PEOPLE DIRECTORATE

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

FAMILY AND FRIENDS CARE POLICY

POLICY INFORMATION SHEET

Name of Document	Friends and Family Care
Reference Number	CIC/36
Service area	Children in need and Children in Care Divisions, Children & Family Services Department
Target Audience	All Staff in Halton Borough Children and Families Services
Forum Policy/Procedure/Strategy was approved	Children and Families Services Senior Leadership Team
Date policy is effective from	April 2016
Date of review(s)	April 2019
Status: Mandatory (all named staff must adhere to guidance) Optional (procedures and practice can vary between teams)	Mandatory
Location of Document	Halton Borough Council Intranet Halton Borough Council Internet
Related document(s)	The Children Act 1989 The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) and fostering (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013 Children in Care Policies and Procedures Fostering Policies and Procedures Adoption Policies and Procedures HSCB Policies and Procedures
Superseded document(s)	Family and Friends Care Policy - December 2011
Responsible officer(s)	Divisional Manager, Children in Care
Any other relevant information	

Contents:

1. Introduction 4

2. Values and Principles 4

3. Legal Framework 4

4. Different situations whereby children may be living with family and friends carers 5

4.1 Informal family and friends care arrangements 5

4.2 Private fostering arrangements 6

4.3 Family Meetings 6

4.4 Family and friends foster carers – "Connected Persons" 6

4.5 Residence Order 7

4.6 Special Guardianship Order 8

4.7 Foster to Adopt 8

4.8 Adoption Order 9

5. Provision of financial support – general principles 9

6. Accommodation 10

7. Supporting contact with parents 10

8. Complaints procedure 10

Appendix A: Caring for Someone Else's Child – Options 12

1. Introduction

Children may be brought up by members of their extended families, friends or other people who are connected with them for a variety of reasons and in a variety of different arrangements.

In the majority of situations, children are able to live in these arrangements without any additional support. However, where support may be necessary, this policy sets out the local authority's approach towards promoting and supporting the needs of such children and covers the assessments which will be carried out to determine the services required and how such services will then be provided.

In drawing up this policy, we have consulted with family and friend carers and their views have informed the policy.

The manager with overall responsibility for this policy is the Divisional Manager Children in Care.

This policy will be regularly reviewed and made widely available.

2. Values and Principles

Consideration of children's welfare and best interests will always be at the centre of the work we do.

It is an underlying principle that children should be enabled to live within their families unless this is not consistent with their welfare. We will therefore work to maintain children within their own families, and facilitate services to support any such arrangements, wherever this is consistent with the child's safety and well-being. This principle applies to all children in need, including those who are cared for by the local authority. Where a child cannot live within his or her immediate family and the local authority is considering the need to care for the child, we will make strenuous efforts to identify potential carers within the child's network of family or friends who are able and willing to care for the child.

We will provide support for any such arrangements based on the assessed needs of the child, not simply on his or her legal status, and will seek to ensure that family and friends carers are provided with support to ensure that children do not become cared for by the local authority, or do not have to remain a Child in Care longer than is needed.

3. Legal Framework

All local authorities have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of Children in Need[1] living within their area and to promote the upbringing of such

[1] *A Child in Need is defined in Section 17(10) of the Children Act 1989 as a child who is disabled or who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by the local authority.

children by their families. The way in which they fulfil this duty is by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's assessed needs (Section 17, Children Act 1989). This can include financial, practical or other support.

It is important to note that local authorities do not have a general duty to assess all arrangements where children are living with their wider family or friend's network rather than their parents. There is however, a duty where it appears that services may be necessary to safeguard or promote the welfare of a Child in Need. It is important to balance the duty under the Children Act 1989 to ensure that children are safeguarded and honour the requirement under the Human Rights Act 1998 that 'authorities do not intrude unnecessarily in family life'.

Halton has a Level of Need Framework which is available on the Council's website. Halton is committed to providing support to children at the appropriate level of need and this includes those children who may be defined as Children in Need under s17 of the Children Act 1989.

Children in Need may live with members of their family or friends in a variety of different legal arrangements, some formal and some informal. A range of court orders are available to formalise these arrangements

Children in Care will always come within the definition of Children in Need, whether they are 'accommodated'[2] under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 (with parental consent) or in care subject to a Court Order whereby the local authority shares parental responsibility[3] for the child. The local authority has a responsibility wherever possible to make arrangements for a looked after child to live with a member of the family (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989).

