



Foster for Warwickshire

Financial information



We know that people don't foster for the money, but we don't want finances to be a barrier for anyone who would consider fostering with Warwickshire. It can seem complicated but to keep it simple, we have explained our allowances and Skill Level payment system here.

Foster Carer Allowances

For each child coming into your care, you will receive a 'basic allowance' per week that covers the cost of living per child that lives with you. You will also receive the clothing and personal allowance for each child per week which depends on their age range. You do not need to account for how the basic allowance is spent but will need to keep receipts and records for clothing and personal allowance expenditures.

	AGE BANDS			
	0-4	5-10	11-15	16+
Maintenance Basic	131.11	129.61	153.23	159.32
Clothing	32.96	45.50	60.07	87.73
Personal	11.98	16.17	21.10	30.82
Total personal allowance per week	44.94	61.67	81.17	118.55
TOTAL	176.05	191.28	234.40	277.87



Skill Level Fees

Carers who have met required standards (see below), are also eligible to receive a skill related payment per child per week on top of their basic allowances. This is awarded on the basis that carers increase their experience and knowledge over time and receive payments to reflect their 'skill level'. Skill Level 1 carers are awarded £152.32 per child per week. Skill Level 2 foster carers are awarded £250.95 per child per week.



Skill Level 1

Full-time care

Where one approved foster carer is based at home full time, Skill Level 1 payment will be made when a child is in your care.

Teenage placements (teenagers are defined as 13+)

Foster carers who are approved to foster teenagers will be paid at Skill Level 1 during the time the teenager is with them, provided they have attended 'Caring for Teenagers' training and 'Promoting Positive Behaviour and Relationships' training.

Typical route

In all other circumstances, Skill Level 1 payment will be paid to households upon completion of the Training Support and Development workbook during the first 12 months of approval and completion of 3 core training courses. These should include 'Child Protection, Safeguarding' and 'Paediatric First Aid'.

Skill Level 2

To achieve Skill Level 2, all approved foster carers in the home should have completed all 6 core training courses and have at least 12 months fostering experience. Following this, most foster carers will have a discussion with their Fostering Social Worker about progressing to Skill Level 2 and they will refer you for assessment. This requires the carer to collect evidence of their skills, abilities, knowledge and development as a foster carer.



Transferring from other local authorities/ agencies and relevant experience

Any persons transferring to be a mainstream foster carer for Warwickshire, or who have prior professional experience, may be considered for the Skill Level Scheme. Agreement to this is subject to foster care approval and the applicants being able to evidence that they meet the appropriate criteria.

Additional Payments

We offer additional payments for each child for their birthday, a contribution towards a holiday and a festival allowance for events like Christmas or Eid.

My Benefits

As a foster carer you may be entitled to claim benefits and tax credits. The allowances and fee you receive from fostering are normally completely disregarded as income or only taxable profit from your fostering is taken into consideration for the purposes of calculating your entitlement to benefits.

Tax Relief

Income from fostering is subject to income tax and carers are regarded by the Inland Revenue as self-employed and as such need to complete an annual tax return. However, foster carers are entitled to 'Foster Care Relief'; below a certain threshold, carers are exempt from paying income tax on the money they receive as carers. This is currently set at £19,360 per household.

How am I paid?

Weekly allowances are paid by BACS in arrears on alternate Tuesdays for the fortnight ending the previous Saturday.




Examples

Sammy is a single carer new to fostering and hasn't yet achieved Skill Level 1 payments, she works full time. She is caring for Saffron who is 7 years old. Each week for Saffron, Sammy receives:

	£129.61 basic allowance
	£61.67 clothing and personal allowance
Total £191.28 per week	



After a completing her TSD workbook and completing 3 core trainings, Sammy was awarded Skill Level 1. Following this point, each week for Saffron, Sammy receives:

	£129.61 basic allowance
	£61.67 clothing and personal allowance
	£152.32 Skill Level 1 payment
Total £343.06 per week	

Neil and Jackie have been fostering for 12 years and they have been Skill Level 2 carers since their third year of fostering. They care for Joe who is 11. Each week for Joe, they receive:

	£153.23 basic allowance
	81.17 clothing and personal allowance
	£250.95 Skill Level 2 payment
Total £485.35 per week	

