

2 FOSTERING ALLOWANCES 2007/2008 (AN289-2007)

At the Social Work and Health Committee on 25th June, 2007, Report 342-2007 - Fostering and Adoption Resources informed members of the pressures being faced by the Family Placement Service. Specifically the report recommended:

- the fostering and adoption service needs to recruit and retain additional carers to meet the increased demands of the service
- the fostering and adoption service needs to continue to improve the conditions of service, including financial payments, in order to meet recruitment and retention targets

The report noted a greater requirement to purchase more external foster placements to meet increasing demand for placements which are considerable more expensive than in-house provision.

In order to assist meeting these recommendations the following changes to foster carer's fees and allowances are proposed:

Carers Fees

Currently, a foster carer receives a fee of £138.27 per week for the first child in their care but a lower amount of £103.66 for a second or subsequent child. It is proposed to increase the Fostering Fee for second and subsequent children to flat rate per child in line with the fee for a first placement with effect from 31 December 2007:-

	1 April 2007	31 December 2007
	£/Week	£/Week
2nd and Subsequent Placement Fee	103.66	138.21

Fostering Allowances

In 2006/07 the principle of linking fostering allowances to the Fostering Network Rate was agreed. In line with this principle, the rates effective from 1st April, 2007 were set at 78% of the Fostering Network rates. It is now recommended that the rates are set at 95% of Fostering Network rates, with effect from 31st December, 2007.

	1 April 07	31 December 2007
	£/Week	£/Week
Age Allowance 00-04	92.78	112.67
Age Allowance 05-10	105.69	128.35
Age Allowance 11-15	131.57	159.77
Age Allowance 16-18	160.01	194.32

The cost of the above proposals will be £59,650 in 2007/08 which can be met from within the existing Social Work Budget and £251,300 in a full financial year for which additional budget will be required.