

Fostering Allowances and Fees for Foster Carers

Wigan Council

Foster For Wigan

Local people supporting local families



with effect from 01/04/2023

DfE AGE RANGES	0-2	3-4	5-10	11-15	16-17
Newly approved carers (£)	257.45	265.83	284.62	323.23	363.19
Experienced carers (£)	324.12	334.76	358.47	406.05	449.60
Specialist carers (£)		702.83		790.63	

The below allowances are in addition.

Other Allowances					
Birthday Allowance	£154	£159	£175	£199	£233
Festival Allowance	£154	£159	£175	£199	£233
Holiday Allowance	£274	£282	£312	£354	£414
Initial Clothing Allowance	£170	£195	£245	£295	£345
Initial equipment (maximum)	£500	£500	£500	£500	£500
School uniform	Up to £150 for primary/nursery school, £300 for secondary				
Prom	Up to £200				
Respite fee	£66 per day (up to 72 hours)				
Mileage	£0.45 per mile				

The Fostering Service will continue to consult with foster carers about financial support. Wigan's fostering allowances will be increased annually in line with national minimum weekly rates.

Newly approved carers

Criteria for payment

- Completed necessary pre-approval training (as outlined in Wigan's Foster Carers Agreement)
- Foster carer is approved under regulation 27.

Experienced carers

Criteria for payment

- Foster carer is approved under regulation 27.
- Foster carer has completed and passed the post approval mandatory training.

Specialist carers

Remand Fostering

Remand fostering is for children/young people between the ages 10-17 who have been remanded by the courts. These arrangements are relatively short term a few days to a few weeks maximum, carers will be paid an ongoing retention fee of £150 per week when there is no child living with them on remand.

Pregnant Looked After Child

Foster carers who provide a home for a young person who is pregnant - assisting, advising, and supporting them through their pregnancy and following the birth of their child. This type of fostering aims for the looked after child to gain parenting skills and confidence.

Parent is a Looked After Child

When the parent is a Looked After Child themselves, and the child is not the subject of Care Proceedings, payments remain the same. Foster carers provide a home for a looked after child who has become a parent and supports the child to develop their parenting skills.

If the parent leaves the foster home and the child remains, the carer will revert to the appropriate payment for a child of that age. If the parent is looked after and remains in the foster home and the child moves, the carer will revert to the appropriate payment for a child of that age.

Step-down Fostering

Foster carers who provide a home for a child / young person who presently resides in a residential children's home either in borough or out of borough. These children / young people are likely to have experienced multiple moves within the care system and may present with a range of complex needs.

A retention fee of £150.00 per week will be paid to carers for a maximum of 4 weeks whilst introductions take place.

Agency Carers transferring to Wigan Council with child in placement

For foster carers transferring from another agency we will continue to provide the same fostering allowance as their previous agency, for as long as the child remains in their home.

Foster carers will be paid Wigan's skill-based fostering allowances for new children moving into the fostering household.

Festivity, Birthday and Holiday allowances

If a child moves into the fostering family prior to the birthday but after the payment date, the allowance will be included in the next payment.

Where a child/young person is only likely to be in the fostering family a short time, or it is likely that another period of accommodation may be necessary, an appropriate portion of the holiday allowance can be paid on request. If a child moves prior to going on holiday, an appropriate reimbursement of the holiday allowance will be sought by the social worker.

Initial clothing allowance

- This allowance is to be paid only in those situations where children move into a foster home without adequate basic clothing.
- The allowance will be paid based on age and included in the first payment

Prom

- Up to £200

School Uniform

- Primary School up to £150
- Secondary School up to £300

Equipment

- Paid on receipt of invoices up to a maximum of £500

Mileage payments

Mileage will be paid to foster carers in relation to the following:

- taking a child to and from nursery/school if it is more than 3 miles from your home.
- Taking a child to appointments that are specific to a child being looked after, such as to and from family time, attending CLA reviews and CLA medicals.
- Attending training and support groups or other such events specific to your role as a foster carer.
- Taking a child to appointments that are not universal health appointments.

Mileage is claimed by completing the departments foster carers mileage form. The mileage is paid at 45p per mile.

Sleepover Fee

- £66 per 24 hours up to 72 hours. After this period ordinary payments resume.

Payment Timings and Process

Allowances are paid directly into your bank/building society (a week in advance and a week in arrears)

- The holiday allowance will normally be paid in June and festival allowance in December
- Birthday allowances are included in the payment preceding the child's birthday

Payment adjustments

Where over payments or under payments occur, the money will be recovered or supplemented as quickly as possible. This will usually be by an adjustment of the next payment.

Temporary absence from placement (child missing from home):

Less than 72 hours - All payments continue

- More than 72 hours - All payments cease unless agreement reached in protocol meeting for this time to be extended.

Temporary absence from placement (admission to hospital):

Full payments continue for up to 4 weeks and half those allowances thereafter. We will review this after 3 months.

Payments to carers facing an allegation who have children removed as a result

Where carers are subject to an allegation and a child or children placed with them are removed as a result, the carer will continue to receive the basic element of their allowance for a period of up to eight weeks. Should an investigation still be ongoing after the eight-week period, the situation will be referred to the Practice Director for consideration to continue the payment.

Useful Information and Contacts

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifying-care-relief-foster-carers-adult-placement-carers-kinship-carers-and-staying-put-carers-hs236-self-assessment-helpsheet>

<https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/advice-information/finances/tax-and-national-insurance>

Further advice on tax issues

You can contact your local HMRC office by phone or via the internet - see HMRC website for details

Parent Benefit Claims/Guidance and Entitlements

The following information can be obtained from www.direct.gov

Useful Contacts

Fostering Team

Fostering.Team@wigan.gov.uk

01942 487200