



**achieving  
for children**

## **Independent Fostering Agency Fostering Fees and Allowances Policies 2022/23**

<b>Date created</b>	14 May 2019
<b>Review date</b>	30 March 2023
<b>Date revised</b>	4 April 2022
<b>Lead Agreement</b>	AfC IFA Board - 19 May 22
<b>Revisions</b>	Update child Allowances, additional resource panel, paid respite and DBS/Medical details
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## Introduction

This document sets out the framework of financial support foster carers receive from the AfC Fostering Service. It details the allowances and fees that will be paid to carers and how this money is expected to be used. Foster carers receive these allowances to cover the cost of caring for a child. It also explains the circumstances in which additional payments will be made. The Department for Education set guidelines on the rates of these payments every April.

In 2020, Windsor and Maidenhead branch joined Kingston and Richmond in collecting looked after savings for children and young people at source. This ensures that the savings are held in a central location for a young person to access when they turn 18 years. This is managed by the finance departments within the Royal Borough's in which the young person is cared for.

## Acronyms

RBK - Royal Borough of Kingston

LBR - London Borough of Richmond

RBWM - Royal Borough of Windsor Maidenhead

CLA - Children Looked After

SSW - Supervising social worker

ICO - Interim Care Order

ISO - Interim Supervision order

HMRC - HM Revenue & Customs

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## Fostering Allowances

### Overview

In this section you will find details regarding placement payments to the foster carers which relates weekly allowance and additional payments placements, and alternative to residential placements payment.

### Child Allowance paid to carers

DfE set the minimum weekly child allowance guidelines for Councils based on location. They will change in April of each year according to the rates set by the DfE for that financial year. The rates set by the DfE can be found on their website. AfC will match these allowances.

As part of a local initiative for the year starting April 2022, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead will add to the DfE allowance so that RBWM carers will receive the same amount paid to Kingston and Richmond carers. The decision means that every carer in AfC will be paid the same rate for children no matter the responsible local authority of the child or the location of the AfC carer.

From April 6th 2022 until the revision in April 2023, foster carers in Windsor & Maidenhead, Kingston and Richmond will receive the following fostering allowances.

Age of child/years	Total Weekly payment direct to foster carer/£ per week per child*	Breakdown of Daily rate for weekly payment/£ per child
0-2	159.00	22.71
3-4	162.00	23.14
5-10	181.00	25.85
11-15	206.00	29.42
16+	240.00	34.28

\*Total weekly allowance to the carer; This is related to the daily care needs of a child in placement and covers all general needs and supports for the child including clothing allowance, pocket money and day to day expenses. Anything outside of this is outlined further in this document.

## Holiday & Celebration Allowance

### Overview

All children in the care of foster carers at Achieving for Children are entitled to an annual holiday allowance of up to 'four weeks' which is made up of weekly age-related allowance, paid pro rata

until a young persons 18th birthday. The holiday allowance is an allowance primarily for looked after children who are going on holiday with their foster carers. The allowance is calculated on the age of the child at the 1st April each year. Discussions will take place with the supervising social worker and allocated child social worker around any necessary agreements (for example overseas holiday agreement, risk assessments) and to confirm details of the trip.

The payments will be processed twice a year; end of May/first week of June and end of November/first week of December (depending on pay run dates), this is reflective of Summer and December holiday periods, this will be made up of 2 weeks of the weekly child allowance per period. The child needs to have been in foster placement for at least 8 weeks prior to the holiday allowance payment run for the payment to be processed. If a child/young person leaves the placement between the twice yearly payment, the payment will be made pro rata. Payments are pro rata for the period.

Should the carers wish to book a larger trip for the year, as a one-off holiday for the year, through agreement discussions of this holiday, a case-by-case agreement by fostering management could be made to have both payments for the year be to be paid all at once to support this payment.

The focus of this payment is around supporting the child/young person in participating with 'family' holidays via attending family trips. It can be discretionary on how this looks on an individual basis, and this would take place through discussion with your supervising social worker and agreement with fostering management. The fostering service reserve the right to view the receipts and proof of spend for child's holidays and use of the holiday allowance.

This is effective from April 2020 in Windsor and Maidenhead as well as Richmond and Kingston. The allowance process was been reviewed and updated in July 2020.

### **Review and monitoring**

Payments are reviewed every 6 months by the Fostering Service to ensure correct payments are made.

