

Financial information

CHILD FRIENDLY WARWICKSHIRE

Warwickshire County Council

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	135.52	132.79	156.31	162.54
Clothing	34.09	46.62	60.97	89.46
Personal	12.39	16.52	21.78	31.51
Total personal allowance per week	46.48	63.14	82.75	120.97
TOTAL	**182.00**	**195.93**	**239.06**	**283.51**



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 £155.40 per child per week. Skill Level 2 foster carers are awarded £255.99 per child per week. Skill Level 3 foster carers are awarded £348.95 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.

Skill Level 3

To achieve Skill Level 3, foster carers must have consistently provided a high standard of care over a minimum period of 4 years. However Level 3 is about more than years of experience. It recognises foster carers who can demonstrate excellent outcomes for children and young people, leadership and advanced fostering knowledge and skills.

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. We also offer a £2000 'Welcome to Warwickshire Fostering' Incentive to foster carers transferring from an agency, paid when a child joins your home.

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 £20,440 per household.

How am I paid?

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



Other allowances				
In addition to carers current fees, carers will receive (Annually)				
Birthday - Annual	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16+
	£111.37	£112.56	£136.01	£158.90
Festival - Annual	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16+
	£139.02	£140.77	£170.03	£184.38
Holiday - Annual	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16+
	£333.90	£337.75	£407.96	£456.40

Annual Incentive

Every year, foster carers and their Supervising Social Worker complete a Foster Home Performance Review. We offer a celebratory annual incentive payment to each household who:

- Have met all requirements of their role to a high standard
- Have been providing a home for at least ¾ of the year (This requirement is higher for kinship and permanent arrangements).

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:

£132.79 basic allowance

£63.14 clothing and personal allowance

Total £195.93 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:

£132.79 basic allowance

£63.14 clothing and personal allowance

£155.40 Skill Level 1 payment

Total £351.33 per week

Neil and Jackie have been fostering for 4 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:

£156.31 basic allowance

£82.75 clothing and personal allowance

£255.99 Skill Level 2 payment

Total £495.05 per week

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

£162.54 basic allowance

£120.97 clothing and personal allowance

£255.99 Skill Level 2 payment

Total £539.50 per week

Weekly Fostering Total: £1034.55

Mick has been fostering for 10 years and he has been a Skill Level 3 carer since his sixth year of fostering. He cares for Neveah who is 1. Each week for Neveah, he receives:

£135.52
basic allowance

£46.48
clothing and personal allowance

£348.52
Skill Level 3 payment

Total £530.52 per week



Options for people with a little time to give

We know that many people would love to foster but only have a limited amount of time available to make the commitment.

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 **£127.02 per night. Total £508.08 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 **£104.22 per night. Total £208.44 every 4 weeks.**

Flexible Fostering

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 **£132.79.** For 3 nights care of Jay, Nick receives **£56.91,** which is 3/7 of the weekly maintenance.

Warwickshire
Specialist Fostering

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.

Full scheme breakdown

Scheme	Annual Fee	Additional
ED+	£35,000	+ Weekend allowances
Breathing Space	£45,000	+ Personal Allowances & Birthday, Festival & Holiday allowances
Solo	£50,000 - 55,000	+ Personal Allowances & Birthday, Festival & Holiday allowances
Parent & Child	£58,000	+ Personal Allowances & Birthday, Festival & Holiday allowances (Where applicable)
Treehouse	£32,000	+ Personal Allowances & Birthday, Festival & Holiday allowances
Mainstream & kinship Long Term	Existing Fees & allowances	Annual £500 incentive & Introduction of Skills Level 3
Mainstream & kinship Short Term	Existing Fees & allowances	+ Annual £500 incentive & Introduction of Skills Level 3

Breathing Space

Breathing Space Annual Fee		£45,000		
Made up of (weekly, paid fortnightly)				
Breathing Space fee	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 17
	£727.50	£730.23	£706.70	£700.47
Maintenance	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 17
	£135.52	£132.79	£156.31	£162.54
In addition to the annual fee, carers will receive (weekly, paid fortnightly)				
Personal Allowance	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16+
	£46.48	£63.14	£82.75	£120.97
Total weekly fee* *(not including the annual birthday, festival, and holiday allowance)*				
	£909.50	**£926.16**	**£945.76**	**£983.98**

Emergency Duty Plus

Emergency Duty Plus Annual Fee		£35,000		
Made up of (weekly, paid fortnightly)				
Emergency Duty+ fee	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 17
	£535.72	£538.45	£514.93	£508.70
Maintenance	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 17
	£135.52	£132.79	£156.31	£162.54
Total weekly fee				
	£671.24	**£671.24**	**£671.24**	**£671.24**

Solo

Solo Annual Fee		Under 16: **£50,000** Over 16: **£55,000**		
Made up of (weekly, paid fortnightly)				
Solo fee	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 17
	£823.38	£826.12	£802.60	£892.26
Maintenance	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 17
	£135.52	£132.79	£156.31	£162.54
In addition to the annual fee, carers will receive (weekly, paid fortnightly)				
Personal Allowance	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16+
	£46.48	£63.14	£82.75	£120.97
Total weekly fee* *(not including the annual birthday, festival, and holiday allowance)*				
	£1,005.38	**£1,022.05**	**£1,041.66**	**£1,175.77**

Parent & Child

Parent & child Annual Fee	**£58,000**
Made up of (weekly, paid fortnightly)	
Parent & Child fee	£814.26
Combined Maintenance	£298.06
Total weekly fee	
For baby & child in care	
£1,112.32	

Treehouse

Treehouse	£32,000			
Made up of (weekly, paid fortnightly)				
Treehouse Fee	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 17
	£613.70	£613.70	£613.70	£613.70
Maintenance - proportion	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 17
	No change to maintenance - continues to apply where applicable			
Total weekly fee* (not including the annual birthday, festival, and holiday allowance)				
	£613.70 + maintenance where applicable	**£613.70 + maintenance where applicable**	**£613.70 + maintenance where applicable**	**£613.70 + maintenance where applicable**

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Specialist Fostering

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Find out more

warwickshire.gov.uk/fostering
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