For a detailed summary of the meaning and implications of different legal situations, the rights of carers and parents, and the nature of decisions which family and friends carers will be able to make in relation to the child, please see **Appendix A 'Caring for Somebody Else's Child – Options'**. Section 4 below sets out the local authority powers and duties in relation to the various options.

4. Different situations whereby children may be living with family and friends carers

4.1 Informal family and friends care arrangements

Where a child cannot be cared for within his or her immediate family, the family may make their own arrangements to care for the child within their family and friends network.

The local authority does not have a duty to assess any such informal family and friends care arrangements, unless it appears to the authority that services may be necessary to safeguard or promote the welfare of a Child in Need. In such cases, the local authority has a responsibility under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to

[2] Accommodated/Section 20 – when young people are looked after by the local authority and in foster or residential care with the agreement of their parents.

[3] Parental Responsibility – relates to all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent has in relation to a child and his property.

assess the child's needs and provide services to meet any assessed needs of the child. Following assessment, a Child in Need Plan will be drawn up and a package of support may be identified. This can comprise of a variety of different types of services and support.

Halton has developed a number of policies which detail what support, including financial assistance, may be available to those caring for children in need, the applicable criteria and who within the local authority will make decisions in relation to such support. To request more detailed information or to obtain copies of these policies please email childrenstrust@halton.gov.uk

4.2 Private fostering arrangements

A privately fostered child is a child under 16 (or 18 if disabled) who is cared for by an adult who is not a parent or close relative, where the child is to be cared for in that home for 28 days or more. Close relative is defined as 'a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of the full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership) or step-parent.' It does not include a child who is cared for by a local authority. In a private fostering arrangement, the parent still holds parental responsibility and agrees the arrangement with the private foster carer.

The local authority has a duty to assess and monitor the welfare of all privately fostered children and the way in which they carry out these duties is set out in the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005. However, the local authority may also become involved with a child in a private fostering arrangement where the child comes within the definition of a Child in Need. In such cases, the local authority has a responsibility to provide services to meet the assessed needs of the child under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Following assessment, a Child in Need Plan will be drawn up and a package of support will be identified. As in 4.1 above, this can comprise a variety of different types of services and support.

Further details can be found on Halton Borough Council's website at www.halton.gov.uk/privatefostering.

4.3 Family Meetings/Family Group Conference

When the Local Authority are involved with a family on a children in need basis they will organise a Family Meeting or a Family Group Conference. These are meetings held between professionals and family members, which aim to achieve the best outcomes for children. They promote the involvement of the wider family to achieve a resolution of difficulties for Children in Need, and may help to identify short-term and/or permanent solutions for children within the family network.

Halton offer such a meeting or other form of family meetings at an early stage. If a child becomes a Child in Care, perhaps following an emergency, without a Family Meeting having been held, then (where appropriate) we will arrange one as soon as possible. Family meeting can help inform both the parents and the Local Authority should informal or formal care arrangements be required.

4.4 Family and friends foster carers – "Connected Persons"

Where a child is cared for by the local authority, the local authority can only place with an approved foster carer. We have a responsibility wherever possible to make

arrangements for the child to live with a member of the family who may be approved as a foster carer (Section 24 the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010) The child can be placed with the family members prior to such approval, subject to an assessment of the placement, for up to 16 weeks. This temporary approval can only be extended in exceptional circumstances. In this context the carer is referred to as a Connected Person and the process of obtaining approval for the placement is set out in the Temporary Approval as Foster Carer Procedure. Where temporary approval is given to such a placement under the procedure, the carers will receive financial support on a regular basis and at the same rate as other approved foster carers.

In addition the child will have a placement plan which sets out the specific arrangements surrounding the child and the carers including the expectations of the foster carers and the support they can expect to receive to enable to fulfil their responsibilities for the child.

The assessment and approval process for family and friends who apply to be foster carers for a specific child in care will be the same as for any other foster carer except that the timescales for the assessment are different where a child is already in the placement as indicated above.

In all other respects the process is the same as for any other potential foster carers and is set out in the Skills Based Assessment and Approval Procedures (Fostering). An information pack will be available to potential foster carers about the process and they will be given the name and contact details of the social worker from the Fostering Service allocated to carry out the assessment.