### **Payments to Foster carers**

<b>Age of child/years</b>	<b>Yearly Holiday Allowance /£ per child</b>
0-2	636 (2x318)
3-4	648 (2x324)
5-10	724 (2x362)
11-15	824 (2x412)
16-17	960 (2x480)

## Paid Respite

### Overview

These payments should be seen as a reward for the foster carer's ongoing commitment to provide stable and consistent care for the children. It is expected that foster carers will utilise respite through their back-up carers. All carers should have at least one approved back up carer. From 1 April 2020, all foster carers with children in short (at least 3 months) and long term placements at Achieving for Children will be entitled to ten days' paid respite, paid at the carer reward fee rate pro rata to the period of placement. The child's allowance will follow the child to their respite arrangement. Additional respite could be paid in exceptional cases if agreed by the Head of Fostering/Director of Social Care. The count of days starts from the date the young person leaves the placement, and the last day is the date the young person returns to the placement, this is based on a 24 hour period and/or part thereof when considering start/finish day. The flexibility with hours allows for a less strict start/finish time and also can allow day respite where for the child's best interest overnight respite is not appropriate.

It is expected that carers use this payment to arrange breaks/respite for the young person, and can look differently based on need/best interest. When carers use their back up carers for formal respite, the carer will pay the back up care the child allowance aspect for the period of the respite. These respites are recorded by the social worker as the same as any other respite arranged by the service. Despite encouraging this it is recognised that not all carers take this entitlement in the generic structure, discussions to not take up the respite option will take place with the supervising social worker and allocated child social worker, this will be formally recorded to be taken into account at the end of financial year. Should a management agreement be made to pay the 10 day (pro rata) respite to the carer at the end of the year, the young person will have had to be in placement for at least 3 months. The payment of this is to be used in activities and resources for the child/young person. Supervising social workers and the fostering service can request details of how the paid respite has been spent, carers are expected to provide this information if asked. All decisions for respite arrangements will be made in the best interests of both child and the carers.

### Review and monitoring

Review every 6 months by the Fostering Service.

### Payments

Level of payment	Daily rate/£ per child	Total paid respite allowance/£ at 10 days
Level 1	27.86	278.57
Level 2	37.14	371.43
Level 3	41.43	414.29

- **For the respite carer**

The respite carer will receive their relevant carer fee level as well as the child's allowance for the period the child is receiving respite. As above this is paid as per day of arrival and day leaving the respite arrangement.

## **Pocket Money for young people in placement & bank accounts**

### **Overview**

General arrangements must exist in all foster homes for the payment of pocket money and savings as well as the opportunity for young people to buy personal effects and clothing at appropriate times. The arrangements should be set out in the Foster Care Agreement or the Placement Information Record for individual children based on discussions at the placement planning meeting.

### **Principles**

- The provision of pocket money is good because it helps children understand the value of money, what things cost and helps them develop budgeting skills necessary for the future. There is an expectation that within the fostering allowance an element of this should be used for pocket money for the child or young person. It is expected that children will be aware of the amount of money they will receive and when this will be paid.
- We have provided suggested minimum weekly amounts for pocket money but understand that circumstances within every home are different and we would want this to be compatible with foster carers' birth children within the home.
- The amount of pocket money should be agreed at the placement planning meeting with the child's social worker and your supervising social worker.
- Younger children should be supervised in how the money is spent but older children should be encouraged to be more independent.
- If there are concerns about how the money is spent these concerns should be discussed with the child and the social worker. If there is a serious risk, the arrangements for providing money may have to be restricted or supervised spending arrangements put in place. This should always be discussed and agreed with the child's social worker.
- Deductions from pocket money should not be made for fines or sanctions unless agreed with the child's social worker, except for reparation of malicious damage or to pay fines determined by a court. If a court imposes such deductions or fines, no more than two thirds of a child's pocket money should be deducted in any week.

Recommended weekly amounts for pocket money

Age (years)	Pocket Money (£/week)
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0-2	3*
3-4	5
5-10	6
11-15	8
16-18	10

\*We do not expect babies to be given pocket money but you may choose to put it towards additional items or simply add to the savings account (see details below).

All children and young people should be encouraged to open a personal savings account so that they can save some of their pocket money and money they receive for their birthdays or Christmas. Whilst children should have access to these accounts, foster carers need to support children to build on these savings. A bank or savings account should be set up and managed by foster carers. You will need proof of the child's identity (passport or birth certificate) and confirmation of the address. The child's social worker or your supervising social worker should be able to arrange these documents. A record of the amount saved and account details should be written up in the foster carer recording file. You should never place a foster child's savings in your own account.

