

Proposed Payment Framework for Fostering

IN-HOUSE FOSTERING FEE REVIEW

Purpose

To inform members of a consultation taking place in regard to the proposed changes to the in-house foster carer payment structure. Members are invited to encourage their constituents to participate in the consultation. Foster carers will be emailed directly to participate but it may be that other members of the public are interested in commenting on the proposals or are themselves prospective foster carers.

Background

The Cabinet approved a public consultation on proposed changes to the in-house fostering fee structure at its meeting on 9 January. The proposed changes will replace the current Fostering Fees Structure with a new Structure that includes a Mainstream Fostering Fees Structure with four levels and Specialist Fostering Schemes. This means that the current 'level 0' payment, paid to carers who are at the bottom end of the scale, will be removed to ensure that all carers, including connected carers, receive some element of skills payment in compensation for their care of children and young people. Connected carers are people who care for a child or young person who is already known to them and are often either a family friend or a relation of the child or young person

The Specialist Fostering Schemes are proposed to replace the current level 5 and 6 payment categories and will apply to one to one, parent and child, pathway and short break carers.

One To One Foster Carers

These are foster carers, who work with children and young people with the most complex needs; they deliver placements as an alternative to residential care.

Parent and Child Placements

Foster carers support parents of any age, where we are seeking to develop their skills and ability to meet a child's needs.

Short Break Carers

These foster carers support children and young people, and other foster carers, to enable flexibility, breaks for those carers and children in need, and to support placement stability. This also includes support for Disabled Children and those with complex health needs; to support them to be looked after within the family with regular short break care.

Pathway Foster Carers

These foster carers care for children and young people aged 15 +, to support them through the transition to adulthood. These foster carers care for more vulnerable and high needs young people, and actively support pathway planning, and independence skills in young people.

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