

## ALLOWANCES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND SUPPORTS AVAILABLE TO CARERS AS OF 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2010

Age (years)	Full weekly allowance (maintenance + personal allowances)	SUGGESTED BREAKDOWN OF ALLOWANCE		
		Maintenance	Personal allowance for young person (to include clothing)	Pocket money
0 – 4	£125.09	£84.38	£40.71	
5 – 10	£142.52	£89.08	£46.93	£6.50 *
11 – 15	£177.38	£108.35	£57.53	£11.50 *
16+	£215.74	£131.03	£68.21	£16.50 *

\* If less pocket money is given to the child (this should be agreed with the child's social worker), the remainder should be put into a bank account for the child (in their name wherever possible).

*Maintenance* to include all clothing (see list below), toiletries, out of school clubs, costs of computer consumables and Internet costs, mileage (up to 60 miles a week), general wear and tear to the family home and energy expenses.

*Personal allowances* to include clothing, pocket money (if under 16) and any other costs unique to that young person. We expect that carers open a post office/bank account for a young person and if possible save a small amount each week. The details of these savings will be passed on when young people move placement and the final sum will be given to the looked after children when they cease to be looked after or when deemed appropriate by the child's social worker.

*Christmas and birthday allowances* will be paid separately, as they become due. Each allowance is the equivalent to one week's fostering allowance and should be used to buy gifts for the young person. You will be required to provide receipts in this respect to your support worker.

*Summer holiday allowance* will be paid as a one-off payment, equivalent to two weeks fostering allowance, at the beginning of July. This payment is to cover holiday expenses (e.g. either family holidays away from the home or day outings)

### **2 Initial clothing allowance and list of basic clothing**

The following is a list of the minimum clothing foster children and young people require. At the beginning of a placement carers should make a list of the clothing a child or young person brings with them. The young person may be entitled to an initial clothing grant which needs to be applied for at the start of placement and should be used to provide anything missing from the basic list. It is not expected that a young person moving from one placement to another or onto adoption would require an initial clothing grant. The weekly allowance should be used to replace all necessary clothing. Young people aged 16 and over will receive their pocket money and any specific discretionary allowance directly from the Directorate (unless there are specific reasons not to as agreed with their social worker).

<i>Age</i>	<i>Maximum amount</i>
0-4 years	£205.00
5-8 years	£236.00
9-12 years	£256.50
13 years and over	£277.00

Below is a suggested list of basic clothing. Each child is an individual and will need to have choices as to what goes onto their list and be involved in the purchasing of new items. Carers may hold a selection of second-hand clothes, particularly for babies, for whom the list below might be inadequate.

#### *Babies*

3 sleep suits, 2 all-in-one (for outdoor use), 6 vests, 6 outfits, socks, mittens, booties, and hat.

#### *Boys*

Coat, 4 pairs trousers, 3 shirts, 5 T-shirts, 3 sweaters, 7 pairs underpants, 2 pairs pyjamas, 7 pairs socks, dressing gown, 1 pair shoes, 1 pair trainers, 1 pair slippers.

#### *Girls*

Coat, 4 dresses/skirts, tops, 2 pairs trousers, 3 sweaters/cardigans, 5 T-shirts/blouses, 7 pairs knickers, 2 bras, 2 pairs nightdress/pyjamas, dressing gown, 7 pairs socks/tights, 1 pair shoes, 1 pair trainers, 1 pair slippers.

#### *Older young people*

Carers need to negotiate with older young people about what clothes they need. If clothing allowances are handed over to young people, it remains the carer's responsibility to ensure that young people have adequate clothing.

**\* Receipts will need to be provided and given to your support worker**

### **3 School uniform**

These may be provided when a young person first starts or changes school on the authorisation of the fieldwork team manager.

Primary school	£134.00
Middle school	£150.00
High school	£205.00
Entry to sixth form	£180.00

Payment will be made by cheque, except for immediate emergency requirements. Purchases of school uniform may be made by the issue of a Social Services order.

