

Appendix 2 - Responses to the consultation

We received feedback from 22 carers in total who either attended one of the meetings or submitted written feedback. Below is a summary of the main areas of feedback from carers, together with annotation as to where the proposals have been amended in light of the feedback provided.

Level 3 Fees

Those carers who had younger children did not consider it to be fair that they would receive less money under the new scheme. They understood the rationale going forward but were concerned that it would impact on their household budget from the change onwards. Whilst they could consider their options for new children they did not consider it to be fair for those children already in placement. They suggested that we had an interim position where we matched the current fee for those children under 11 already in placement until they are 11 or leave the placement. **We have changed our proposal as a result of the feedback and now propose to have a transitional arrangement.**

Birthday and Festivity Allowance

This is set to reduce and brought a mixed response. Some carers felt it should stay the same and some carers felt it should reduce as it was currently too high. Carers suggested that a small amount be paid to care Leavers from this reduction, but as the overall budget for fostering allowances will be greater than before these adjustments this money will not be available. **No changes were made to the proposal as a result of feedback.**

Annual School Holiday Allowance

Currently this allowance is paid at the beginning of the Easter and Summer holidays and is to cover all of the school holidays. If the child moves during the period covered the allowance is claimed back from the old carer and repaid to the new carer. Foster carers find this unhelpful as how and when this allowance is used varies from child to child. They asked that we changed this to make it clearer and easier to manage so that when children move during the school holiday they are not getting money taken from them for one child and then getting money back for another. **No changes were made to the proposal as a result of feedback as feedback did not impact on the rates of holiday allowance being proposed.**

Parent and child

Foster carers challenged the proposed payment scheme as it did not originally include the standard fostering allowance plus level 1 fee. This would result in Parent and Child Carers receiving a lower allowance and fee than those caring for children under mainstream fostering. **We agreed that this was reasonable and altered the figure accordingly.** The carers were aware that there would be some losses under the new scheme but they felt this was fair and would be negligible as the upper amounts they were getting before were adjusted with tax.

Savings

Carers were pleased that the savings will be more manageable if the child does not routinely receive them at 18. They acknowledged that they will need time to open the accounts for young people. **No changes were made to the proposal as a result of feedback. Carers will receive advice on setting up long term savings account for children and young people.**