

Reference: RFI 1711045

**Request:**

Please can you tell me whether foster carers are given extra money for the items/occasions below on top of their regular allowance or whether these things have to be paid for out of their regular allowance. Can you tell me the situation this year and on each of the last five years.

If extra payments are given, please also tell me how much is paid for these items? If the amount varies, please let me know what the minimum and maximum payment is for each of the items.

On mileage. As well as the payment per mile please also tell me if carers can claim all mileage. If not please tell me the number of miles a foster carer has to drive before they can claim mileage if such an arrangement is in place. Please also tell me what type of journeys carers can claim for ie travel without the child to training; travel without the child to meetings; travel to contact meetings with birth parents; travel with the child to meetings with social services etc)

The costs below have been in place since 2013.

1) New placement costs (ie to buy clothes, bedding etc for the arrival of a child)

Emergency clothing up to £ 50.00

School Uniform (school branded clothing) paid for if child has not been in placement for more than 6 weeks

Bed and mattress up to £ 100.00

Wardrobe up to £ 70.00

Set of drawers up to £ 40.00

2) Birthdays (see below)

Age	Birthday Allowance	Christmas/Religious Festival Allowance	Holiday Allowance
0 – 4	134.49	134.49	134.49 x2
5– 10	147.84	147.84	147.84 x2
11 – 15	184.05	184.05	184.05x 2
To Carer for 16+	184.05	184.05	184.05 x 2

3) Christmas or other religious holidays. (as above)

A one off payment can be negotiated with the Service Manager; however the expectation is that Foster Carers will use the clothing element of the Fostering Allowance payment.

4) Mileage £0.317 per mile – only pay for school journey/medical appts where they are over 0.5 miles

5) Spectacles maximum £50.00

6) Specific expenses that arise because of a child's cultural or ethnic background reimbursed in full

7) Childminding £3.50 per hour for sitting other LAC

8) Up to £50.00 'Rites of Passage'

9) Cost of telephone calls where they are part of a Care Plan

10) Facilitating contact – 1-5hrs per week = £15; 6-10hrs per week = £25; 11+ hrs per week £50

The information supplied to you is owned by the council unless otherwise stated and may be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research or for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use of a commercial nature will require the permission of the Council. Further enquiries in this respect should be directed to Head of Law and Governance, North Tyneside Council, Quadrant The Silver Link North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY