

Foster Care Weekly Payment Rates 2026-2027

for Full Time Placements

For guidance purposes only

Mainstream Foster Carers	(1) Reward Element <i>Based on Age of Child</i>	Age 0 - 8			Age 9 - 16+		
	The reward element is a fee for the work undertaken with each child. Carers work on a self-employed basis and declare the reward element fee for tax purposes.	£156.70			£297.64		
	(2) Maintenance Element <i>Based on age of child. NB £10.00 will be deducted from this amount at source for child / young person's savings.</i>	Age 0 - 2	Age 2 - 4	Age 5 - 8	Age 9 - 10	Age 11 - 15	Age 16+
	KCC pays a maintenance element for each child placed with a foster carer. This fee covers all costs related to the child / young person and their care.	£210.00	£218.62	£240.15	£240.15	£274.62	£320.92
	(1) + (2) = Total Combined Weekly Payment for Mainstream Carers	£366.70	£375.32	£396.85	£537.79	£572.26	£618.56
Foster Carers for Children with Disabilities	(3) Disability Enhancement <i>Based on assessed level of child's needs & agreed at funding panel. Reviewed yearly.</i>	Age 0 - 18					
		Standard: £89.30 or Enhanced: £119.06					
	(1) + (2) + Standard rate = Total Combined Weekly Payment	£456.00	£464.62	£486.15	£627.09	£661.56	£707.86
	(1) + (2) + Enhanced rate = Total Combined Weekly Payment	£485.76	£494.38	£515.91	£656.85	£691.32	£737.62

Note

• Mileage rates remain at 45p per mile.
• Respite carers are paid on a pro rata basis.
• Related placements receive only maintenance element unless the required training is undertaken.
• Non-related placements are required to undertake the training and therefore receive both reward and maintenance elements.
• All foster carers will receive one consolidated weekly payment which will incorporate all the fixed allowances, including maintenance/personal allowance, etc. for the child. In addition, carers of children who are open to the Disability Service receive either a standard or enhanced payment dependent on the assessed needs of the child.
• We promote the professionalism of the fostering service by the Payment for Skills which concentrates on carers' skill levels and if agreed, the rates are an additional £28.09 per week for Level 2 (Skilled) and £70.15 per week for Level 3 (Advanced).