### **Looked After Savings accounts**

AfC is in the process of making arrangements in RBWM to collect savings for young people at source to ensure a one step process of savings, this would match the process in RBK and LBR. Currently processes with RBK & LBR is that a child after 1 year in care has a ISA account opened under government programs (current organisation is Sharefoundation), from that point, the first years savings will be transferred, and every 6 months thereafter. This is arranged through the finance service. Once someone turns 18, they are able to access these funds through an organisational process, further details for this and if a young person is no longer looked after before 18, can be found in the Looked After Children policies.

From April 2020 each child will receive savings according to their age, as follows:

<b>AfC savings for CLA</b>	
<b>Age of child/years</b>	<b>Child's savings (£ per week)</b>
0-2	5.00
3-4	5.00
5-10	5.00

11-15	10.00
16-17	15.00

## **Other Children/young people payments**

### **Initial clothing allowances**

Up to £200 is payable to foster carers to cover the cost of supplying basic essential items of clothing and footwear for children where these items are not available either from their home or previous placement. Requests for additional clothing allowance need to be discussed in advance with the carers' SSW and agreed by a fostering manager. If this child then moves from your care it is expected that they have adequate clothing to take with them.

As young people begin to take more responsibility, depending on their age and understanding, discussions should take place with the young person and their social worker about a personal allowance from the foster carer to allow them to purchase clothing, toiletries and other personal requisites independently.

### **Birthdays, Christmas or Significant Celebrations**

Through the transition of combining RBK, LBR and RBWM finance policies it is noted that for RBWM these provisions have been incorporated into the holiday and weekly allowance to align with processes in place for RBK and LBR AfC policy. With this in mind, purchases for special occasions are discussed with the supervising social worker, and reasonable spending for each occasion to be made. However, where a child or young person is placed within four weeks of a special occasion e.g. birthday a payment of up to £100 can be agreed by fostering Manager. Where the child is placed within 7 weeks of the Christmas period or a significant religious festival a payment of up to one weeks additional allowance can be agreed by the Branch Manager to contribute towards these additional expenses.

### **Medical, Dental, Optical Payments**

Reasonable expenditure for exceptional medical, dental and optical treatment will be reimbursed where not received through the NHS, prior agreement needs to be sought by fostering management before purchase. Approval for such treatment/s will be made by the Head of Fostering. Foster carers must receive agreement from management before treatment is sought.

### **School Clothing Allowance**

Routine replacement and updating of school clothing for a child in your care is covered by the weekly allowance. Where a child is placed without any appropriate school clothing or changes school whilst in your care, the actual cost of the items purchased specifically for the new school will be reimbursed against receipts. This means those items which have the school badge or emblem on them, and cannot be bought from generic shops. Those which are common items such

as plain white shirts, black trousers/skirt, general sports wear are not included. School equipment is also expected to be provided from the weekly allowance therefore items such as calculators, books, and school bags, unless specific school regulations regarding these are in place, will not be included. When a child moves school please discuss this with your social worker.

### School Trips

School day trips or outings will be expected to be paid for from the fostering allowance. Where there is an opportunity for a child to attend an away trip with their school the department may decide to fund this if it is demonstrable that it will educationally benefit the young person and could therefore be considered under the pupil premium. The PEP is a forum where issues such as this could reasonably be raised and discussed. Holiday allowance is not to be used for any school trips or holiday programs.

### Disability Living Allowance - DLA

Foster carers are encouraged to apply for this state benefit for a disabled foster child. It is payable to meet the additional needs arising from the child’s disability and is not deducted from fostering allowances for children under the age of 18.

Carers are required to keep a log of all spending of the DLA including receipts (for purchases outside the normal agreed) which may be requested by the supervising or allocated child social worker. General plans of ‘normal/regular’ use of the DLA can be agreed through the delegated authority with discussion from the child social worker and supervising social worker, anything outside of this would need to be discussed with the allocated child social worker. Anything not spent should be saved for later for the child, though spending is recommended as it is important the child/young person's ongoing daily and changing needs should be addressed through the DLA funding.

- further information on DLA can be found on the gov.uk website.

### Parent and Baby Placements

#### Overview

Once a carer has completed relevant training, has been additionally assessed and further approval for parent and baby placements, carer will be offered a range of parent and baby placements. The difference of costing below is based on the type of order for the placement and age of the parent/child.

