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1. Introduction and Legal Framework

The Statutory Guidance for Fostering and Standard 28 of the National Minimum Standards for Fostering (NMS) require the fostering service to provide foster carers with a clear information on the fees and allowances that are paid to them.

1.1 Foster Care Allowance

5. Criteria for progression

5.1 Foundation Level

Approval as temporary foster carers under Regulation 24 of the Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations.

Engagement in the assessment of their skills, knowledge and suitability to be foster carers. For family and

6. Contract Foster Care Scheme

The Contract Foster Care Scheme is a historic scheme that Worcestershire Fostering no longer recruits to. The Foster Carers who remain approved under the scheme are paid the contract fee per week per child, and the age-related foster care allowance.

7. Placement Plus

Placement Plus is a fostering scheme for children and young people who have a range of complex needs. Many of them will have experienced a number of placement moves and will be at risk of being placed in residential placement. Alternatively, they will be young people who are in residential placements and although their needs continue to be complex the assessment is that they could be met in a family placement with a high level of support.

Placement Plus carers will receive the Placement Plus fee and the age-related Foster Care Allowance for the child or young person.

8. Payment of Foster Carer Allowances (FCA) and Fees

The FCA and the fee is paid fortnightly in arrears. These are reviewed annually.

Information on the fees and age related FCA will be sent to carers at the beginning of each financial year.

Foster carers receive payment through the BACS system, which allows for transfer of the payment directly into the recipient's bank account. A mandate to set up payment through BACS is available from the finance department.

For other payments relating to the child or young person please refer to Worcestershire Fostering's Financial Support to Foster Carers.

8.1 Emergency Payments.

In some circumstances it will be possible to make an emergency payment to foster carers at the start of a

