

Fostering Payment Scheme Family and Friends Carers 2023/4

Manx Care recognises the invaluable contribution of either family or friends carers in meeting the needs of many of our “Looked After” Children.

The following fees are intended to support their care of children in these placements in order to achieve the best possible outcomes.

This scheme sets out a framework for payments to family members or friends who are acting and assessed as carers. The allowances and fees are reviewed each year and the framework is redistributed annually. There will be a review of the structure of payments during autumn 2023 with the intention that any amendments may apply to the next (2024/25) financial year.

The following agreed rates represent a yearly uplift of between 6 and 7% and will be applied for the year from April 1st 2023

Family and Friends Foster Carers Weekly Child's Allowance and Skills Fee			
Age Range	Child's Allowance	Skills Fee	Total Weekly amount per child
0 – 4	£210 (£30.00 per day)	£80 (£11.40 per day)	£290.00
5 – 10	£240 (£34.00 per day)	£80	£320.00
11 – 14	£294 (£42.00 per day)	£80	£374.00
15 – 18	£357 (£51.00 per day)	£80	£437.00
Additional Payments			
	Birthday	Festival	Holiday (x 3 Child's Allowance)
0 - 4	£160	£160	£630.00
5 - 10	£160	£160	£720.00
11 - 14	£215	£215	£894.00
15 - 18	£215	£215	£1080.00

Breakdown of Child's Allowance

The figures set out below provides a general guide for expectations of how family or friends carers should spend the Child's Allowance in relation to the child or young person they are caring for. These rates should be used as a guide only.

Age	Accommodation (30%)	Household (18%)	Food and Housekeeping (21%)	Clothing (10%)	Personal/Hobbies (9%)	Pocket Money (5%)	Transport (7%)
0 – 4	£63.00	£37.80	£44.10	£21.00	£18.90	£10.50	£14.70
5 – 10	£72.00	£43.20	£50.40	£24.00	£21.60	£12.00	£16.80
11 – 14	£88.20	£52.92	£61.74	£29.40	£26.46	£14.70	£20.58
15 – 18	£107.10	£64.26	£74.97	£35.70	£32.13	£17.85	£24.99

The following pages give some greater detail on how to use these allowances.

Item	Guidance on use of payment
Clothing Allowance	<p>The clothing allowance can be used flexibly by the carer to buy clothes directly for younger children; or be given to older children/young people on a weekly/monthly basis to purchase their own clothing. Older young people should be encouraged to take responsibility for some of this allowance as part of developing independence skills and learning to budget.</p> <p>The clothing allowance should be used to purchase school uniforms and casual clothing/footwear or buy replacement school uniforms. However, if a child/young person changes or commences at a new school and an entirely new uniform is required, an additional school clothing allowance will be provided up to the amount of £200 (receipts to be handed in with claim).</p> <p>Where a young person wishes to attend a school from an allowance of up to £200 for the purchase of an outfit can be claimed (receipt to be handed in with claim).</p> <p>Family and friend's carers of young people aged sixteen and over should ensure that the young person has sufficient suitable clothing and footwear for formal interview situations, education, and training or employment opportunities and for their future move to independence.</p>
Education	<p>Standard materials that are required for children and young people's school attendance and activities are provided for within the child's allowance.</p> <p>The child's allowance provides for the purchase of a yearly school photograph and for regular local school trips and activities. Major school trips away from the Island will require the foster carer to discuss with the child's social worker or supervising social worker and if supported then a special funding request should be made to the Department.</p> <p>Access to a computer with internet connection, appropriately safeguarded, is essential for high school age children to enable them to complete assignments and undertake research.</p>
Holiday clubs and activities	<p>The child's allowance provides for the provision of holiday clubs and activities during term time and for part of the holiday period.</p> <p>Children should not spend all their school breaks in play schemes, unless there are special circumstances agreed with the Supervising Social Worker and Child's Social Worker.</p>
Luggage	<p>The child's allowance provides for the purchase of two items of luggage for all children and young people.</p> <p>All young people moving to independence or between placements must have appropriate personal luggage. Children should never move with their possessions in bin liners. The child's social worker and supervising social worker should ensure this occurs at first placement and moves with the child.</p>

