

APPENDIX A

**Children's Fees, Allowances, Payments and Charges 2021/22:  
Proposed Rates with effect Monday 12th April 2021 (First Monday in the new tax year)**

Allowance, Fee or Charge <sup>(1)</sup>	Description of Allowance, Fee or Charge	Current Rate 2020/21	Proposed Rate 2021/22	Unit	% Increase
<b>FOSTERING ALLOWANCES</b>					
<b>Basic Child Foster Allowance<sup>(2)</sup>:</b>					
Age 0-4	Age related allowance to cover the full cost to the foster carer of caring for an individual child. This allowance is paid to all foster carers in relation to each individual child in their care.	152.06	155.10	£/child/week	2.00%
Age 5-10		173.21	176.67	£/child/week	2.00%
Age 11-15		215.63	219.94	£/child/week	2.00%
Age 16+		262.30	267.55	£/child/week	2.00%
<b>Basic Child Foster Allowance - LAC Long Term Savings element:</b>					
All Ages	The Basic Child Foster Allowance above includes an element for long term needs. In accordance with SMBC's LAC Savings Policy this element is paid directly into Child Trust Funds or Junior ISA accounts by the Council where a child has been in care for 12 months. This long term needs element is therefore deducted from the Basic Child Foster Allowance above to determine the value of the Basic Child Foster Allowance to be paid directly to Carers.	5.30	5.41	£/child/week	2.00%
<b>Additional Foster Allowance (Birthday, Festival &amp; Holiday) Ages:</b>					
Age 0-4	Age related allowance to cover the cost to the foster carer of birthdays, Christmas or other religious festival and school holidays. This allowance is paid to all foster carers in relation to each individual child in their care up to and including 18. Holiday allowances are subject to prior agreement.	608.25	620.41	£ per annum	2.00%
Age 5-10		692.82	706.68	£ per annum	2.00%
Age 11-15		862.51	879.76	£ per annum	2.00%
Age 16+		1,049.21	1,070.20	£ per annum	2.00%

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<b>FOSTERING FEES</b>					
Skills 1 Fee	Payable to all carers <sup>(3)</sup> meeting set requirement targets in the preceding 12 months, evidencing their additional skills, training and learning and their contribution to the success and development of the Solihull Fostering Service. Skills 2 has a higher requirement level and, if achieved, is payable instead of the Skills 1 Fee. Skill achievement is assessed annually.	41.16	41.47	£/child/week	0.75%
Skills 2 Fee		84.85	85.49	£/child/week	0.75%
Carer Fee 0-10 (Non-specialist)	This is payable to each fostering household approved for a range of children according to the age of each individual child in placement.	149.69	150.81	£/child/week	0.75%
Carer Fee 11+ (Teen Fee, Non-specialist)	This is payable to each fostering household approved for a range of children according to the age of each individual child in placement, at 110% of the basic carer fee (0-10).	164.66	165.89	£/child/week	0.75%
Blocked Bed Payment	Payable to carers eligible for Carer Fee where it is determined that a child must be placed on their own and where the carer is approved for more than one placement. These are used infrequently and are only used in specific circumstances as approved by Cabinet Member at the decision session on 18th March 2008.	149.69	150.81	£/week	0.75%
Holding fee / Retainer	Payable to carers eligible for Carer Fee when a child matched with them is awaiting court decision/hospital discharge etc. before they can be placed. Fee is equivalent of the 0-10 Carer Fee plus skills payment regardless of the age of the child to be placed.	149.69	150.81	£/week	0.75%
Foster Day Care	An hourly rate paid to carers who provide day care for children placed with other carers. This will usually be because the main carer is attending a meeting or training. Percentage increase is determined by an average mix of allowances and fees.	4.89	4.95	£/child/hour	1.38%
Specialist Carer Fee	Paid to foster carers, providing remuneration for the Foster Carer's work, recognising the level of need of the children the Carer looks after. For example needing a Remand bed, a PACE bed, a mental health bed, or pending residential care. The rate payable reflects the maximum rate dependent on the assessed need of the child and subject to the approval of the Head of Service.	459.48	462.93	£/child/week	0.75%

