are bus or train fares or car mileage based on the rate of 45p per mile, plus car parking charges. We are currently exploring new procedures for using taxis: taxi fares will only be paid in exceptional circumstances and must be agreed beforehand: see Transport Policy.

1.6 Babysitting and Childminding Costs

Foster carers are entitled to claim babysitting costs whilst attending training sessions or meetings at the request of the Directorate. This is currently £3.77 per hour.

1.7 Gift Allowance

An allowance equivalent to one week's fostering allowance shown in paragraph 1.1 is payable to foster parents as appropriate for the child's age, in respect of:

1. Birthdays

- b) Christmas or other religious festival as appropriate**
- c) Wedding or other exceptional circumstance.**

Birthday and Christmas allowances will be paid automatically unless requested otherwise. A request for other gift allowances must be made when appropriate by the social worker.

1.8 Holidays

Where a child/young person has been in placement for 3 weeks, and is intended to remain in the placement throughout the summer, foster carers are entitled to receive a Holiday Grant whether or not they are having a holiday, because of the cost of keeping children entertained during the summer holidays.

If a child has been in placement less than 3 weeks and a holiday allowance is requested, this must be discussed with the Foster Care Services Team Manager.

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

Twice the weekly, age related fostering allowance is payable to foster carers in line with Fostering Networks recommendations.

For ease of reference the Holiday Grants are as follows:-

0 - 4 years	£262.94
5 - 10 years	£299.52
11 - 15 years	£372.86
16 years	£453.48

1.9 EDUCATION

1.9.1 Journeys/Holidays

It may be important for a child's social, emotional and educational development to take part in school outings, journeys and holidays, youth organisation camps and similar activities. Where such an activity is seen to meet a child's need the Foster Care Services Team Manager may authorise payment of all or part of the cost. It may be appropriate for the child to contribute towards such activities, and save towards them.

1.9.2 Other Educational Costs

Other educational costs will be considered on an individual basis, and may be authorised by the Foster Care Services Team Manager on the basis of the child's need. Charges should not be incurred, or commitments made, without previous authorisation. Some young people may have Criminal Injuries Awards which could be applied for to support a major undertaking: see Procedure CF/1/01 (Fieldwork Procedures manual).

1.10 Spectacles

Expenditure of the full cost of frames for National Health Service lenses, or of repairs to spectacles, is allowed when required.

1.11 Equipment on Loan

Beds, cots, bedding, mattresses, prams, car safety seats, car seat belts and restraints, reflective armbands and other items of

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

equipment may be issued on loan where needed. A record of loan equipment must be maintained by the Fostering Team, giving the description of the equipment, the date of purchase, cost, names and addresses of the recipients, dates of issue and withdrawal.

Equipment may be provided in respect of a particular child, or may be provided to foster carers if necessary so that they are able to take emergency or short stay placements. Foster carers must get agreement from the Foster Care Services Team Manager before any purchase of equipment.

When a child with a disability is placed with foster carers, the child's social worker should ensure that at the planning meeting and at all subsequent reviews any needs relating to special equipment for the child are discussed and, where necessary for the child's well-being and with the approval of the Foster Care Services Team Manager, provided.

House alterations

Any work and adaptations on or within the house will be considered if necessary for the well-being of the child, but can only be agreed by the Foster Care Services Team Manager if under £1000. The Service Manager can agree any work or house adaptations up to the value of £10,000 and the Head of Service can agree values above £10,000.

1.12 Receipts

Receipts are required for all payments claimed.

1.13 Play Group/Nursery Fees

Where the foster carer and the Social Worker agree that it is in the interests of a child to attend a play group/nursery the fees will be paid as long as the fees total less than £250 in one year. If above £250, approval must be sought from the Case holding team Service Manager and notification to the Team Manager Foster Care Services . These payments must not be made for a period exceeding 6 months without reconsideration at the statutory Review.

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

1.14 Special interests (including membership of approved organisations)

Children who are looked after should be encouraged to maintain hobbies, sports, and other activities, including membership of organisations such as Scouts, or Sports teams. Where appropriate, and in line with the Care Plan, they should be helped to develop new special interests and skills. Such activities are likely to improve a child's self esteem and wellbeing. Where additional finance is required to support such activities, the foster carer must discuss this with the social worker. The Team Manager Foster Care Services may authorise additional payments. Such payments must be reviewed at each statutory Review. The child may be expected to contribute towards recreational activities and equipment.

