

## Changes to Additional Allowance Payments

### *Basic Fostering Allowance*

By law, the Council has to pay a national minimum fostering allowance. This amount is determined and subject to annual change by the Department for Education. The rates for 2017/18 have been published and are in the table below.

Age Group (yrs)	Basic Fostering Allowance
0-4	£128
5-10	£141
11-15	£161
16+	£188

### *Skills Payments*

It is proposed that the Council maintains its current fee structure for skills payments, with the same criteria for progression between levels.

Age Group (yrs)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
0-4	£0	£22	£44	Current Level 4 Carers: £108  Any new Level 4 Carers from April 2016: £88
5-10	£0	£22	£44	£108
11-15	£0	£22	£44	£108
16+	£0	£22	£44	£108

In summary: There are no proposed changes to the skills payment rates set in March 2016.

### **Fostering Supplement**

Each fostering household will receive £10 per week per child in placement in addition to the basic fostering allowance.

## Maintained Additional Allowances

The following additional allowances will be kept with the same amounts / terms and conditions as the current system:

- Birthday allowance at 1x basic fostering allowance received automatically 3 weeks in advance as per the current arrangement
- Festivity allowance at 1x basic fostering allowance
- Large Family Transport Allowance at £43.50 per week for eligible carers
- Babysitting allowance at £3.50 per hour for eligible carers.

The following additional allowances will also be maintained.

### *Holiday allowance*

The holiday allowance for each age group is shown in the table below.

<b>Age Band (years)</b>	<b>Holiday Allowance</b>
0-4	£250
5-10	£300
11-15	£350
16+	£400

### *Emergency Clothing*

The standard Emergency Clothing Allowance will continue to be £50 per child, with provision to pay up to £100 per child if required. Any claim above £50 will require receipts to be processed.

<b>Age Band (yrs)</b>	<b>Maximum Emergency Clothing Allowance</b>
0-4	£100
5-10	£100
11-15	£100
16+	£100

### *Equipment*

A support grant is available to provide new carers with equipment needed to care for ages of children and young people they are approved to care for. This grant will be capped at £500. The expectation going forward is that carers will make arrangements to replace their own equipment once they are established. Current arrangements made to replace cot mattresses and car seats will be maintained.

### *Exceptional Payments*

The Council will continue to have some provision available to provide additional financial support in exceptional circumstances. This exceptionality is not designed to replace additional allowances that will no longer be available. Instances could include but are not exclusively limited to: residential school trips, school bursaries and educational equipment. If carers believe they require exceptional financial support, they are to discuss this with their supervising social worker in the first instance.

## **Ceased Additional Allowances**

The following additional allowances were ceased in April 2016. Expenditure on these allowances was re-distributed to pay for the fostering supplement, which all carers receive.

### ***Activities (including cookery ingredients)***

#### ***Activity allowance for Support Carers***

#### ***School uniform allowance***

#### ***Clothing allowance***

### ***Additional Holiday Allowance***

In exceptional circumstances, additional holiday costs that cannot be met from the annual holiday allowance will be considered by the Group Manager. The Group Manager's agreement to pay an additional holiday cost must be sought prior to making or confirming holiday plans

### ***Personal Needs allowance (including hair and skin care)***

#### ***Disturbance allowance***

#### ***Dietary***

### ***Excessive wear and tear on home***

With regards to excessive wear and tear on the home, if a child or young person has caused wilful damage to household equipment or property that is not covered by household insurance, the fostering service will continue to support carers to meet the financial costs of this. This is consistent with current arrangements in place

### ***Additional household expenses (including mobile phones, extra heating etc.)***

#### ***Prom – a maximum one off payment of £206***

#### ***Hospitality – currently a maximum payment of £5.30 per week***

## **Mileage**

Mileage included within the weekly fee will increase from 20 miles per week (80 miles per 4 weeks) to 25 miles per week (100 miles per 4 weeks). The current volunteer mileage rate of 45p per mile will continue to be paid for mileage above 25 miles per week. The cost of public transport for agreed travel will also continue to be reimbursed as it is currently.