

## Walsall Council Fostering Service Fees & Allowances Scheme

The scheme is a fee per bed scheme based on approval categories of 0-18 with a clear matching preference.

Foster Carers are only paid the fee and allowance when there are children in living with them; vacant beds are not paid for unless there is a clear justifiable and time limited reason as to why we would pay for a vacant bed (this is only applicable in exceptional circumstances and dependent on the needs of the existing child living with the carers and the needs of the carers). A retainer of up to 50% of the (additional) fee will be paid if we are holding a bed for another child.

To provide new carers with some financial reassurance they will receive half of their fee for the first 3 months they are available to foster, when they don't have any children living with them.

When a child moves from a foster home, the carer will receive half of the fee related to that child for 2 weeks if they have a vacancy and are available to foster. If the carer turns down what is considered to be a well-matched child within that 2-week period, the fee associated to that vacancy will be stopped. If the carer has another child come to live with them within the 2-week period, the payment associated with the vacancy will stop and they will begin receiving a fee related to the child who has just come to live with them.

### **Fee Scheme:**

Level	Weekly Fee 0 children*	Weekly fee 1 child	Fee 2 children	Fee 3 children	Fee 4 children
Standard		93.50	122.40	136.85	177.91
Generic		220	360	460	575
Advanced		275	480	690	862.50
New Horizon		900			
Mockingbird Hub	537.50				

\* If a Mockingbird Hub Carer is also acting as full time Foster Carer for a child, they will receive an additional fee which will be paid at the level the Foster Carer had reached prior to becoming a Hub Carer

Carers who do not complete the Training, Support and Development standards portfolio within timescales will have their fee level reviewed.

### **Allowances:**

Age Bands	Allowances			
	Weekly Allowance	Birthdays	Festivals	Holidays
0-4	£159.00	£159.00	£159.00	£159.00
5-10	£175.00	£175.00	£175.00	£175.00
11-15	£199.00	£199.00	£199.00	£199.00
16+	£233.15	£233.15	£233.15	£233.15

From the child's allowance, all expenses should be met; this includes travel, clothing, food, household contribution, pocket money etc, savings etc. Foster carers are expected to pay the following for pocket money and savings from the allowance.

<b>Age Bands</b>	<b>Pocket money weekly</b>	<b>Long term savings weekly (Deducted at source from April 2022)</b>
0-4	Nil	£5
5-10	£3	£6
11-15	£5	£10
16-17	£10	£12

Foster carers will receive a birthday allowance and a festival allowance for each child who is living with them. In addition to this, Walsall will pay two weeks' allowance for holidays per child. Foster carers should not expect any further payments towards taking a child on holiday; a further payment towards a holiday would only be paid in very exceptional circumstances.