Allowances

Foster Carer Handbook · https://handbook.co.uk/docs/allowances/

1. Why money matters to children

Children who have experienced trauma may worry about “being a burden” or feel shame about clothing, birthdays or hobbies. Consistent, transparent use of the **accountable allowance** helps them feel valued and equal to their peers. Talk openly (age-appropriately) about how their pocket money, savings and clothing budgets work so they know their needs will be met.

2. Weekly fostering payments

Age band	Total weekly payment	Split (carer / child)	Policy reference
0 – 10 yrs	**£**479.50	£404.50 carer’s fee + £75 accountable allowance	Fees & Allowance Policy
11 – 17 yrs	**£**507.50	£417.50 carer’s fee + £90 accountable allowance	“ ”

- Paid **one week in arrears** direct to your bank. Most banks credit on Tuesday; some on Wednesday.
- Covers Monday → Sunday. Part-weeks are pro-rata **unless** the child moves between two Positive Aspirations Group foster homes on the same day—in that case each carer receives half of that day’s allowance.

3. Accountable allowance – child-centred spending

Spend the child’s portion in the categories agreed in their **Initial Placement Agreement (IPA)** and review savings/pocket-money at each supervision. The indicative weekly spend bands in the Fees & Allowance Policy are your guide, not a straightjacket. Keep simple receipts or notes; your supervising social worker (SSW) will sample these to evidence that the allowance benefits the child.

4. One-off or additional costs

- **Emergency clothing / school-uniform grant** – your SSW (not you) negotiates any extra funding with the commissioning team. Wait for written confirmation before spending.
- **Parent-and-child placements** – higher rates apply (£952 weekly if both parent & baby are looked after). See separate policy for full breakdown.

5. Respite arrangements

- When another Positive Aspirations Group carer provides respite, **all** fee and allowance for that period are paid to the respite carer; the main carer is not paid because a respite element is already built into the weekly fee. Plan ahead and set aside funds.
- If respite is delivered by your approved **Enhanced Support** network, the main carer pays the Enhanced Support directly; the agency is not involved financially (see Respite Policy for vetting & risk-assessment steps).

6. Insurance & safeguarding the allowance

Ensure your contents insurance is up to date; it is the first line of cover if a child's belongings are lost or damaged. The agency's contingency insurance only applies if your own insurer refuses a claim.

7. Trauma-informed money conversations

1. **Predictability** – let the child know pocket-money day and stick to it.
2. **Voice & choice** – involve them in deciding how to spend birthday or activity budgets.
3. **Dignity** – avoid public discussions about their allowance; use private, strengths-based language.
4. **Growth** – as they mature, teach budgeting and savings skills in line with the Preparation for Independence Policy.

8. Who to contact

- **Payment queries** – finance@positiveaspirations.org
- **Allowance guidance** – your SSW or Fees & Allowance Policy quick-guide.
- **Tax / HMRC** – see training links in the Fees & Allowance Policy appendix.

Key reminder: All financial negotiation with the local authority must go through Positive Aspirations Group—never the foster carer—to keep boundaries clear and avoid confusion.