Once approved as foster carers, they will be allocated a supervising social worker from the fostering service to provide them with support and supervision. They will be expected and supported to complete core training within 12 months of approval and complete their Training Support and Development Standards Portfolio within 18 months of approval. Their approval will be subject to annual review and they will receive fostering allowances for as long as they care for the child as a foster carer.

While the child remains a Child in Care, as a foster carer, they will be expected to cooperate with all the processes that are in place to ensure that the child receives appropriate care and support, for example, contributing to reviews of the child's Care Plan, cooperating with the child's social worker and promoting the child's education and health needs.

Halton has more detailed Temporary Approval as Foster Carer and Family and Friends Carer policies. To obtain copies of these policies please email childrenstrust@halton.gov.uk

4.5 Child arrangement Order

A Child Arrangement Order (in April 2014 The Children and Families Act introduced this Order to replace Residence Orders and Contact Orders) this is a Court Order which can give parental responsibility to the person in who is identified for the child to live with, usually lasting until the child is 18. Parental responsibility is shared with the parents. The Order can also stipulate who the child is to have contact with.

Relatives may apply for a Child Arrangement Order after caring for the child for one year.

A Child Arrangement Order may be made in private family proceedings in which the local authority is not a party nor involved in any way in the arrangements. However, a Child Arrangement Order in favour of a relative or foster carer (who was a 'Connected Person') with whom a child is placed may be an appropriate outcome as part of a permanence plan for a Child in Need or a Child in Care.

The local authority may financially support relatives or friends, unless they are a spouse or civil partner of a parent, with whom a child is living under a Child Arrangement/Residence Order. This is set out in paragraph 15 of Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989 however this is discretionary.

Halton's Child Arrangement Order (Residence Order) Allowances Policy contains details of what financial assistance may be available to holders of Child Arrangement Order(Residence Orders), the applicable criteria and who within the local authority will make decisions under the policy. To obtain a copy of this policy please email childrenstrust@halton.gov.uk

4.6 Special Guardianship Order

Special Guardianship offers a further option for children needing permanent care outside their birth family. It can offer greater security without absolute severance from the birth family as in adoption.

Relatives may apply for a Special Guardianship Order after caring for the child for one year. As Special Guardians, they will have parental responsibility for the child which, while it is still shared with the parents, can be exercised with greater autonomy on day-to-day matters than where there is a Residence Order.

Special Guardianship Orders may be made in private family proceedings and the local authority may not be a party to any such arrangements. However, a Special Guardianship Order in favour of a relative or foster carer (who was a 'Connected Person') with whom a child is living may be an appropriate outcome as part of a permanence plan for a Child in Need or a Child in Care.

Where the child was in care immediately prior to the making of the Special Guardianship Order, the local authority has a responsibility to assess the support needs of the child, parents and Special Guardians, including the need for financial support. A support plan will be developed to address any specific areas of the child's care that may require support.

Halton's Special Guardianship Policy contains details of any assistance that may be available to holders of Special Guardianship Orders, the applicable criteria and who within the local authority will make decisions under the policy. To obtain a copy of this policy please email childrenstrust@halton.gov.uk

4.7 Foster to Adopt

If within the family and friends network there are recently **assessed and approved adopters** it may be possible to consider temporary approval as foster carers under

Section 25A The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) and fostering (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013. This would require an additional assessment of their suitability to care for the specific child as a foster carer. The temporary approval would remain in place until an adoption order was granted or the parents circumstances have changed significantly and the permanence plan has changed for the child to return to the parent's care. This option would only be considered when the circumstance for the child is such that it is highly unlikely that the child would return to his/her parents care from the onset of proceedings.

Once approved, a supervising social worker will be allocated from the fostering service from the local authority who places the child. They will support and supervise the placement to ensure fostering standards are met and would include access training and support networks. As approved foster carers they will receive fostering allowances for as long as they care for the child as a foster carer.

4.8 Adoption Order

Adoption is the process by which all parental rights and responsibilities for a child are permanently transferred to an adoptive parent by a court. As a result the child legally becomes part of the adoptive family.

An Adoption Order in favour of a relative or foster carer (who was a 'Connected Person') with whom a child is living may be an appropriate outcome as part of a permanence plan for a Child in Need or a Child in Care.

