

Foster care payments April 2022 – March 2023

Regular fostering allowances

All mainstream foster carers receive a basic weekly allowance. The basic weekly allowance, paid by Nottinghamshire County Council, is to provide for the average family cost (by age) of fully caring for a child for example, accommodation, food, clothing, pocket money and sundry items such as books and play materials. This allowance also assumes that some minor additional costs are incurred through fostering activities.

There are further allowances for birthdays, annual festivals and holidays which are available to cover some of the extra costs associated with these occasions.

Specific/additional allowances

Some circumstances may give rise to extra costs which clearly fall above the basic fostering allowances. One-off, specific allowances can be paid, depending on the child's requirements.

Will the allowances affect my benefits?

All foster carers need to register as self employed with His Majesty's Revenue and Customs. There is no effect on Income Support if people register as self employed foster carers, as any income received from fostering is not taken into account.

For more information visit www.hmrc.gov.uk

Table of allowances for April 2022 – March 2023

Age Group	0-4	5-10	11-15	16-17
Basic fostering allowance	£141.00	£156.00	£177.00	£207.00
Fostering supplement	£10.00	£10.00	£10.00	£10.00
Birthday allowance	£141.00	£156.00	£177.00	£207.00
Festivities allowance	£141.00	£156.00	£177.00	£207.00

Breakdown of Basic Fostering Allowances

These are the amounts that Nottinghamshire County Council consider appropriate to meet the fostered child's weekly needs.

Age Group	0-4	5-10	11-15	16-17
Food	£41	£44	£48	£56
Clothing	£35	£40	£45	£50
Transport/Mileage	£11.25	£11.25	£11.25	£11.25
Personal (including pocket money, activities)	£12.75	£19.75	£31.75	£48.75
Household (contribution towards Council Tax, utility bills, usual wear and tear in household)	£41.00	£41.00	£41.00	£41.00
Total	£141.00	£156.00	£177.00	£207.00

Weekly pocket money rates - (guidance only)

Age Group	0-4	5-10	11-15	16-17
	£2.00	£5.00	£9.00	£12.00

Levels payments

Levels payments give carers the chance to be acknowledged for their skills and to identify areas for development. As carers gain experience and develop as foster carers they can progress through three levels. Every foster carer has a supervising social worker who they work closely with to demonstrate that they meet the standards set out for each level.

We offer training in many areas including child development, equality and diversity, managing children's behaviour, communicating with children and young people, working with birth families and helping children who have experienced abuse.

Each new level pays an allowance, additional to the Basic Fostering Allowance for each child or young person living in the foster home.

If applicants have a relevant fostering experience or are transferring to us, there is the potential to start at a higher level, subject to the outcome of their assessment.

Level 1 Basic Fostering Allowance
plus £28 per week per child

Level 2 Basic Fostering Allowance
plus £57 per week per child

Level 3 Basic Fostering Allowance
plus £113 per week per child aged 0-4 years
and £139 per week per child aged 5-17.