Maximum use of the free Smartcities Card, available to looked after children and the children of foster carers, should be encouraged. Foster carers can obtain an application form and authorising letter from their Family Placement Social Worker.

The use of the library by looked after children should be encouraged, and the responsible payment of fines. If large fines are accrued, the foster carer should ensure that the social worker is aware of this: the Directorate will underwrite the fines for looked after children, and foster carers should manage the matter appropriately.

If children need help with transport to continue the special interest, carers may be reimbursed in line with 1.5. Generally, children are expected to make maximum use of public transport, bicycles and their legs!

1.15 Bicycles

Where it is agreed that it is in the child's interest to own a bicycle, and they are likely to use it, a grant may be available. Bicycles are expensive and are intended to last a child a significant time. Consideration should be given to seeking a second hand bicycle unless this would seem a false economy, or part of the cost being met by the Birthday allowance. The purchase of a bicycle must be discussed with the child's social worker, and authorisation may be given by the Foster Care Services Team Manager. Children should be encouraged to attend a Cycling Proficiency Course and to wear

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

a Cycle Helmet. The bicycle should be insured against theft, by listing it on the carer's Household Insurance policy, and coded using the police identification system.

1.16 Passports

Following the first review unless a child is imminently returning home, agreement should be sought from those with Parental Responsibility to apply for a passport for the child, using the relevant form.

If the necessary approval has been given for a child to leave the country, Foster carers must be reimbursed for the passport photograph and fee.

1.17 Damage and loss claims - Contractual Agreement Scheme

1.17.1 The City Council does not expect foster carers to find themselves worse off financially because of their role as foster carers for the Children's Services and Learning Directorate and this must be a consideration when settling damage and loss claims.

1.17.2 The City Council will consider reimbursement, through an ex-gratia payment, of any loss suffered by foster carers as a result of theft or damage to their property by a foster child looked after by Southampton City Council and placed by them. This does not include the normal wear and tear of family life and fostering. It is the responsibility of the foster carer to inform their insurance company that they are foster carers for Southampton City Social Services. A model letter is provided for foster carers.

1.17.3 Where a foster carer wishes to make a claim, the claim form must be completed and returned to the child's social worker, with a copy to the Supervising Social Worker. Any ex-gratia payments will require the Team Manager Foster Care Services approval.

1.17.4 Following discussion with the social worker the child may be expected to repay all or part of the cost of the damage or loss.

1.17.5 Foster carers are referred to the detailed "Insurance: Notes for Foster Carers".

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

1.18 Absences from the Foster Home

When a child is admitted to hospital, the full fostering allowance is payable for the first three weeks of the absence only.

When a child is away from the foster home for any other reason, e.g., home visits, respite care, educational trips etc, a retainer of £8.45 a day will be paid after the first three days of absence.

1.19 Minimum Payments and Respite Care payments

Where a child is with a foster carer for a period of 3 days or less, the payment to the foster carers must represent at least 3 days fostering allowance. This is a minimum payment, and applies whenever an overnight stay of a day or more occurs, unless the stay is part of introductions when the standard daily rate applies.

1.20 Day Care - Non Looked After Child

Where a child requires day care with a foster carer, the respite day carer will be paid £3.77 an hour. This payment is taxable. It is the responsibility of the Foster carer to contact the Inland Revenue, to declare This taxable income.(Information to follow).

Day Care/Baby Sitting - Looked After Child

Where a foster child requires day care/baby sitting with another foster carer, the carer will be paid £3.77 an hour. The payment will within the tax regulations for foster care.

1.21 Over Payments

Overpayments of allowances to foster parents for a period of three days or fewer are not to be reclaimed. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SOCIAL WORKERS TO INFORM FINANCE AS SOON AS PLACEMENTS END AND FOSTER CARER TO INFORM SOCIAL WORKER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF THEY ARE IN RECEIPT OF AN OVERPAYMENT. ALL OTHER OVER PAYMENT WILL BE TREATED AS A DEBT.

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

1.22 Emergency Placements

Where an approved foster parent receives an emergency placement, a one-off payment of £17.65 can be made for the single or multiple placement.