Local authorities must make arrangements, as part of their adoption service, for the provision of a range of adoption support services. They then have to undertake assessments of the need for adoption support services at the request of the adopted child, adoptive parents and their families, as well as birth relatives. The support required is then set out in an Adoption Support Plan and this may include financial support.

Halton has a number of policies that provide details of what financial assistance may be available to holders of Adoption Orders, the applicable criteria and who within the local authority will make decisions. To request more detailed information or to obtain copies of these policies please email childrenstrust@halton.gov.uk

5. Provision of financial support – general principles

There are three categories of payment, which may be considered. One or more of these may be applicable, depending on the particular circumstances of the case:

1. Subsistence crisis (one-off) payments. These should be used to overcome a crisis, following the best assessment that can be achieved in the circumstances.

2. Setting-up. These are for such items as clothing, furniture, or bedding. The social worker must be satisfied that the carer's financial position justifies the payment through a financial assessment. Assistance may be given subject to conditions, including repayment in certain situations. However, in most situations, it will be inappropriate for the Department to seek to recover money provided under these circumstances.

3. Short term payment. It is possible for the local authority to make payments where family members or friends care for a child whether or not the child is a Child in Care. Where payments are to be made, carers will be expected to maximise their income/benefits. In all cases where regular financial support is agreed, a written agreement will be drawn up detailing the level and duration of the financial support that is to be provided, and the mechanism for review.

The following criteria will be applied to all such payments:

- The purpose of the payments must be to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child
- As part of the assessment, a view should be taken as to whether the carers need financial support based on their reasonable requirements in taking on the care of the child
- There are no other legitimate sources of finance
- Payments will be paid to the carer, not the parents
- The payment would not place any person in a fraudulent position.

6. Accommodation

The authority works in partnership with landlords to ensure that, whenever possible, family and friends carers living in social housing are given appropriate priority to move to more suitable accommodation if this will prevent the need for a child to become a Child in Care.

7. Supporting contact with parents

The authority is under a duty to promote contact for all Children in Need, although this differs depending on whether or not the child is a Child in Care.

Where the child is not a Child in Care, we are required to promote contact between the child and his/her family 'where it is necessary to do so in order to safeguard and promote his or her welfare'. As part of the support arrangements, it may be identified that specific assistance is required to ensure that any such contact can be managed safely. If necessary, information will be made available to family and friends carers about local contact centres and family mediation services, and how to make use of their services.

Where a child is a Child in Care, we are required to endeavour to promote contact between the child and his or her family 'unless it is not practicable or consistent with the child's welfare'. The overall objective of the contact arrangements will be included in the child's Permanence Plan and the specific arrangements will be set out in the child's Placement Plan, and this is detailed within Halton's Contact, Planning and Assessing Procedure. To obtain a copy of this procedure please email childrenstrust@halton.gov.uk

8. Complaints procedure

Where a family or friends carer is not satisfied with the level of support provided to enable them to care for the child, then they have access to the local authority's complaints process. Our aim would be to resolve any such dissatisfaction without the need for a formal investigation but where an informal resolution is not possible, a formal investigation will be arranged.

The timescales and process are set out in the Complaints Procedure. To obtain a copy of this procedure please email Dorothy.roberts@halton.gov.uk

9. Links and Further Information

The following policies provide further detail in specific areas and are available by request:

- Temporary Approval as Foster Carer
- Skills Based Assessment
- Approval of Foster Carers
- Family and Friends Carers Approach
- Residence Orders and Allowances
- Special Guardianship Policy
- Contact, Planning and Assessing
- Complaints
- Financial assistance to holders of Adoption Orders (including applicable criteria and who within the authority will make decisions)
- Adoption and Special Guardianship Financial Support (means test model)
- Entitlement to Assessment for Adoption Support Services
- Post Adoption Support

To obtain copies please contact childrenstrust@halton.gov.uk or telephone 0151 511 7396