**\* Receipts will need to be provided and given to your support worker**

### **4 Hobbies, uniform/equipment or other costs (Brownies, karate etc)**

A financial contribution of up to £100 per annum may be authorised by the fieldwork team manager.

### **5 Special allowances**

Additions to the fostering allowances may be paid to carers caring for young people with severe disabilities or significant needs. The allowance will be calculated by awarding points, attached to C:\Documents and Settings\John Godwin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\C73ECYHG\Fostering Allowances 2010.doc

categories, on a ranking scale (below). The maximum number of points that can be awarded is 300, an additional allowance of £1 per week is awarded for each point. The entitlement of mobility and/or attendance allowance will be considered in the level of points, as are the number of hours the young person is at home each day. The decision will be made jointly by the fieldwork team manager and the Fostering Team Manager having consulted the social worker and foster carer. The allowance will be reconsidered at each review to ensure it remains justified and/or sufficient.

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum points</u></b>
Clothes, bedding	25
Wear & tear, destruction, telephone	25
Time and commitment (beyond normal expectations)	50
Misc (please specify)	50
Social activities/commitments	25
Challenging/risky behaviour	100
Supporting a child temporarily out of school	25
	300 (total)

\* Points system does not apply to Supported Lodgings

## **6 Educational journeys / school trips**

The cost of educational journeys/trips at primary, middle and high schools may be met on the authorisation of the fieldwork team manager. Please see School Trips Policy in Section 16 of the Handbook.

## **7 Looked after young people undertaking further education**

Any young person, within the looked after system, wishing to attend college should discuss this with their social worker as they may be entitled to an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of approximately £30 per week.

## **8 School leavers**

The cost of any protective clothing and necessary equipment required on taking up employment will be considered by the fieldwork team manager on receipt of an itemised costed list.

## **9 Young people receiving a wage**

When a young person receives a regular wage for employment, having left school, the social worker will undertake an assessment with the young person and the foster carer of their expenses and needs.

This will determine what contribution the young person should make to their living expenses. This sum will then be deducted from the carer's fostering allowance.

The assessment should detail what expenses are incurred in getting to and from work, food and any other specific costs; to this sum should be added an allowance for the young person's personal needs.

The sum remaining should be paid by the young person to the carer. This figure should be agreed between all parties and will be set at a realistic level. Young people in work need to have incentives to find themselves well rewarded. It is preferable that they receive a larger proportion of their wage than if they were living independently and are encouraged to start saving. This strategy is in line with the

## **10 Short term breaks, respite and day care expenses**

Respite and day care payments will be made on the basis of what period of care is provided. £20 will be paid for either overnight or day care for any number of hours with a 12 hour clock. The clock starts and finishes at 12.00 am/pm.

If the period forms up to 1 hour 59 minutes of another period, this will not trigger a further period payment. A minimum of 2 hours triggers a further 12-hour payment.

### **Examples:**

A carer looks after a young person for day care from 8.30am to 12.00 noon = 1 x £20.00

A carer looks after a young person from 5 pm and s/he remains until 5 pm the following day = 3 x £20 (5 pm - 12 am, 12am – 12 pm, 12 pm - 5 pm)

A carer looks after a young person from Friday 4 pm to Monday 8 am = 6 x £20 (4 pm – 12 am, 12 am – 12 pm, 12 pm – 12 am, 12 am - 12pm, 12pm – 12 am, 12 am – 8 am)

A carer provides care from 8 am to 1 pm = 1 x £20 the hour from 12. – 1 pm does not notch up a further period of payment.

Foster carers should use claim forms with details of hours care provided, signed by the parent/carers or social worker confirming the hours provided. The respite rate will only be paid for periods of 4 days/3 nights. If the planned period is greater than this then the normal fostering allowance will be paid for the whole period or a pro rata amount for any periods exceeding 4 days / 3 nights.