1.23 Training Courses

Foster carers may claim out of pocket expenses e.g. babysitting fees, on the basis of £3.77 per hour per child and travelling expenses at 45p per mile for attending training courses relevant to their role as foster carers. Claims should be made on form AF24. (see paragraph 1.6 re babysitting).

1.24 Approvals

Where needs arise which are outside the scope of any of the allowances detailed above, submission should be made to the Foster Care Services Team Manager who can approve payment in exceptional circumstances.

2.0 SPECIAL SCHEMES

It is the responsibility of all foster carers to ensure that they clarify their tax liability and their benefit entitlement to the Inland Revenue. Rules have been issued by the Inland Revenue which can be sent out to foster carers. It is likely that few foster carers will be liable for income tax. At present the City Council inform the Inland Revenue of all fees paid.

2.1 DISABLED CHILDREN

Disabled children may be looked after by mainstream foster carers, or, because of their exceptional needs, through a special scheme.

When a child with a disability is placed with foster carers, the child's social worker should ensure that at the planning meeting and at all subsequent reviews any needs relating to special equipment for the child are discussed, and, where necessary for the child's well-being and with the approval of the Foster Care Services Team Manager, provided.

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

Any work and adaptations on or within the house will be considered if necessary for the well-being of the child, and with advice from the Occupational Therapist, but can only be agreed by the Foster Care Services Team Manager if under £1,000. The Service Manager must authorise any payment for work on the house or adaptations up to £10,000, on the basis of a report from the Foster Care Services Team Manager. Anything above £10,000 must be authorised by Head of Service.

3.0 SKILLS BASED SCHEME

In April 2005, Southampton City Council introduced the skills based scheme. This is based on the assessed skills of the foster carers, plus the meeting of certain requirements; training, record-keeping, ongoing supervision and attendance at development groups. This will gradually replace all other fee based schemes.

3.1. New approved carers

3.1.1 Fostering Allowances

All standard fostering allowances are payable to maintain the young person.

3.2 Level 1 Carers

3.2.1 Each care family will receive a household weekly fee of £32.30 whilst a child/ren are in placement.

3.2.2 Each care family will receive a weekly fee of £64.60 for a child in placement. Where a carer is approved for more than one child the £64.60 placement fee is payable for each young person placed.

3.2.3 Fostering Allowances

All standard fostering allowances are payable to maintain the young person.

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

3.2.4 Retainer Fee

When a child is away from the foster home for any other reason, e.g., home visits, respite care, educational trips etc, a retainer of £8.45 a day will be paid after the first three days of absence.

3.2.5 Premature ending of placements

Where a young person decides to leave a placement prematurely the level 1 fee can be paid for a further 14 days or placement of another child or the remainder of the time limit specified in the written agreement-whichever is the lesser number of days.

Respite Care

3.2.6 Where a child is with a foster carer for a period of 3 days or less, the payment to the foster carers must represent at least 3 days fostering allowance. This is a minimum payment, and it applies whenever an overnight stay is part of introductions when the standard daily rate applies.

3.2.7 Each care family will receive a fee pro rata, for each night a child is in placement. This must include a minimum of one overnight during this period. e.g. One child placed for 2 days including 1 overnight the carer will receive 1/7 of household and placement fee. (£13.84)

3.3 Level 2 Carers

3.3.1 Each care family will receive a household weekly fee of £64.60 whilst a child/ren are in placement.

3.3.2 Each care family will receive a weekly fee of £129.20 for a child in placement. Where a carer is approved for more than one child the £129.20 placement fee is payable for each young person placed.

3.3.3 There is an expectation that one adult will be available at all times

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

3.3.4 Fostering Allowance

All standard fostering allowances are payable to maintain the young person.

3.3.5 Retainer Fee

When a child is away from the foster home for any other reason, e.g., home visits, respite care, educational trips etc, a retainer of £8.45 a day will be paid after the first three days of absence.

3.3.6 Premature ending of placements

Where a young person decides to leave a placement prematurely the level 2 fee can be paid for a further 14 days or placement of another child or the remainder of the time limit specified in the written agreement-whichever is the lesser number of days.

Respite care

3.3.7 Where a child is with a foster carer for a period of 3 days or less, the payment to the foster carers must represent at least 3 days fostering allowance. This is a minimum payment, and it applies whenever an overnight stay is part of introductions when the standard daily rate applies.