Appendix A: Caring for Someone Else's Child – Options

	Private Fostering	Family Care (informal)	Family and Friends Foster Care	Unrelated Foster Care	Residence Order	Special Guardianship Order (SGO)	Foster to Adopt	Adoption
Route into the caring arrangement	This is a private arrangement whereby the child is being cared for 28 days or more (or the intention is that the arrangement will last for 28 days or more) by anyone who does not have parental responsibility, and who is not a close relative. Relative means grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (by full blood, half blood or by marriage or civil partnership) or a step parent. The child is not a looked after child	The relative has chosen to take on the care of the child but does not have parental responsibility, and the arrangement was not made by the local authority. The child is not a looked after child. Relative may perceive the parents to be unable to care for the child; or the parents may be dead or otherwise not available (e.g. in prison); or there may be an agreement between relatives due to difficult family circumstances.	The child has been placed with the relative or friend by the local authority, because the person who had been caring for the child was deemed not to be providing suitable care. The child is a looked after child and so the local authority must approve the relative or friend as a local authority foster carer. The child may be accommodated voluntarily with the agreement of the parents or may be subject to a care order.	The child is a looked after child being accommodated by the local authority under section 20 Children Act 1989 or because the child is subject to a care order; but has been placed with a foster carer by the local authority. (Alternatively, the local authority may choose to place a child into residential care where this is considered to best meet the child's needs).	The child may be at risk of becoming 'looked after' and a friend or relative applies for an order, or The child may have been 'looked after' and their foster carer or other relative/friend applies for an order. In either circumstance, application can be made without the support of the parents or the local authority. Relatives may apply for an order after the child has lived with them for one year. Or, there can be benign reasons, e.g. after parents' death and in line with a prior agreement between the birth parents and the carer.		To be considered for this option the prospective carers must already be approved as adopters by an adoption agency/local authority service. The carers would need to have temporary approval as foster carers by the placing authority under 25A The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) and fostering (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013. The child would be placed prior to the conclusion of the care proceeding under fostering arrangements until an adoption order is made	Looked after children: the LA may decide that the child should be placed for adoption. They can only do so with the consent of the birth parent or under a placement order made by a court. An approved foster carer can apply for an adoption order after a year of caring for the child. Other informal carers could apply for an adoption order if the child has lived with them for a period of 3 years.

	Private Fostering	Family Care (informal)	Family and Friends Foster Care	Unrelated Foster Care	Residence Order	Special Guardianship Order (SGO)	Foster to Adopt	Adoption
Parental Responsibility (PR)	Remains with birth parents	Remains with birth parents but the person who cares for the child may do what is reasonable to safeguard or promote the child's welfare	Remains with birth parents if child accommodated under section 20 CA, or if the child is subject to a care order or emergency protection order the local authority will have parental responsibility and determines the extent to which it may be exercised by others.		Shared by parents and holder of residence order.	PR shared with parents and anyone else with parental responsibility for the child. The special guardian may exercise parental responsibility to the exclusion of all others with PR, apart from another special guardian.	Remains with birth parents and the local authority. The Local authority will have parental responsibility and determines the extent to which it may be exercised by others. At the point of adoption PR is no longer shared and transfers to the adopters	Transfers to adopters and relationship with birth parents is severed.
Approval basis	The arrangement is assessed by LA, but the carer is not 'approved' as a local authority foster carer is. The arrangement may be prohibited if assessed by the local authority as unsuitable.	None	Approved as local authority foster carers in accordance with Fostering Services Regulations. (If child is looked after, carers must be approved as foster carers even if close relative.)		Appointed by court following application.	Appointed by court, following application from the applicant. LA must investigate the matter and prepare a report for the court dealing with the suitability of the applicant to be a special guardian.	Approval as prospective adopters. Temporary approval as local authority foster carers following assessment to meet the fostering standards. Approval made by the Agency Decision Maker of the placing local authority	Adoption agency assesses and approves prospective adopters, court makes order regarding specific child. If the child is not looked after then notice of intention to adopt must be given to the LA who then carry out an assessment / report for the court.
Duration	Subject to discretion of person with PR and readiness of private foster carer.	Subject to discretion of person with PR	So long as placement remains in line with child's care plan, as determined by LA		Age 18.	Age 18 unless varied or discharged by the court before the child reaches 18 years.	Until an adoption order is granted (lifelong relationship) or placement ends	Permanent lifelong relationship

