*National Fostering Model Contract V1.1 Schedule 2: Core Cost Specification & model Pricing Schedule 2024*

**SCHEDULE 2**

**THE CORE COST SPECIFICATION & MODEL PRICING SCHEDULE**

1. **The Core Cost specification**
   * 1. The Standard weekly price shall include all services as detailed in this Core Cost Specification.
     2. The Provider agrees to provide fostering services in line with the [Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/581/contents/made) .
     3. The Provider will ensure that services match or exceed National Minimum Standards (2011)
     4. The Provider agrees to provide the following services within their standard weekly fee:

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| **1. 24-hour care and accommodation** |
| * Accommodation, food and safe care that meet the child/young person's needs. |
| * Working with all agencies to meet the Care Plan and any other relevant statutory plans (e.g. PEP). |
| **2. Clothing & school uniforms for the child (Summer & Winter)** |
| * Provide school uniform, general sports activity clothing and other clothing. |
| * Any replacement special clothing requirements, e.g., unusual sizes or for children with disabilities. |
| * Exceptional expenses will be negotiated between the Contracting Authority and Provider. |
| * For children/young people placed in an emergency with limited or no clothing, the Contracting Authority should agree to a one-off additional clothing allowance prior to the child being placed. |
| **3. Equipment and resources** |
| * Individual sports or hobby equipment, within reason, such as tennis racket, football, cricket bat, music, along with art materials and other equipment. |
| * Children/Young people of school age shall have access to a computer in the home that is principally for education and homework. It shall be connected to the internet and be appropriately safeguarded. |
| * Within reason, items to support a child’s religious needs. These purchases will remain the property of the child. |
| * The Provider should meet the reasonable costs of equipment and resources which support the child/young person to develop their talents. Should the individual needs or best interests of a child result in costs being incurred which are higher than would be normally expected, the Provider and Contracting Authority will meet in good faith to agree shared responsibility for the additional costs. |
| **4. Schooling** |
| * Costs associated with homework assignments, school books and extra-curricular activities. |
| **5. Glasses and contact lenses** |
| * Within reason, the provision of glasses and contact lenses if required and where costs are not met by the National Health Service, including replacement in the event of accidental damage or loss. |
| **6. Holidays for Children** |
| * The reasonable cost of a holiday for the child/young person will be included within the standard price. Holidays are expected to be between 7-14 days per annum and may consist of successive nights away from the foster home, several separate overnight stays, a series of day time activities, or other arrangement. The nature of a holiday will be in accordance with the needs and wishes of the child. |
| * Children and young people will usually accompany their foster carers on holidays. Where this is not possible or in accordance with the child’s wishes or best interests, the Provider will consider if the child can reside with another approved carer for the period that their foster carers are on holiday. The Provider will seek the child’s social workers approval for this temporary change of placement. If the child does not accompany their foster carers on holiday, and the child’s time spent in the temporary placement is arranged as a holiday experience, the Provider will ensure there is provision for the child to engage in enjoyable activities whilst in their temporary placement. Should the Provider not have alternative foster carers available to care for the child on a temporary basis, the Contracting Authority will identify a short-term placement for the duration of the foster carers time away. The Contracting Authority will be entitled to recover the IPA daily fee for each day alternative care is arranged. |
| * Any family outings will be included within the standard price |
| * Where additional holidays, such as school activity holidays, are requested for the child, a written application can be made to the Contracting Authority. The Contracting Authority will consider making additional funding available to fund trips but each application will be dealt with on an individual basis. |
| **7. Stayovers** |
| * From time to time, it may be necessary and appropriate for carers and the children they care for to have some time apart. The Provider will have its own policy regarding how carers and children are to be supported in these circumstances. The cost of providing this support (as detailed within the Providers own policy) will be included in the weekly fee. |
| * A ‘stayover’ will be defined as a period of time not exceeding 24 hours. However, in practice several stayovers may run concurrently if this is appropriate to the needs of children and/or carers. If both parties identify that there would be benefit in foster carers and the child/ren they care for having more than 14 facilitated stayovers per annum, and this additional time is not accounted for in the Providers own policy, then the Contracting Authority and Provider will meet in good faith to agree a plan for how the additional time will be facilitated. |
| **8. Maintaining relationships** |
| * The Provider or foster carers will facilitate, transport and promote time with the child/young person's parents, siblings, relatives and/or significant persons as specified in the child’s care plan. |
| * If supervision is required when a child spends time with family members or any person significant to them, it is the responsibility of the Contracting Authority to manage this appropriately. Neither Provider nor foster carers will be expected to supervise this contact unless this is agreed as part of a risk assessment and protocol jointly agreed by the Contracting Authority and the Provider. |
| * If appropriate for the individual child, the Provider may carry out basic life story work. |
| **9. Initial & on-going assessment of need** |