3.3.8 Each care family will receive a fee pro rata, for each night a child is in placement. This must include a minimum of one overnight during this period. e.g. One child placed for 2 days including 1 overnight the carer will receive 1/7 of household and placement fee. (£27.69)

3.4 Level 3 Carers

3.4.1 Each care family will receive a weekly placement fee of £326.20. These are only single occupancy placements. These placements are for children/young people who are unable to be placed alongside other children.

There is an expectation that one adult will be available at all times.

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

3.4.2 Fostering Allowance

All standard fostering allowances are payable to maintain the young person.

3.4.3 Retainer Fee

When a child is away from the foster home for any other reason, e.g., home visits, respite care, educational trips etc, a retainer of £8.45 a day will be paid after the first three days of absence.

3.4.4 Premature ending of placements

Where a young person decides to leave a placement prematurely the level 3 fee can be paid for a further 14 days or placement of another child or the remainder of the time limit specified in the written agreement-whichever is the lesser number of days.

3.4.5 Respite care

Where a child is with a foster carer for a period of 3 days or less, the payment to the foster carers must represent at least 3 days fostering allowance. This is a minimum payment, and it applies whenever an overnight stay of a day or more occurs, unless the stay is part of introductions when the standard daily rate applies.

Each care family will receive a fee pro rata, for each night a child is in placement. This must include a minimum of one overnight during this period. e.g. One child placed for 2 days including 1 overnight the carer will receive 1/7 of the placement fee. (£46.60)

4.0 PARENT & CHILD PLACEMENT (ASSESSMENT)

Each carer will receive a total payment of £681.21. This payment includes Fostering allowance, fee element and household weekly fee.

4.1 If there is a child already in placement then the house fee of £64.60 will be deducted from the above amount.

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

Agreement will be reached at time of placement what benefits the parents may be able to claim. These amounts in full or part will be deducted from the carers payment as there will be an expectation that the parents benefits will contribute towards the care of their child.

4.2 Premature Endings

If the assessment is ended prematurely by either the parent or the department and both the child and parent are moved and no other P&C placed the carer will continue to receive the fee element of the payment for up to a maximum of 14 days.

4.2.1 If the parent is asked to leave or withdraws from the assessment and leaves the placement but the child remains the carer will continue to receive the age related allowance and the fee element for the child. The fee element for the parent will also be paid for up to 14 days unless another P&C are placed.

4.2.2 If either the child or parent remain in placement, payment to the carer will revert to the age related fostering allowance and carers fee element.

5.0 SUPPORTED LODGINGS PLACEMENTS: - FINANCIAL SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

5.1 16+ Care Leavers in Supported Lodgings (including 18+ remaining with f/carers)

Payments will be based on the young person’s fostering allowance (16+), excluding any fee element. The “Personal Allowance” for the young person is deducted from the amount paid to the SL provider.

	Food	Clothing	Transport	Personal	Household	TOTAL
S.L. Provider	<-----£103.29----->				£70.00	£173.29
YP	<-----£40.65----->				£12.80	£53.45
						£226.74

Notes:

- Expectation is that the YP will buy their own lunches.

Safeguarding

9. Fostering Finance

2. YP contributes £12.80 pw to household costs. This is from their personal allowance, increasing the total amount the S. L. provider receives to £186.09.
 3. Apart from “household”, suggested amounts for each type of costs are not stated because it is more appropriate in this kind of placement to encourage flexibility and individual arrangements within the framework.
 4. 18+ YP are expected to claim housing benefit, and any housing benefit available will be deducted from the amount paid to the S.L. provider and the YP.
 5. 18+ YP are expected to claim state benefits or seek employment, and the YP personal allowance element from SCC will cease to be paid when the YP obtains employment or successfully claims the relevant benefit. NB: the YP will be expected to continue to pay the carer £12.80pw towards household expenses out of their benefit/income.
- 5.2 If a YP at 18+ who was a CLA meets the criteria for adult services, a “shared cost” will be negotiated so that if a SL Placement requires more than the amounts set out above, Adult Services will meet the difference.**

6.0 RETENTION SCHEMES

As part of a strategy to improve carer retention the Directorate has agreed to set up the following scheme:

6.2 Recruitment

Foster carers and staff are encouraged to recruit new carers from amongst their friends and relatives. A payment of £30 will be paid to a current carer who introduces a potential new carer: this payment will be made following a home visit.

Should the application result in approval, a further £300 will be paid at the point of the first placement.