	Private Fostering	Family Care (informal)	Family and Friends Foster Care	Unrelated Foster Care	Residence Order	Special Guardianship Order (SGO)	Foster to Adopt	Adoption
Placement Supervision	It is not a placement, but there are statutory visits to child by social worker (minimum 6 weekly in first year, then 12 weekly)	None	Statutory: visits to child by social worker and supervision of foster carers by supervising social worker			None	Statutory visits to child by social worker and supervision of foster carers by supervising social worker. Supported by adoption worker until adoption order is made	When child is placed for adoption by the LA, the placement is supervised and there are statutory reviews. Once the adoption order is made, none.
Review of Placement	It is not a placement, but the LA may do formal reviews in addition to ongoing assessment during visits.	None	Statutory reviews of child's care plan (minimum 6 monthly) and annual reviews of local authority foster carers' approval		None	None	Statutory reviews of child's care plan (minimum 6 monthly) and annual review of foster care approval	See above
Support Services	Provision of advice and support as determined necessary by the LA, which may assess the child as a child in need, with a child in need plan, and provide services / support for child/family under section 17 of the Children Act 1989	No entitlement but the LA may assess the child as a child in need, with a child in need plan, and provide services / support for child/family under section 17 of the Children Act 1989	Support to meet child's needs including health plan and personal education plan. Training and practical support to foster carers in accordance with the Fostering services Regulations, NMS and CWDC standards. Young person may be entitled to leaving care support services		No entitlement (But LA has discretion to provide services / support for child/family under section 17 of the CA)	If child was looked after prior to making the SGO, LA must assess for need for special guardianship support services. LA has discretion whether to provide support. Young person may be entitled to leaving care support services if was a looked after child prior to making of the SGO.	Support to meet child's needs including health plan and personal education plan. Training and practical support to foster carers in accordance with the Fostering services Regulations, NMS and CWDC standards. Support post adoption (see column to the right)	Entitlement to assessment for adoption support services, which may be provided at discretion of LA in accordance with Regulations and NMS.

	Private Fostering	Family Care (informal)	Family and Friends Foster Care	Unrelated Foster Care	Residence Order	Special Guardianship Order (SGO)	Foster to Adopt	Adoption
Financial support – entitlement	Can claim child benefit and child tax credit if not being paid to parent. Financial responsibility to maintain the child remains with holders of PR	Can claim child benefit and child tax credit if not being paid to parent. Financial responsibility to maintain the child remains with holders of PR. Guardians Allowance payable if both parents have died, or the only surviving parent cannot be found or serving 2 years or more prison sentence.	Child benefit and child tax credit not payable. Weekly allowance to meet the costs of caring for the child. This should meet at least the national minimum rate set by DCSF. The Manchester City Council judgment ruled that allowances must be the same for all foster carers, whether or not family & friends.		Can claim child benefit and child tax credit if not being paid to parent.	Can claim child benefit and child tax credit if not being paid to parent.	During the period of temporary approval as foster carers a weekly allowance to meet the costs of caring for the child. Child benefit and child tax credit are not payable. On granting of the adoption order (see column to the right)	Can claim child benefit and child tax credit if not being paid to parent. Entitlement to assessment for financial support (part of adoption support) if child looked after prior to order.
Financial support - discretionary	LA has discretion to make one-off or regular payments under section 17 Children Act	LA has discretion to make one-off or regular payments under section 17 Children Act	Some fostering providers pay their foster carers a fee to recognise the carers' skill, experience and commitment. The Manchester City Council judgement (which requires allowances to be paid on the same basis regardless of the relationship of the carer to the child) did not consider fees. However, Statutory Guidance for Fostering Services requires that any policy in relation to the payment of fees must be applied to all foster carers who meet the criteria in the same way and must not discriminate on the grounds of a pre-existing relationship with the child.		LA has discretion to pay residence order allowance – usually if child was previously fostered by the carers, or exceptionally if making residence order prevents child becoming looked after. Any allowance reviewed annually.	Entitled to an assessment for financial support under the Special Guardianship Regulations 2005 if child looked after prior to order and meets the criteria in the regulations. Subject to assessment as above and for former foster carers can include an element of remuneration. Regular or one off payments. Any allowances reviewed annually.	Statutory Guidance for Fostering Services requires that any policy in relation to the payment of fees must be applied to all foster carers who meet the criteria in the same way and must not discriminate on the grounds of a pre-existing relationship with the child. Payments would be made as with all foster placement's until the end of the placement At the point of adoption see column to the right	Subject to assessment, one off payments or regular adoption allowance may be paid.