| * The Provider will assess the child’s needs as they settle into their placement. The Provider will make the child’s social worker aware of any needs that are significantly different from that on the referral received for the child. |
| * The Provider will ensure that the child’s needs continue to be assessed throughout the placement and that reports on the child’s progress are shared with the local authority at least every six months, as part of the statutory review process. |
| **10. Pocket money, birthday & festival gifts** |
| * The amount of weekly pocket money should be included and agreed at the start of the placement and detailed in the child’s placement plan. Pocket money amounts should ordinarily be in line with the Contracting Authority’s recommended amounts. However there needs to be some measure of equality between children within the foster household. Therefore, these amounts will need to take into account the pocket money paid to other children (including birth children) in the fostering household. |
| * The amount spent on birthday and festival gifts will also be included and agreed at the start of the placement and detailed in the placement plan. This should also ordinarily be in line with the Contracting Authority’s recommended amounts. However there needs to be some measure of equality between children within the foster household. Therefore, these amounts will need to take into account the birthday and festival allowance amounts for other children in the fostering household. |
| **11. Savings for a child/young person** |
| * Savings for use whilst in placement - Children should learn how to budget and part of this will be practicing by saving up for items or activities that they are able to enjoy whilst in foster care. These savings will ordinarily come out of their pocket money and/or may be added to if they undertake any additional chores or have a part time job. |
| * Long term savings, which are only available to a young person when they turn 18, should ideally be saved and administered by the Contracting Authority. If long term savings are not managed by the Contracting Authority, then an agreed amount per week should be included in the Provider's weekly fee and detailed on the IPA as an amount held in savings by the Provider on behalf of the child. On termination of the placement, the amount saved in full should be transferred to the Contracting Authority. If the young person is over 18, the Provider should make them aware of the full amount and the date on which the funds were sent to the Contracting Authority. |
| **12. Communication** |
| * The cost of virtual and phone calls to family members, friends and significant others (as agreed with the Contracting Authority) are to be included. |
| * The costs of owning and operating a mobile phone are excluded and can be funded from any pocket money allowance, if the Care Plan states this to be appropriate. |
| **13. Toiletries and Cosmetics** |
| * All toiletries, skin care products and regular haircuts are included. However, if a child’s cultural, religious or care needs are such that the cost of these items and/or services are higher than that which would normally be expected, the Provider and Contracting Authority will meet in good faith to agree shared responsibility for the additional costs. |
| **14. Transport** |
| * The transport needs of individual children can vary significantly and the Provider and Contracting Authority should consider individual needs at the start of the placement. Unless agreed otherwise: * The Provider or their carers will fund and provide transport for all fostering related matters up to 200 miles per week (averaged out over the payment period). This will include education, day to day journeys, hobbies, holidays and enabling the child to maintain meaningful relationships with those who are important to them. However, if there are occasional excessive journeys (for example, visiting family at a distance) these should be negotiated and funded by the Contracting Authority at the HMRC rates relevant at the time. * If there is more than one child living in the household and a carer cannot physically transport the children to and from different schools, the Provider and Contracting Authority will meet to discuss the specific circumstances and consider what alternative transport arrangements can be arranged and the responsibilities for funding this. * If a sibling group of two or more are in the same fostering household, the Provider and Contracting Authority will discuss, in good faith, if there are any efficiencies to be made which can be reflected in the IPA. This will be dependent on the individual needs and interests of the children in any such sibling group. |
| **15. Preparation for Leaving Care** |
| * If it is in the young person’s best interests and in accordance with their wishes, for their placement to become a ‘staying put’ arrangement, and the carers are able to facilitate this, then the IPA will be reviewed by both parties and a staying put contract will be put in place. * Whether the plan is for the young person to remain in a staying put placement or to move to live elsewhere, the Provider and the foster carers will provide support to the young person to prepare for living more independently in accordance with their Pathway Plan. To achieve this, the Provider will work alongside other organisations to support the personal development of the Young Person. |

1. **The Pricing Schedule** 
   * 1. The Provider will complete the tables below, detailing their standard fees, any discounts offered, any specialist placement fees and fees for any additional ‘add on’ services. All prices will be valid from 1st April to the 31st March of the following year.
     2. The Provider agrees to the Pricing Schedule remaining open to be accepted or not by the Contracting Authority and shall not be withdrawn until expiry of the validity period stated.
     3. The prices quoted do not prevent either the Contracting Authority or the Provider in agreeing an alternative standard weekly price to be charged, following a review and assessment in accordance with Clause 11 of the National Fostering Model Contract.
     4. The Provider to specify their standard placement costs in the boxes below. The standard weekly fee shall be inclusive of all services to be delivered, as detailed in A. Core Cost Specification.

