



Finance Guide

August 2024

Welcome to Fostering Barnsley!

We're excited that you're interested in finding out more about the magic of fostering with us.

Thank you for taking this first step towards creating a stable and loving home for Barnsley's children and young people in care. There are over 130 households fostering in Barnsley, and you could be our next.

Contents

**Our Foster Carer
Fee: A skills-based
weekly allowance**

page 04

**Our Fostering
Allowance:
An aged-based
weekly allowance**

page 06

**Extra fees for
extra care**

page 07

Fees at a glance

page 10

**Next steps:
How to apply**

page 11

Contact details

page 12



We understand that caring for a child or young person is a wonderful and rewarding experience. We also know that it is a life-changing decision that requires time, dedication, and fundamentally, financial support. We know that money may not be your first consideration when thinking about fostering. However, we believe it's important that you are fully informed on the financial support you can receive.

We are committed to ensuring that our foster carers receive the right financial support to help them positively transform the life of a child. That's why we're putting £1.17 million into our fostering fees and allowances every year, to match inflation and the financial needs of our foster carers.

The kind of financial support you can receive depends on different factors, and these include: your experience as a foster carer, the amount of children you foster and their ages. The average weekly fee a foster carer receives is £683, but this is dependent on your circumstances—so, what would fostering allowances look like for you?

In this financial guide for Fostering Barnsley, we break down every element of our financial support so you can understand how we can help you, and our children in care.

If you have any questions about fostering with us, our contact details are on the back of this guide. Please feel free to reach out to us!

Our Foster Carer Fee



A skills-based weekly allowance

As the foster carer, you will receive a **weekly allowance** to cover the costs of looking after a Barnsley child. This foster carer allowance is based on **your skills** as a foster carer, meaning the experience you have within the role—whether you have fostered children before or this is your first time fostering.

Most of our foster carers start on an allowance of **£130 a week**. This is the starting point, otherwise known as Skills Level 1.

We offer three different Skills Levels for our foster carers to match your skills

and experience. With more training and experience, you can earn up to **£375 per week** as a **Skills Level 3** foster carer.

The amounts for each Skills Level are as follows:

Level 1: £130 per week

Level 2: £200 per week

Level 3: £375 per week

How are these Levels assessed?

These Skills Levels are assessed based on the knowledge, skills and experience you bring to the fostering role. This will be discussed as part of your initial visit and fostering assessment. Your Skills Level will be approved by

our agency decision maker following the Fostering Panel.

Additional payments for additional children

The payments above are based on caring for **one child**. If you are caring for more than one child, you will receive more money per week depending on the amount of additional children.

The fees above are paid **in full** for the **first** child placed in your care, then you will receive an **extra 50%** of the fee for the **second** child placed, and an **extra 25%** of the fee for the **third** child placed.

Rebecca fosters two children as a **Level 1** carer. She receives a weekly allowance of **£195** based on her skills.

Jordan has been fostering for ten years, and is a Level 3 foster carer. He fosters three children, and receives **£656.25** in skills payments each week.

This is just the first type of allowance you will receive to foster children, based purely on your skills as a carer. You will also receive other allowances based on:

- ☀️ The ages of the children in your care:
- Emergency fees
- Holiday allowances
- Specialist fees for children with disabilities and additional behavioural needs.

These are covered later in this guide, under **'Our Fostering Allowance'** on page 06, and **'Extra fees for extra care'** on page 07.

These are the extra payments you will receive for caring for additional children:

Skill	100% (First child)	50% (Second child)	25% (Third child)
Level 1	£130	£65	£32.50
Level 2	£200	£100	£50
Level 3	£375	£187.50	£93.75

Fostering Allowances



As well as a weekly allowance based on your skills as a foster carer, we offer a weekly allowance that's based on the **age(s) of the child(ren)** in your care.

This will be paid to you on top of your skills-based weekly allowance. This aged-based weekly allowance is designed to cover all expenses related to the child's care, which will include food, transportation, and after-school activities.

The **base amounts** for each age range, and their **extra**

fees for age-related skills are as follows:

0-2 years: £175
3-4 years: £180
5-10 years: £207
11-15 years: £258
Over 16s: £309

These amounts will be paid to you **per child**.

Fiona and Callum care for two lively girls both aged between 5-10 years. They will receive **£414** in fostering allowances weekly, as well as a **£195** skills payment.

Staying Home Allowance for over 18s

At Fostering Barnsley, we know that the fostering journey is not over once a child turns

18. We offer a **Staying Home Allowance** for young people staying in the care of their foster carer from the age of 18, which is an additional allowance per week.

This is calculated at 50% of the skills-based weekly allowance, which is paid on top of your regular weekly allowances.

Jaspreet is a **Level 1** foster carer fostering a young person that is 18. She receives an extra **£65** per week for Staying Home Allowance, on top of all other weekly allowances.

Extra fees for extra care



In addition to the weekly skills-based and aged-based allowances, you as a foster carer can receive a range of other allowances to help with looking after your Barnsley child or children.

