

## Fostering payment amounts 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

### Standard fostering payments

Kinship foster carers (a relative, friend or other person connected with a child) receive the age-related maintenance only, unless the required training is undertaken. All other Kent foster carers are required to undertake the training and therefore receive both reward and maintenance elements.

Age of child	Maintenance payment	Reward payment	Total weekly payment
Under 2	£203.54	£150.53	£354.07
2 to 4	£211.08	£150.53	£361.61
5 to 8	£232.62	£150.53	£383.15
9 to 10	£232.62	£285.92	£518.54
11 to 15	£266.00	£285.92	£551.92
16 to 18	£310.15	£285.92	£596.07

### Parent and child fostering payments

Foster carers are paid weekly for each parent, and each child in their care.

Standard parent and child payments cover maintenance and reward for a parent and child.

Enhanced parent and child payments cover maintenance and reward for a child and maintenance and twice reward for a parent.

Type of payment	Maintenance payment	Reward payment	Total weekly payment
Standard	£513.60	£436.45	£ 950.05
Enhanced	£513.60	£722.30	£1,235.90
Enhanced where parent is in receipt of benefit (£92.50 pw)	£421.10	£722.30	£1,143.40

### Solo and complex fostering payments

Solo and complex payments are paid to foster carers who are looking after children or young people who cannot be placed alongside other children or who have higher level risk taking behaviours requiring more specialist interventions.

All solo and complex payments relate to the child's needs and not the foster carer's skills or experience. Payments will be reviewed every 3 months by a panel. Payment will be equivalent to the highest rate reward in addition to the age related maintenance and reward payments.

Age of child	Age Related Maintenance payment	Age Related Reward Payment	High Reward Element	Total weekly payment
Under 2	£203.54	£150.53	£285.92	£639.99
2 to 4	£211.08	£150.53	£285.92	£647.53
5 to 8	£232.62	£150.53	£285.92	£669.07
9 to 10	£232.62	£285.92	£285.92	£804.46
11 to 15	£266.00	£285.92	£285.92	£837.84
16 to 18	£310.15	£285.92	£285.92	£881.99

## Disabled Children's fostering payments

The figures for disability foster care are based on the assessed level of the child's needs, agreed at funding panel and are reviewed once a year.

Foster carers of disabled children are also eligible for an additional payment - either standard or enhanced. This is also based on the assessed level of the child's needs and reviewed once a year.

There are also a small number of children whose level of complex needs place additional and exceptional demands on their foster carers and in these circumstances a further disability placement supplement would be paid which is equivalent in amount to the age-related reward element of the fostering fee (this is not included in the totals below).

### Standard disability payments

Age of child	Maintenance payment	Reward payment	Standard additional payment	Total weekly payment
Under 2	£203.54	£150.53	£85.78	£439.85
2 to 4	£211.08	£150.53	£85.78	£ 447.39
5 to 8	£232.62	£150.53	£85.78	£ 468.93
9 to 10	£232.62	£285.92	£85.78	£ 604.32
11 to 15	£266.00	£285.92	£85.78	£ 637.70
16 to 18	£310.15	£285.92	£85.78	£ 681.85

### Enhanced disability payments

Age of child	Maintenance payment	Reward payment	Enhanced additional payment	Total weekly payment
Under 2	£203.54	£150.53	£114.37	£468.44
2 to 4	£211.08	£150.53	£114.37	£ 475.98
5 to 8	£232.62	£150.53	£114.37	£ 497.52
9 to 10	£232.62	£285.92	£114.37	£ 632.91
11 to 15	£266.00	£285.92	£114.37	£ 666.29
16 to 18	£310.15	£285.92	£114.37	£ 710.44

## Disabled children's short break fostering payments

Short breaks are short term placements, such as evenings or weekends, that allow parents or carers of disabled children to take a break.

Short breaks fostering payments are calculated per night.

The figures for short breaks foster care are based on the assessed level of the child's needs, agreed at funding panel and are reviewed once a year. The reward element is paid at the higher rate and is not dependent on the age of the child.