There may be some anomalies as a result of this system. These will be negotiated upon their merits with your support worker.

*NB Carers should contact the Inland Revenue/benefits agency regarding day care allowances as individual circumstances are different.*

## **11 Disturbance allowance**

A disturbance allowance of £40 will be paid to carers who agree to accept a placement made between 10 pm and 8 am (whether or not the placement is made), in addition to the fostering allowance. This allowance will be set up by the social worker requesting the placement.

## **12 Transport**

The weekly allowance includes an element for expenses incurred for transport costs to school and weekly contact, up to a total of 60 miles a week. Any additional mileage incurred will be considered for an extra payment by the fieldwork team manager. It is anticipated that other mileage incurred supporting young people in their interests, or to hospital or dentist will be met by the carer, as part of meeting the young person's personal needs, within reasonable limits.

If a carer does not drive they will be expected to provide bus fares up to the value of the 60 miles allowance rate.

## **13 Travel costs/bus pass**

When a young person requires a bus pass to attend school, this will be provided by the Education Service, via the social worker. When a placement is made away from the young person's home area,

the placement plan will consider the young person's need to maintain links with family and friends and social events and identify travel costs. The carer's initial allowance will reflect any bus ticket costs. This arrangement will be reconsidered at the first review. There will be some cases where a Rover ticket will be made available after the first review, where the Rover is the cheaper option.

***WE ARE REQUIRED TO MONITOR TRANSPORT COSTS CLOSELY AND THE ALLOCATED SOCIAL WORKER WILL CHECK THE USAGE OF ROVER TICKETS***

Southern Vectis issue a number of offers for young people. These need to be explored by foster carers/social workers as they may provide a cheaper option.

**14 Equipment**

Fostering Team will provide on loan equipment from its store. Any equipment specifically for the young person will be considered by the fieldwork team manager (e.g. equipment to aid a child with a disability, personalised duvet cover, etc).

**15 Out of school clubs**

Expenses for clubs will normally be met by the carer out of the fostering allowance. Any exceptional expenses will need to be considered and authorised by the fieldwork team manager.

**16 Contact**

Where contact takes place in the foster home and involves more than one visit a week, consideration will be given to an additional allowance to cover daily food costs, electricity etc, by the fieldwork team manager.

**17 Contact Supervision**

If a foster carer agrees to supervise contact between children not in placement and their families, they will receive a payment of £10 per hour for this supervisory role. This amount includes the cost of transporting the child/ren to and from Contact. Carers will not be paid extra for supervising contact for children in their own care, as this is considered to be part of the fostering role.

**18 When young people are absent or removed from foster home**

There are occasions when young people are placed with carers on a long term basis and they leave home for a short period, i.e. school holidays, period of respite, reported as missing. When the period does not exceed a week there will be no change in the allowance, during the second week the carer will receive 50% of the fostering rate and thereafter the allowance will normally cease until the young person returns.

When an allegation is received by the Directorate, which necessitates a young person fostered in the home to be moved, the same formula as above will be used. These payments will only be made for one two week period per year (except in exceptional circumstances).

**19 Hospitalisation**

When a fostered young person is hospitalised on the Island for a short period, expenses should be met by the fostering allowance. In exceptional circumstances, e.g. the child is in a mainland hospital and/or hospitalised for a considerable time, the Fostering Team Manager will consider authorising an additional allowance as requested by the foster carer's support worker.

**20 Young people placed in residential mainland settings**

Where carers have committed to a permanent placement with a young person who is placed in a

mainland setting, consideration will be given to paying 25% of the fostering allowance to allow the carer to maintain weekly contact, by phone and letter, escort the young person to and from school and attend school events (parents' evenings, sports days and social events). The young person's bed will remain unused and may not be considered available for other placements. When the young person returns to the carer the full rate of allowance will be paid (pro rata).

