

Camden Foster Carers

Finance FACT SHEET

2022/2023

The Camden Fostering Service pays each carer on a weekly basis for every Looked After Child placed in their care. This payment is made up of a maintenance allowance and professional fee. The amount of the maintenance allowance paid is dependent on the age of the child in the foster placement. Similarly, the professional fee paid to the foster carer is dependent on whether the foster carer is approved as a mainstream or specialist foster carer.

| MAINSTREAM FOSTER CARERS WEEKLY FEES AND ALLOWANCES | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Age Range | Maintenance Allowance | Professional Fee | Total weekly amount per child |
| 0-10 years | £221.34 | £149.23 | £380.57 |
| 11-15 Years | £317.02 | £149.23 | £436.25 |
| 16-18 Years | £337.02 | £169.23 | £506.25 |

| SPECIALIST FOSTER CARERS WEEKLY FEES AND ALLOWANCES | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Age Range | Maintenance Allowance | Professional Fee | Total weekly amount per child |
| 0 – 10 years | £231.34 | £502.66 | £734.00 |
| 11- 18 years | £317.02 | £502.66 | £819.69 |

The table below sets out a general guide for how foster carers should spend the maintenance allowance. This is a general guide only and it is recommended that the social work team and the foster carer have a discussion on how they intend on tailoring the maintenance allowance at the beginning of each placement. This can take into account the needs of the child, their interests and their age or other relevant factors.

| Age range | Accommodation (30%) | Household (18%) | Food and Housekeeping (21%) | Clothing (10%) | Personal / hobbies (9%) | Pocket Money (5%) | Transport (7%) |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 0-10 | £66.40 | £39.84 | £46.48 | £22.13 | £19.92 | £11.06 | £15.49 |
| 11-15 | £95.10 | £57.06 | £66.57 | £31.70 | £28.53 | £15.85 | £22.19 |
| 16-18 | £101.10 | £60.66 | £70.77 | £33.70 | £30.33 | £16.85 | £23.59 |

Specific payments and grants

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| Savings | Savings for a Looked After Child are now taken at source at a rate of £10/week. These savings are deducted from the foster carer's maintenance allowance. |
| Pocket money | <p>Pocket money is provided for children and young people for their general and personal needs. The amount of pocket money should be agreed at the placement agreement meeting or shortly after and the discussion should involve the child or young person. Pocket money should be given out each week to the child or young person.</p> <p>If the foster carers do not provide the full agreed amount of pocket money to the child or young person, then it can be deposited into the child or young person's savings account. Baby carers should save the pocket money allowance. *not applicable for Staying Put.</p> |
| Travel allowance | <p>The travel allowance covers any aspect of transporting the child or young person in placement associated with their basic care. This might include transport to and from school, family contact, health appointments or leisure activities. The transport allowance is calculated as covering the first 60 miles of transport each week.</p> <p>*not applicable for Staying Put.</p> |
| Birthday allowance | <p>The birthday allowance is provided for foster carers to purchase gifts and to provide a contribution towards the cost of the child or young person's birthday celebrations. Payments are made automatically approximately three weeks before the child or young person's birthday.</p> <p>For children aged 0 – 10 years the birthday allowance = £162</p> <p>For young people aged 11 – 18 years the birthday allowance = £207</p> <p>*not applicable for Staying Put.</p> |
| Christmas / religious festival allowance | <p>The Christmas/religious festival allowance is provided to purchase a gift/s and to provide a contribution towards the cost of celebrations. Payments are made automatically approximately three weeks prior to Christmas.</p> <p>For children aged 0 – 10 years the Christmas/Religious allowance = £162</p> <p>For young people aged 11 – 18 years the Christmas/Religious allowance = £207</p> <p>*not applicable for Staying Put.</p> |
| Summer holiday grant | <p>Foster carers are expected to take foster children on an overseas or UK holiday each year. The summer holiday allowance is paid automatically in July and is an age related payment.</p> <p>For children aged 0 – 10 years = £324</p> <p>For young people aged 11 – 18 years = £414</p> <p>*not applicable for Staying Put.</p> |

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| Emergency clothing grant | The maximum amount of this grant is £100. This grant is only offered in circumstances where a child comes into care with limited or no clothing. The approval of the Fostering Service is required for this payment. *not applicable for Staying Put. |
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