<p>Personal leisure and hobbies / allowance</p>	<p>The personal leisure and hobbies payment is provided to enable children and young people to engage in hobbies which will develop their self-esteem such as sport or playing a musical instrument.</p> <p>This element of the child's allowance may also be used to pay for membership of a hobby sporting or leisure club.</p> <p>Children and young people should be encouraged to take part in at least one social activity each week.</p>
<p>Pocket Money</p>	<p>The pocket money allowance is provided for children and young people for their general and personal needs. The amount of pocket money should be agreed at the placement planning meeting and this should be given on a weekly basis to the child or young person. The table above provides guidance on how much the family and friend's carer should provide as a minimum.</p> <p>Arrangements for savings accounts for children and young people who have been in care for more than 12 months are still to be determined by the Department, and no carer should undertake this task until a position has been established. Should a young person wish to open their own bank account or already have one this should be discussed with the child's social worker.</p>
<p>Travel</p>	<p>The child's allowance is provided to cover any aspect of transporting the child or young person in placement associated with their LAC status.</p> <p>For instance, transportation to and from contact, review meetings, professionals meetings etc. It also covers transportation to meet their basic care needs, for instance to and from school, health appointments or leisure activities.</p> <p>The transport allowance is calculated as covering the first 40 miles of transport each week [160 miles per month] or bus travel, up to the minimum amount in the table above (per child) and is expected to be sufficient to cover normal weekly activities.</p> <p>Exceptional travel, exceeding the 40 miles per week, must be approved by the Supervising Social Worker and form part of the care plan for the child.</p> <p>Additional miles will be paid at £0.57p per mile.</p> <p>Claim forms will need to be approved by the Supervising Social Worker and must be submitted within two weeks of each month end. For example, mileage accrued in January would need to be submitted by the 14th February. Claims received after the required time will not be processed. See appendix A for a guide as to relevant mileages between frequently used destinations.</p> <p>Where appropriate and depending on an assessment of need that takes into account the young person's age and maturity, young people should be encouraged to use public transport. This will help them develop their independence skills so that they can take advantage of education, training and employment opportunities and develop leisure and personal interests.</p>

Child's holiday allowance	<p>The Department supports children in their family and friend's placement as being treated as "part of the family" and that includes going on holiday. An annual holiday allowance is provided for each Looked after child. Please see table above.</p> <p>A separate claim form for each child will need to be submitted with receipts. Each holiday activity claimed for will be deducted from the overall allowance.</p> <p>This maximum allowance available covers an annual holiday for the child. Proof of the level of expenditure on the child would be required with the claim. If the child is having more than 1 holiday with their carers separate claims up to the maximum can be made. Any balance remaining at the end of the financial year will not be carried over.</p> <p>Additional funding for exceptional holidays above the annual allowance will be considered by the Department, if supported by the child's social worker and a request for special funding is made. The Department does not support foster children being removed from school routinely to take holidays.</p>
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Other Exceptional and Discretionary Payments available

Item	Guidance on use of payment
Emergency Clothing Grant	<p>An emergency clothing grant is paid where a child being accommodated does not have adequate clothing for everyday needs. The grant can be any amount up to £250 upon presenting receipts.</p> <p>When a child is first placed with their family and friends' carers, their Supervising Social Worker and in conjunction with the child's social worker will assess the clothing the child has arrived with to determine if it is adequate, if not, then the requisite items should be purchased and receipts kept.</p> <p>Once the carer is in receipt of the weekly child's allowance, it is expected that further clothing required is covered by that allowance.</p>
Summer holiday allowance (for school aged children only)	<p>At the beginning of the summer holidays, an additional one week's child allowance will be paid. This is applicable to mainstream and Family and Friend's carers.</p> <p>Children should not spend all their school breaks in play schemes, unless there are special circumstances, which have been agreed with the Supervising Social Worker and Child's Social Worker.</p>
Miscellaneous	<p>Any matter of a financial nature that is not covered in the policy or is an "exceptional" matter should be raised with the Supervising social worker who will seek direction from the FPS team leader and or Senior managers of the Directorate.</p>

Expectations on family and friends carers

All approved and Registered family and friends carers are required to comply with the legal standards governing approval and registration in order to continue to receive both the allowances and fees.

Review: During 2023 there will be a review of the structure of payments intended to consider variations on the use of the skills fee which currently is paid on a per child rather than per skills basis. Other aspects of the scheme will also be reviewed

APPENDIX A: Official Mileage Chart

The distances between various towns and villages on the Isle of Man are given below and mileage allowance claims should be based on these distances within +/- 1 to maximum 3 miles depending upon exact locations or routes taken. Significant variations should be stated where claiming a greater distance.

a) Single Journey Distances

Journeys	Distance (in miles)
Castletown to Port Erin	4 (via Shore Road)
Castletown to Port St Mary	4 (via Shore Road)
Douglas to Ramsey	17
Douglas to Laxey	8
Douglas to Peel	11
Douglas to Castletown	10
Douglas to Port Erin	14
Douglas to Ronaldsway	9
Douglas to Colby	12
Douglas to Jurby	17 (or 24 if via Ramsey)
Douglas to Wild Life Park	19 (via Ballacraigne/Ballaugh) Douglas
to Wild Life Park	15 (via Sulby Glen)
Douglas to Kirk Michael	15
Douglas to Cregneash	16
Douglas to Onchan	2
Ramsey to Bride	5
Ramsey to Peel	16
Ramsey to Laxey	9
Ramsey to Jurby	7
Ramsey to Kirk Michael	8
Peel to Port Erin	14
Peel to Port St Mary	14
Peel to Castletown	12

b) Return Journey Distances

CGO to Police Headquarters	3
CGO to Tromode House	3 (via Tromode Road)
CGO to Vehicle Testing Centre	3
CGO to Training Centre, Peel Road	2
CGO to College, Homefield Rd	4
Sea Terminal to Nobles Hospital (Braddan)	6
Circular Road to Nobles Hospital (Braddan)	5

(CGO is Central Government Offices on Bucks Road).