These allowances help with everyday necessities, holidays, special occasions in your child's life and emergencies.

The different allowances you will be entitled to as a foster carer are:

Initial Clothing Allowance

When a child first comes into your care, they may need new clothing. We provide an initial clothing allowance to ensure the child has everyday wear, as well as separate uniform allowances for children aged 5-15.

0-4 years: £75

5-10 years: £100 (plus £40 uniform allowance aged 5-11)

11-15 years: £120 (plus £60 uniform allowance aged 11-16)

Over 16s: £120

Specialist fees for additional behavioural needs

We offer an additional £200 specialist premium fee per week to help care for children with disabilities and further health/behavioural needs. This is based on 24-hour supervision, and is paid on top of your regular fostering allowance and fees.

Emergency/ Enhanced Placement Fee

When asked to take care of a child in an emergency, we will make sure you are supported. You will receive an extra £100 per week for up to 4 weeks on top of your regular weekly allowances. This is also paid pro-rata, so for example if you are caring on an emergency basis for 3 days, you would receive 43% of the £100 = £43.

If you're caring for a child on a day care rate, this is paid at £9.50 per hour. Whenever an emergency home match is carried out beyond the 12 hours planned, we'll pay a day rate of £9.50 for every additional hour.

Holiday and Festive Allowances

We recognise the importance of special occasions in a child's life. You could be the first person to take a child on holiday, and could create an

incredible new experience together.

We provide annual allowances for holidays and festive seasons to help you create memories and celebrate the child or young person in your care. A young person in your care could receive up to **£747** for holidays and festivals each year.

Annual leave for foster carers

We know that fostering is a full-time role. Like any rewarding work, feeling refreshed and relaxed yourself is essential. We offer all of our foster carers **14 days paid annual leave**. If you've been caring for a child on a full-time fostering basis for 6 months, you qualify for annual leave.

Your holiday can either be used for yourself, and any children in your care would be paired with a respite foster carer, or you can choose to spend the holiday together as a foster family. The latter is what we call

our **Time Together bonus**.

This is paid pro-rata'd, so for example, if you take 5 days paid annual leave but spend time together for the remaining 9, you receive 9 days' worth of payment.

Respite care allowance

As a respite foster carer, you will receive an additional full week's allowance on top of your regular allowances. The work that our respite foster carers do is fantastic, and we want to recognise your skills and effort.

Birthday Allowances

We think every day can be a great experience when fostering, but we know some days are especially important for a child. Every child deserves to feel special on their birthday. That's why we provide a birthday allowance to help foster carers celebrate the day with gifts and activities.

Tax Relief and Benefits

Mileage

Whether it's the school run, football practice or dance class, we're here to help. All of our foster carers can claim mileage without a minimum limit.

Tax-free income

Foster carers benefit from favourable tax conditions, with much of the income earned from fostering being tax-free thanks to the UK government's Qualifying Care Relief. This allows foster carers to retain more of their earnings while providing high-quality care.

National Insurance Credits

Foster carers are eligible for National Insurance credits, which count towards their State Pension. This ensures that carers are not financially disadvantaged in the long term for dedicating their time to fostering.

At Fostering Barnsley, we are dedicated to supporting our foster carers both financially and practically. Your commitment to fostering makes a significant difference in the lives of children and young people, and we are here to ensure you have the resources you need to succeed.



Fees at a glance



We've pulled together a handy table with our fees and allowances broken down, so you know how much you could earn as a foster carer.

	Basic Allowance	Age				
		0-2	3-4	5-10	11-18	18+ and Staying Home
Weekly	Standard weekly fees	£175	£180	£207	£258	£309
Annual	Birthday and holiday	£660	£680	£748	£852	£996
	Clothes and school uniform	£75	£75	£140	£180	£120

Next Steps



We hope this guide has helped you to visualise what fostering might really look like for you. Becoming a foster carer with Fostering Barnsley is a rewarding journey that transforms lives, and not just those of our children and young people!

You can find a full guide of the steps to fostering by downloading our information guide.

Download the guide

A fantastic next step, and the first step on the journey to fostering, is to book a call with us. You call the shots on when our friendly team will call you back, with times available throughout the day.

You can book a call back here:

Book a call back

We're so looking forward to hearing from you!

*Foster carer fees are cumulative. For example, a Skills Level 2 foster carer would receive £350 for three children because the fee is paid at 100% for the first child, 50% for a second child and 25% for third and subsequent children.

Foster carer fee	Skills Level 1	Skills Level 2	Skills Level 3
1 Child	£130	£200	£375
2 Children	£195	£300	£563
3 Children	£228	£350	£656
Specialist premium	£200		
Emergency premium	£100		



**Ready to join
the magic?**

**If you have any questions about this guide,
please feel free to talk to us today:**

Phone:

01226 978600*

Email:

support@fosteringbarnsley.co.uk

Website:

www.fosteringbarnsley.co.uk

*Lines are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. 6pm evening appointments available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will aim to respond to messages within 1 business day.