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| **A. STANDARD AGE**  **BANDS** | **AGE BAND 1**  **0 to 4**  Year olds | **AGE BAND 2**  **5 to 10**  year olds | **AGE BAND 3**  **11 to 15**  year olds | **AGE BAND 4 16 to 17**  year olds | **AGE BAND 5**  18 Plus (staying Put) |
| **STANDARD FEE** | **£**    per week | **£**    per week | **£**    per week | **£**    per week | **£**    per week |

* + 1. Standard Placement cost discounts **(voluntary)**

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| **Variation** | **Type** | **Discount Rate** |
| 1 | **Discount for Long-Term Placements**  (placed as long-term or the child/young person has been placed with the same Provider for **12 months or more**) | % |
| 2 | **Discount for Permanency**  (To become effective from date of permanency match) | % |
| 3 | **Discount for Sibling and/or Offspring Placements**  (sibling placements of **2 or more** children/ young people in the same fostering household) | % |

* + 1. Retainer Arrangements **(voluntary)**

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| **Retainer Fee** | **Daily Retainer Fee** |
| (A discounted fee to reserve IFA carers up until the point at which the child/young person can move into the placement. The Contracting Authority can by email, cancel the retainer with immediate notice, but must pay any sum due up to and including the day of cancellation) | £ |

* + 1. Additional services / costs

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| **Item** | **Description of Service** | **Cost (per hour)** |
| 1 | **Cognitive Behaviour Therapy** | £ |
| 2 | **Psychological Counselling** | £ |
| 3 | **Supervised Time to maintain family relationships** | £ |
| 4 | **Support Worker – Qualified** | £ |
| 5 | **Support Worker – Unqualified** | £ |
| 6 | **Translation / Interpreter** | £ |
| 7 | **Psychological Assessment** | £  Per assessment |
| 8 | **Parenting Assessment** | £  Per assessment |
| 9 | **Art Therapy** | £ |
| 10 | **Play Therapy** | £ |
| 11 | **External Education Support Worker**  (required where the child/young person is not in school) | £ |
| 12 | **Other** (please specify): | £ |
| 13 | **Mileage Cost** (for any transport above 200 miles per week as covered in the Core Cost Specification) | HMR rate |

* + 1. **Specialist Placement Costs**

Please specify any specialist service offered, along with a description of the service. These placements must also include the provisions detailed in the core cost specification.

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| Name of Service: |  | | | | |
| Description of Service: |  | | | | |
| **AGE**  **BANDS** | **AGE BAND 1**  **0 to 4**  Year olds | **AGE BAND 2**  **5 to 10**  year olds | **AGE BAND 3**  **11 to 15**  year olds | **AGE BAND 4 16 to 17**  year olds | **AGE BAND 5**  18 Plus (staying Put) |
| **FEE** | **£**  per week | **£**    per week | **£**    per week | **£**    per week | **£**    per week |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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| Description of Service: |  | | | | |
| **AGE**  **BANDS** | **AGE BAND 1**  **0 to 4**  Year olds | **AGE BAND 2**  **5 to 10**  year olds | **AGE BAND 3**  **11 to 15**  year olds | **AGE BAND 4 16 to 17**  year olds | **AGE BAND 5**  18 Plus (staying Put) |
| **FEE** | **£**  per week | **£**    per week | **£**    per week | **£**    per week | **£**    per week |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Service: |  | | | | |
| Description of Service: |  | | | | |
| **AGE**  **BANDS** | **AGE BAND 1**  **0 to 4**  Year olds | **AGE BAND 2**  **5 to 10**  year olds | **AGE BAND 3**  **11 to 15**  year olds | **AGE BAND 4 16 to 17**  year olds | **AGE BAND 5**  18 Plus (staying Put) |
| **FEE** | **£**  per week | **£**    per week | **£**    per week | **£**    per week | **£**    per week |

Pricing Schedule completed for the period 1 April \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to 31 March \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
Pricing Scheduled completed by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_