**Finance**

The financial reimbursement for carers is as follows:

Fostering Allowances

* The appropriate age fostering allowance for each child in placement.
* The 16+ allowance for each parent in placement.

In Parent Assessment and Support Placements the weekly allowances are not always needed to cover the items listed for foster carers of children, as parents generally come into placement with an income for themselves and their child(ren). The allowances are to cover the full cost of providing a comfortable home environment for the parent and the child, and costs associated with the high level of professional visits that may take place at the home.

Fees

* Assessment Fee of £200 per week for each parent in placement

This is to cover the additional recording, teaching and support that are expectations of a PAST placement provider.

**NOTE**: Christmas, birthday and holiday allowances are not paid for Parent Assessment and Support Placements.

**Parents in receipt of benefit** will be expected to contribute £35 per week towards household running costs. If there are two parents in placement the payments will be £25 each, in recognition of the couple status. Parents must pay this at intervals of not more than two weeks. Placement providers will have this sum (£35 or £50) deducted from their weekly allowance, as this is now coming from an alternative source. If a placement ends and the parent has any arrears, these will be paid to the placement provider by the PAST Team. Arrears of more than two weeks will not be reimbursed, unless the Placement Provider has previously made it clear to the PAST Team that arrears are accruing.

**Parents not in receipt of benefit** will be given an allowance of £35 per week by the placement provider for budgeting for food and personal items. If there are two parents in placement, this payment will be £25.00 to each parent, in recognition of the couple status. The placement provider’s payment will increase by either £35 or £50 to reflect this.

**All parents** will be entitled to claim Child Benefit. Parents are responsible for providing for their child(ren).

**Retainers.** Placement providers are required to take a two week break following the end of a placement. A retainer of £150.00 per week will be paid during this period.

If following the required two weeks, there is no suitable referrals for the placement, this retainer will continue to be paid until a suitable referral is received, providing that the placement provider remains available for a placement to be made.

As such, retainers will not be made if a placement provider is taking holidays or makes a request for a longer break from service. Payments will be re-instated when a placement provider is again available to accept a placement.

**Payment for skills.** A placement provider will receive a ‘fostering excellence’ payment for skills. This is only payable when the placement is utilised.

Note: In the unlikely event that there is an assessment breakdown, the following payments will be made to the PAST Placement Provider:

* If the child(ren) remain in the placement following the departure of parents, then the PAST Placement Provider will receive the fee for the child (multiple fee’s will be payable corresponding to the number of children) **plus** the retainer fee.
* If the parent(s) remain in the placement following the departure of the child(ren), then the PAST Placement Provider will receive the fee for the parent (a multiple fee will be paid if there are two parents) **plus** the retainer fee.