No court order Placement (payment for parent only)	ICO or ISO court ordered placement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent fee will be based on their age; &lt;15 based on their age, 16+ (includes 18+).</li> <li>● Foster reward fee (based on current</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent fee will be based on their age; &lt;15 based on their age, 16+ (includes 18+).</li> <li>● Child fee based on the babies age at</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>level)</li> <li>£50 per week for accommodation/household costing for the baby.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>time of placement commencing.</li> <li>Foster reward fee (based on current level)</li> </ul>
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Parent and child placements are offered to support the parent in developing their skills and capacity to meet the needs of their child. For non court ordered placements, the parent is responsible for the finance and care of their baby. For court ordered placements, carers will be expected to provide additional oversight, and potential court updates, as a result of the baby's status being 'looked after', the carer will receive the child placement fee for the baby as well as the parent.

Additionally, there is the fostering rewards fees detailed below. In some rare occasions the alternative to residential placement may also apply.

## Fostering Reward Fees

### Overview

As a foster carer at Achieving for Children, and with a child in placement, you'll receive a fostering reward fee in recognition of your valued role as a foster carer. These are paid to our approved foster carers according to the child's needs and the carer's skills and experience and includes:

- A banded reward fee based on your experience and skill level
- A supplementary fee, paid per child in placement if the child reaches a threshold level of additional need

### Payments

For all new placements from 1 April 2020 and existing placements where foster carers benefit from the below rates compared with the rates in place prior 1 April 2020, the following reward fees will be paid. Individual arrangements for those foster carers who would have seen a decrease in their income have been agreed with those foster carers and the IFA Board. Compliance with the levels are detailed within the competency framework of AfC.

AfC carer level	Carer fee per week per child/£	Daily rate of the weekly payment/£ per child
Level 1	195	27.86
Level 2	260	37.14
Level 3	290	41.43
Alternative to residential fee	Decided on a case by case basis in exceptional cases and has to be signed off by Director of	

## **Additional Financial Supports**

### **Additional Resource Panel**

As of January 2022, AfC has implemented a fostering resource panel to consider additional supports needed for placements and carers. This was in light of needs raised through stability meetings and learning lessons and a way to address adhoc spending. The additional resource payment will be considered in two main parts: needs for the placement to remain stable e.g. additional respite or training, additional payment for the significant impact the additional role plays whether to have support within the home from their network or for the additional tasks beyond 'normally considered'. The allocated supervising social workers will complete a request detailing the current situation, impact, needs and a desired outcome. Examples of support options - external training program, external therapeutic support, additional respite, additional supports in the home, additional payments to carers to cover over and above costs. The panel is made up of a range of professionals across children's services to bring their expertise in considering best options for agreeing additional support.

Current financial arrangements made under the previous scheme of 'complexity' will be reviewed over the year as part of normal reviewing processes and will determine if they remain or alternative resource supports are offered.

### **Alternative to Residential Fee:**

In exceptional cases where the child has a profound disability, has been stepped down from residential care or hospital or intensive fostering is seen as the only alternative to a residential placement, a higher supplementary fee can be paid. These decisions have to be signed off by the Responsible Individual in either branch and are determined on a case by case basis. They require the completion of both a complexity assessment and a short report which collates the views of the foster carer/s on their lived experience of caring for the child, the child/young person and key professionals involved with their care and support. Decisions around whether the threshold for "alternative to residential" are met should be taken within four to six weeks of the child being placed and where appropriate payments will then be backdated. Foster carers can ask that the Chair of the IFA Board review these decisions at intervals of three months if they feel that the child's needs and their level of support has escalated.

### **Connected Person**

During the assessment phase, if a child/young person is residing with the connected person, they will be paid allowance based on the age of the child (please see page 4 of this document) only until completion of a positive assessment and ADM/panel approval has taken place, along with meeting level 1 carer requirements. During the assessment process the connected person will not receive

additional foster carer payments or holiday allowance.

## **Family Link Carers**

Family link carers are part of the short breaks service, there are different training and approval requirements associated with this type of caring support, which is generally offered to non-looked after children, who reside with their families. Family Link payments are completed separately through Children with Disability teams.

## **Supporting the service policy**

### **Overview**

This policy provides summary information for our foster carers and staff on the activities that constitute as a foster carer supporting the fostering service, and the process for claiming the sessional rate that foster carers and the fostering service should follow.

### **Payments**

#### **Supporting the department**

Foster carers are entitled to a sessional rate of £11.23 per hour for supporting the fostering service.

The following activities constitute as supporting the fostering service in a manner that is not directly related to the care of a child:

- Contributing to training as a facilitator or speaker
- Speaking at events or in a professional forum
- Support for recruitment activities
- Any other activities agreed by the Branch Manager

#### **Out of Hours Foster Carer availability list**

AfC provide details of available carers who have put themselves forward for out of hours placement. This is updated weekly or if all carers become available within the week. To be eligible for this, you must have an available placement, ideally be able to take a placement 0-17 years and be available for the coming month, in case the emergency placement is needed for this period before formal matching.

Out of Hours is arranged Friday to Thursday, and carers might be contacted between 5pm and 9am on those days.

RBK&R will ideally put forward 2 available placements/carers within the week, and RBWM will put forward 1 carer. Foster carers will be paid £50 when placed on the out of hours list for the week and if they take a placement through emergency duty/out of hours services, the carers will receive an additional £50, if they do take the placement during this period.

### **Supporting other carers/ supporting care of a Looked After Child**

We expect foster carers to offer informal mutual support to each other , this may involve caring for children placed with another foster care and vice versa. However, where the fostering service makes formal arrangements for one carer to support another the sessional rate will apply per child. Any arrangement will not exceed the daily rate payable for the full time care of that child. All arrangements need to be discussed with the relevant supervising social workers for discussion and agreement, LAC social workers will need to be notified of change of circumstances, even if it is just for a few hours to help the carer out.

### **Review and monitoring**

This policy will be reviewed a month before the end of each financial year by the Fostering Service.

### **Process for claiming the sessional rate**

Foster carers who have supported the fostering service in one or more of the above activities should complete the Claim Form, which can be found in Annex 1 of this policy and in the Fostering Handbook.

Once the Claim Form has been completed, foster carers should return it to their supervising social worker.

The supervising social worker should then take the completed Claim Form to a manager within the fostering service for authorisation.

Once the claim has been authorised, the supervising social worker should scan and email the form to Finance. Finance should then process the payment.

Foster carers should expect to receive payment within 14 working days of Finance processing the claim.

All claims should be made within 6 weeks of the activity being conducted.

### **Further information**

If you are a foster carer and require further information or advice regarding this policy, please ask your supervising social worker in the first instance.

## **Additional Foster Carer Payments**

### **Overview**

The following additional payments may be made if:

- The foster carer has provided all necessary receipts
- The supervising social worker has given prior agreement
- The supervising social worker has completed the payment
- The fostering manager has given agreement and authorised the claim

### **Review and monitoring**

All of the following additional payments will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Fostering Service before the start of each financial year.

### **Set up allowance (new to fostering)**

This allowance may be claimed, to a maximum of £500, to cover the cost of acquiring basic equipment which the carer does not currently have in order to fulfil the fostering task. It is intended to cover the purchasing of items such as cots, beds, bedding, clothes storage, desk etc for a foster child's bedroom. It can also be used to purchase essential safety equipment such as first aid kit,, fire extinguisher, high chairs, car seats, stair gates etc.

This allowance does not cover any decorating, curtain or carpet costs, foster carers are expected to keep their house in good repair and replace such items as necessary. Where the actions of a fostered child result in the damage of internal fixtures and fittings within the home it may be appropriate to make an insurance claim (see Insurance section in Fostering Handbook for full details of procedures around this).

This allowance may also be paid to foster carers taking on a new placement where specialist equipment is needed that they do not currently have for example, waterproof bedding, car seats, baby equipment, or mobility aids.

### **Introductory costs**

Where a foster carer is involved in introductions either to a child or facilitating introducing a child to a future placement reasonable travelling expenses and overnight accommodation may be paid. This should be discussed as part of the introductions planning process.

### **Additional Travelling Expenses**

As stated, it is an expectation that foster carers provide appropriate transport depending on the child's needs and some travelling costs are included in the fostering allowance. However, where a carer is undertaking significant travelling, over 150 miles within a month (per child) the excess may be reimbursed. Claims must be submitted within three months of the date of travel and will be paid at the local authority mileage rate which currently stands at 46.9p per mile.

Where a foster carer is using public transport and the cost of this exceeds £70.35 a month, the excess may be reimbursed. (This figure is based on what 150 driven miles would cost if they were reimbursed at the mileage rate of 46.9p.)

## **DBS/Medical costs**

There is an expectation that all foster carers and adults in the home are set up on the DBS updating service. This is a cost of £13 per year per person which AfC will reimburse. From December 2022, AfC will not continue to complete DBS checks for carers unless it is an initial, therefore the updating service will need to be used and upon receipt of payment, the allocated supervising social worker will process a reimbursement through finance. More information on the DBS service can be [found here](#).

Every 3 years approved carers require a full medical, the cost of this is covered by AfC, and the medical centre will send invoices to AfC Fostering or business support for processes upon completion of the medical.

## **Absence of child/young person from placement**

### Missing from placement

The child's fostering allowance and fee will be paid to the carers if the child is missing from placement. If after 7 days the child is still missing decisions about the placement will be subject to normal care planning processes, this may include ending the placement.

### Hospitalisation

The full allowance and fee will be paid to the carers if a child or young person is hospitalised with the expectation that the carer supports the child as any parent would during stays at the hospital. If after 7 days the child is still in hospital, the payment of the child's allowance may be frozen, and this will be negotiated with the foster carer. This may include negotiating the payment of a retainer until the child or young person returns to placement. The negotiation will take into account the amount of contact that the foster carer maintains with the child or young person whilst they are in hospital.

Foster carers are expected to visit their children or young people every day in hospital unless there are specific circumstances that need to be accounted for. They are also expected to call the child every day.

## **Overpayments**

Achieving for Children will do everything we can to avoid over payments, should the situation arise in which we overpay you, we will recover the money in the following payment due to you, or any future payments. If the child is no longer living with you at the time of the overpayment being picked up, you will need to pay back the money in full, or we can take the overpayment off your next placement (if it is within 3 months of you being notified of the overpayment). It is your responsibility to inform us of any payments made to you that you were not expecting.

## **Payment during investigations of allegations**

### **Overview**

In response to the fees and allowances consultation, the IFA Board has agreed that foster carers will continue to receive fee payments while allegations of malpractice are investigated up to the point of formal conclusion of Standards of Care Investigation. Allowances will follow the child(ren) so could not be paid to the foster carer if the child(ren) is removed from their care during the investigation.

### **Review**

Every financial year by the Fostering Service.

## **Keeping records and receipts of payments and purchases**

Foster Carers are expected to keep records and receipts (where possible) of payments in which they have used for the additional allowances and holiday allowance. AfC requests carers to keep record for at least 3 years, or the duration of a long term matched placement. The reason for this, is on the possible occasion in which a complaint or concern is raised regarding spending. Supervising social workers, will ask to view receipts associated with spending especially related to holiday allowance, carers may be required to provide copies as outlined in this document or if concerns arise. Keeping records and receipts are essential for disability living allowance, as per the section above.

## **Foster Carer Tax and National Insurance Information**

HMRC and the Fostering Network, provide considerable information and resources for foster carers regarding their tax and national insurance;

HMRC:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifying-care-relief-foster-carers-adult-placement-carers-kinship-carers-and-staying-put-carers-hs236-self-assessment-helpsheet/hs236-qualifying-care-relief-foster-carers-adult-placement-carers-kinship-carers-and-staying-put-carers-2019>

Fostering Network:

<https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/advice-information/finances/tax-and-national-insurance>

## **Staying Put**

### **Overview**

**AfC have an updated Staying Put Policy for AfC carers - September 2020, please view the policy for full details.**

Staying Put Arrangement refers to the arrangement for extending former foster placements in order to continue a child's/young person's transition into adulthood within a family and household supported environment. The intention is to ensure young people can remain with their former foster carers until they are prepared for adulthood as well as experience a transition akin to their peers. A Staying Put Arrangement is set out in the child/YP's Pathway Plan and LAC Review/s. The primary aim of Staying Put Arrangement is to promote a gradual transition from care to adulthood and independent living which recognises that many young people in care often experience delayed maturity and that their 18th birthday may be an arbitrary and inappropriate point to leave a familiar foster care household. Therefore, the AfC "Staying Put" scheme is designed to ensure young people do not experience a sudden disruption to their living arrangements and ensures educational and training achievement is promoted.

### **Review and monitoring**

Review every 6 months by the Leaving Care service alongside the young person's pathway planning meetings.

### **Payments to Foster carers in AfC**

Flat rate of £275 per week.

Completion of full time education including full time ESOL until the end of the education year of their 18th year £417 per week.

Where the young person who is staying put is able to apply for benefits, this should cover allowance costs.

**Alternative to Staying Put for 18+ is Shared Lives which is run separately to AfC and commissioned by the responsible Local Authority for the young person.**

**Additional information can be found in the Staying Put policy - January 2022.**

[Annex 1: Claim Form](#)