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Travel and Mileage Expenses	Expenses that exceed the level contained within the weekly foster allowance (currently 60 miles) will be reimbursed to cover agreed additional mileage. The rate payable for agreed additional mileage is the same as the protected casual user rate for employees of Solihull MBC.	0.36	0.36	£/mile	-
Additional Respite Session	Applicable to all foster and all short break placements where the criteria for the additional session are met. Where a placement extends beyond the agreed multiple of 24 hours, the Carer will provide the first 2 hours at no extra cost. The 'Additional Respite Session' lump sum payment is then made to cover hours 3 through to the end of the 8th hour. Additional hours beyond this are paid at the day care hourly rate.	30.29	30.71	£ / additional session	1.38%
Additional Respite Session Specialist Fostering	Percentage increase is determined by the mix of allowances and fees in the payment.	48.57	49.24	£ / additional session	1.38%
Short Break Arrangement Payment 0-10	For Family Link / Support Break / Short Break placements. A one-off lump sum 'Short Break Arrangement' payment is made for each arrangement on top of prorata fees and allowances. This lump sum is the same regardless of whether the arrangement is for 1,2 or more days. Percentage increase is determined by the mix of allowances and fees in the payment. Percentage increase is determined by a mix of age related fees and allowances.	48.43	49.10	£ / arrangement	1.38%
Short Break Arrangement Payment 11+		63.38	64.25	£ / arrangement	1.38%

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<b>CHARGES TO OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES</b>					
<b>Mainstream Foster Placement:</b>					
All Ages	Where another Authority places one of the children in their care in one of our Mainstream Foster placements, we are able to charge that Authority for the full cost of providing that placement.	659.99	669.07	£/child/week	1.38%
<b>Specialist Foster Placement:</b>					
Age 3-4	Where another Authority places one of the children in their care in one of our Specialist Foster placements, we are able to charge that Authority for the full cost of providing that placement. This amount includes the relevant SMBC foster allowances, which are payable at cost.	1,985.85	2,013.15	£/child/week	1.38%
Age 5-10		2,006.90	2,034.50	£/child/week	1.38%
Age 11-15		2,137.18	2,166.56	£/child/week	1.38%
Age 16+		2,183.58	2,213.60	£/child/week	1.38%
<b>OTHER CARE PAYMENTS/ALLOWANCES</b>					
<b>Financial Support for Order Arrangements</b>	Encompassing: Residence Orders, Child Arrangement Orders, Adoption Orders and Special Guardianship Orders.  Financial support payable subject to Solihull MBC's Policy for the Assessment and award of Order Arrangement Financial Support. The maximum basic payment (excluding additional needs) is equal to the age related 'Basic Child Foster Allowance' (see above), less child related state benefits e.g. child benefit. This is then subject to SMBC's means test in accordance with regulation.			£/child/week	-
<b>Supported Lodgings Payment and Staying Put Payment</b>	Non-foster related payment. Paid to assessed Supportive Lodgings and Staying Put carers, who provide care to older young people who are making the transition to independence. The total payment is made up of 25% of the Foster Carer Fee 11+ and the Placements Costs element of the Foster Allowance for Age 16+ (75% of the allowance).	237.89	241.16	£/young person/week	1.38%
<b>Comprising:</b>					
	Contribution from the Young Person's wages/JSA.	26.66	27.03	£/young person/week	1.38%

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	100% of the Young Person's housing benefit entitlement (variable) with the balance met by Children's Social Services.	211.23	214.13	£/young person/week	1.38%
<b>PERSONAL ALLOWANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING INDEPENDENTLY OR SEMI INDEPENDENTLY</b>					
Personal Allowance for 16 and 17 year olds	Personal Allowance for young people living independently or semi-independently .	61.63	62.86	£/young person/week	2.00%
Personal Allowance for Care Leavers		57.90	57.90	£/young person/week	-

#### Notes to table:

(1) This table covers all standard fees and allowances payable to Foster Carers and all charges to other Local Authorities.

- (i) Carers subject to allegations
- (ii) Part time arrangements (allowances and fees payable prorata)
- (iii) Loss or damage of property incurred by fostered child
- (iv) Initial Clothing Allowance
- (v) Initial School Clothing Allowance
- (vi) Equipment and Furniture

(2) Includes Long Term Savings for children and young people of £5.41 per week per child. This element is not paid to the Carers but is invested into Child Trust Funds and Junior ISAs for

(3) Except Specialist Carers, Contract Carers and Short Breaks Carers, where their skills are recognised directly within their enhanced Fees.