Short breaks foster carers are also eligible for an additional payment - either standard or enhanced. This is also based on the assessed level of the child's needs and reviewed once a year.

### Standard disability short break payments

Age of child	Maintenance payment	Reward payment at higher rate	Standard additional payment	Total nightly payment
Under 2	£29.08.	£40.85	£12.25	£82.18
2 to 4	£30.15	£40.85	£12.25	£83.25

5 to 8	£33.23	£40.85	£12.25	£86.33
9 to 10	£33.23	£40.85	£12.25	£86.33
11 to 15	£38.00	£40.85	£12.25	£91.10
16 to 18	£44.31	£40.85	£12.25	£97.41

### Enhanced disability short break payments

Age of child	Maintenance payment	Reward payment	Enhanced additional payment	Total nightly payment
Under 2	£29.08	£40.85	£16.34	£86.27
2 to 4	£30.15	£40.85	£16.34	£87.34
5 to 8	£33.23	£40.85	£16.34	£90.42
9 to 10	£33.23	£40.85	£16.34	£90.42
11 to 15	£38.00	£40.85	£16.34	£95.19
16 to 18	£44.31	£40.85	£16.34	£101.50

### Emergency bed payments

Payment type	Nightly payment	Weekly payment
Retainer	£40.85	£285.92
Maintenance (higher rate)	£44.31	£310.15
Reward (higher rate)	£40.85	£285.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>£126.01</b>	<b>£ 881.99</b>
Complex enhanced	£16.34	£114.37
<b>Total including enhanced</b>	<b>£ 142.35</b>	<b>£ 996.36</b>

### Skills payments

In addition to weekly payments, you could also qualify for extra 'Payment for Skills' rewards. The additional payment amount depends on your skill level, which we will assess annually.

You'll receive your extra payment regardless of the needs or age of the child placed with you.

Skill level	Nightly payment (short break only)	Weekly payment
Standard	No additional payment	No additional payment
Skilled	£3.85	£26.98
Advanced	£9.63	£67.39

### Step Across to Fostering Scheme

Payment type	One off payment	Weekly payment
Settling in Payment	£5,000.00	
Additional Settling in Payment (paid at 4 months, 8 months, 12 months and 18 months of placement)	£2,500.00	
Retainer		£285.92
Complex payment for first 18 months, this will then be reviewed by the Access to Resources Panel		£285.92
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>Reward (higher rate)</b>	<b>Weekly Payment</b>
Under 2	£203.54	£285.92
		£489.46

2 to 4	£211.08	£285.92	£ 497.00
5 to 8	£232.62	£285.92	£ 518.54
9 to 10	£232.62	£285.92	£ 518.54
11 to 15	£266.00	£285.92	£ 551.92
16 to 18	£310.15	£285.92	£ 596.07

### **Mockingbird Scheme – Home Hub Carer**

- Standard weekly payment £710.44

### **Sessional work and day care**

- Sessional work is paid at £12.71 per hour.
- Day care is paid at £12.71 per hour.

### **'Refer a friend' payments**

You could gain additional reward payments if you refer friends and family members to us as potential foster carers.

Once your recommended foster carer has been approved by our panel, you'll receive a one-off bonus payment of £500.

### **Supported Homes Payments**

For standard arrangements of up to 15 hours of support you will receive £185.84 a week. For enhanced arrangements of between 15 and 25 hours of support you will receive £309.72 a week.

### **Rent**

The amount of rent you'll receive depends on the age of the young person:

- for young people aged 16 and 17 who are not in receipt of benefit, we will pay you £86.72 per week in rent.
- for young people 18 years and over, who will be in receipt of Universal Credit, you will receive rent according to the Local Authority Housing Rate based on one bedroom accommodation. The amount of rent you receive varies according to where you live.

### **Utilities**

The young person will pay £10 per week towards utilities.

### **Food (optional)**

If you and the young person agree that their food will be bought and cooked for them as part of their support plan, they will pay a contribution of £20 per week.