They were approached to care for Joe's older brother Max, who is 16. Each week for Max, they receive:

	£159.32 basic allowance
	£118.55 clothing and personal allowance
	£250.95 Skill Level 2 payment
Total £528.82 per week	
Weekly Fostering Total: £1014.17	

Specialist Foster Care Schemes

Some children need specialist care to ensure their needs are met and that they can thrive. As a result, we have developed a range of specialist schemes that pay a regular fee at a higher rate. This is to ensure we are able to offer skilled and experienced foster carers to those children who really need it. Specialist Schemes foster carers need experience working with children who may present with challenging behaviours or additional need, so that they are skilled and prepared to manage any difficulties that may arise.

Solo	£690.90
Breathing Space	£407.05
Parent and Child	£626.99
Treehouse	£534.17

Solo

Neelam is a Solo foster carer. She only cares for one child at a time with significant support needs. She is a foster carer for Kyle who is 15. Each week Neelam receives for Kyle:



£153.23
basic allowance



£81.17
clothing and
personal
allowance

They also receive their weekly specialist foster care fee

£690.90 Solo Foster Carer Fee

Total £925.30 per week

Breathing Space

Frank and Emma are Breathing Space foster carers. They only care for one child at a time with significant support needs for a month at a time, they currently care for Mila who is 13. Each week, Frank and Emma receive for Mila:



£153.23
basic allowance



£81.17
clothing and
personal
allowance

They also receive their weekly specialist foster care fee

£407.05 Breathing Space Foster Carer Fee

Total £641.45 per week

Parent and Child

Denise is a **Parent and Child Foster Carer**. She is caring for Arlo who is 4 months old and is supporting Arlo's mum Cara who is 20 years old. Each week, Denise receives:



£131.11
basic allowance
for Arlo

.....



£44.94
clothing and
personal allowance
for Arlo

.....



£250
parent
maintenance fee

.....

She also receives her weekly specialist foster carer fee

£626.99 Parent and Child
Foster Carer Fee

Total £1053.04 per week

Treehouse

Peter and Nora are **Treehouse Foster Carers** who provide a range of care for children who are in foster care and receive a fee per week plus the basic maintenance to cover the needs of the child when they are in Peter and Nora's care.

They provide respite for a network of children and are having Tommy (14) for a week while his foster carers are at a wedding abroad. Along with contributions for activities and per night basic maintenance, they receive:



£153.23
basic allowance
for Tommy

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They also receive their weekly specialist foster care fee

£534.17 Treehouse Foster
Carer Weekly Fee

Total £687.40 per week

Family Link

Family Link carers do not receive additional Fostering allowances such as maintenance or personal allowance and the rate of pay increases slightly depending upon the young persons assessed needs.

Maggie cares for Harry every Friday evening from 4pm until 4pm Saturday on a Family Link basis. Because of Harry's level of need Maggie receives the maximum pay of

£122.09 per night. Total £488.36 every 4 weeks

Sue and Sandra have been Fostering for 4 years and care for Elsie on a Family Link basis for 2 nights a month. Elsie typically sleeps well at night and she doesn't take medication, because of this the carers receive the middle fee of

£100.18 per night. Total £200.36 every 4 weeks.

Emergency Duty Foster Carers

Emergency Duty Foster Carers work on a rota of being on duty for two weeks which are paid at **£419.37 per week**. They also receive any Skill Level payment that they may have been accredited for each night a child is in their care.

They are then provided with a retainer fee of **£102.20 per week** were they are not on the duty rota.

Flexible Fostering

Emergency Duty Foster Carers work on a rota of being on duty for two weeks Our Flexible Fostering, respite scheme provides children with occasional care when the foster carer has availability. This is paid at basic maintenance rate, with the nightly fee being one seventh of the weekly fee for that age category. You may receive a contribution for activities or purchases during their time with you.

Nick fosters for one weekend a month. He often has Jay (9) on a flexible arrangement. He picks him up after school on Friday takes him to school on Monday morning. The full week basic maintenance for Jay would be **£129.61**. For 3 nights care of Jay, Nick receives **£55.54**, which is 3/7 of the weekly maintenance.

Find out
more



warwickshire.gov.uk/fostering
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