## **21 Inland Revenue**

As from 06.04.03 foster carers will be able to earn £10,000 per year + £200 per week, tax free, for a child under 11 years. For children over 11 years the tax-free income is £10,000 per year +£250 per week. This means that any additional finance carers receive for fostering is taxable.

## **22 Work to assist the Council**

When carers are invited to take part in activities to promote the work of the Council (recruitment events, preparation groups, policy and procedures making, interviews), a fee of between £5 and £10 per hour will be paid on receipt of a completed claim form. The payment should cover all costs including transport and subsistence.

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### **A. Respite arrangements for carers**

#### *Foster carer's personal and social needs*

Foster carers will be entitled to one week's respite per year funded by the Directorate. The regular fostering allowance will continue to be paid to them whilst they are away. If regular respite is part of the social work plan for the child or young person, then the costs of this will be met by the Directorate.

Monetary payments will not be made in lieu of this respite. Any respite/daycare beyond one week will have to be funded by the carer except in exceptional circumstances. Respite/daycare to meet the carers personal needs will not be funded by the Directorate.

#### *Young person's arrangements*

When a young person's plan means they will be absent from the home for school trips, hospital visits, contact arrangements etc., carers will be paid the full allowance for the first week and 50% for the second, thereafter the allowance will cease if the young person has not returned.

#### *Challenging behaviour*

When a looked after young person has particularly challenging behaviour and the carer needs respite, the social worker and the LAC manager will consider requests for a respite arrangement/plan and the attached finance. The foster carer will continue to receive their full allowance for the first week and 50% for the second. Thereafter their allowance will cease.

**If a carer providing respite subsequently needs respite during this period they must finance this using the respite payments made to them by the Department (or the Department will do this on their behalf)**

### **B. Holiday allowance and respite**

If a carer goes on holiday and does not take the child, resulting in the child receiving respite care, then the carer will not be paid the fostering allowance for this period. The allowance will be used to pay for respite care during the period of the holiday.

### **C. Foster carer/social worker lunches**

We hold informal lunch sessions for foster carers and social workers on the first Friday of every other month from 12pm to 2pm. This is an opportunity to meet with social workers and other carers and discuss issues etc. The lunches are preceded with a one-hour training session for carers from 11am to 12pm.

#### **D. Holiday caravan**

The Fostering Team has purchased a caravan based at Thorness Bay Holiday Park. There are three bedrooms and six people can sleep comfortably, but there is space for eight. It is available for carers to book and use, free of rental charge throughout the season. There is loads to do on the site and for a single payment of approximately £40 for the whole family for a week you will have access to all the facilities. Please contact Helen McGonigle in the team to discuss availability.

#### **E. Counselling service**

The Isle of Wight Council provides a counselling service for its staff and carers who have issues of a personal nature they wish to sort out. Please discuss this with your support worker.

#### **F. Support training meetings**

Regular support and training meetings have been booked throughout the year. Please see your training calendar for the dates and topics. Social workers are invited to attend these as well. The new training calendar will be sent out in the near future.

#### **G. Mentoring**

In order to provide support to new carers through their assessment and into their initial stages of fostering, we are seeking to recruit experienced foster carers with time and a commitment to offer a mentoring role. Those carers interested (either new or experienced) should approach their support/supervisory worker for more details. A yearly honorarium payment of £100 will be paid to each mentor.

#### **H. Training Incentive Payments**

Training Incentive Payments (TIPs) have been created as a way of supporting our foster carers to manage the complexity of the fostering task. Payments will be made to foster carers following their annual review, once evidence of training has been endorsed. The TIP will again be considered at subsequent reviews and payments may change depending on whether three episodes of training have been initiated or training attended during the preceding year.

#### **TRAINING CANCELLATIONS**

Two weeks written notice to the Fostering Duty worker is required if you are unable to attend any training courses on which you are booked.

**THIS ALLOWANCE SHEET SUPERSEDES AND REPLACES ALL OTHER ALLOWANCES SHEETS AND WILL BE UPDATED AT THE START OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR IN APRIL 2011**