

Foster carer support and financial offer analysis in comparison with bordering local authorities and Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs)

October 2024

Fostering Recruitment and Assessment Team

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Introduction and Aims

The Recruitment and Assessment Team for Fostering in Somerset completed some analysis of both other Local Authorities and IFA's offers to foster carers in October 2024. The objective of this exercise was to understand what our competitors (IFAs) and our peers (Local Authorities) were offering to prospective foster carers to help understand if our offer is competitive and if any amendments to this could support an increase in foster carer recruitment.

Information was gathered from websites of the agencies involved and through discussion and existing shared data from other Local Authorities.

The aims of the research were to Compare and analyse:

- Fees and allowances
- The pre-approval and approved support packages to foster carer
- The training package
- The effectiveness of the communication of the assessment process

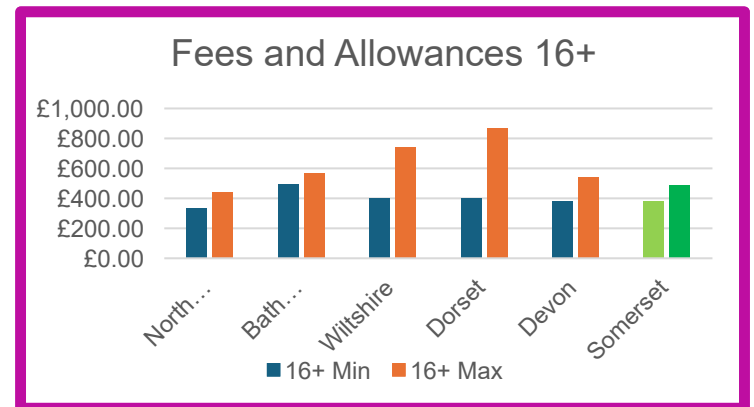
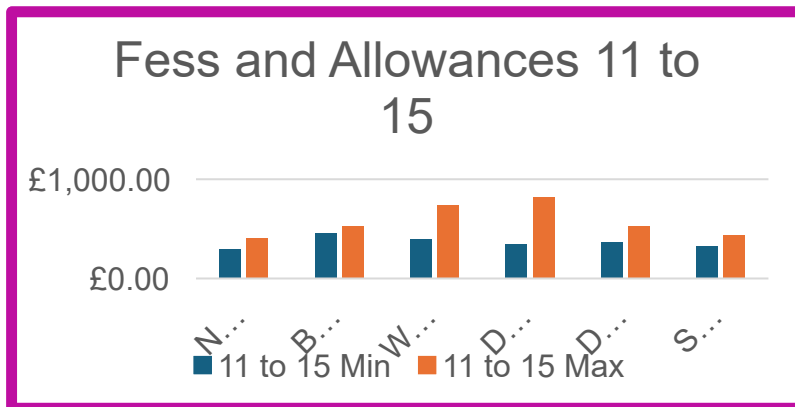
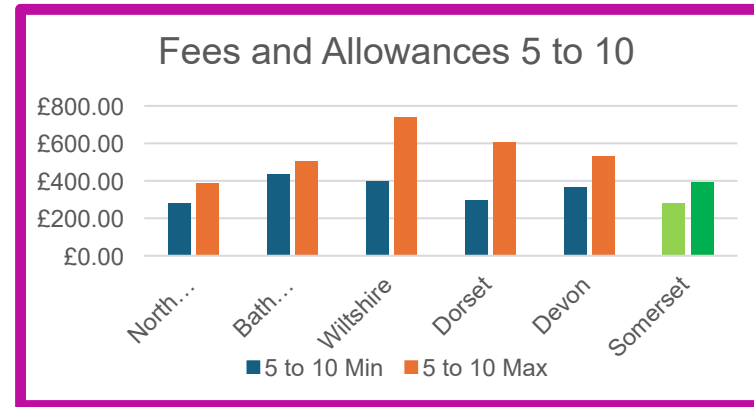
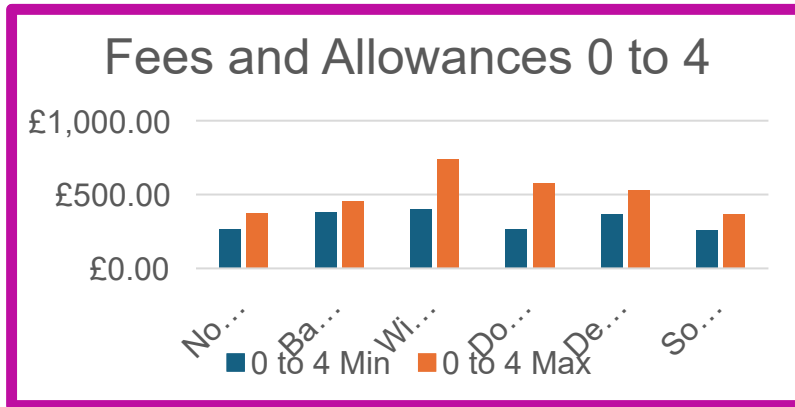
Fees and Allowances

Fostering in Somerset compared to bordering Local Authorities

LA	0 to 4 Min	0 to 4 Max	5 to 10 Min	5 to 10 Max	11 to 15 Min	11 to 15 Max	16+ Min	16+ Max
North Somerset	£262.75	£372.37	£278.40	£388.02	£300.24	£409.86	£331.40	£441.02
Bath and North East Somerset	£381.00	£453.00	£433.00	£505.00	£454.00	£526.00	£495.00	£567.00
Wiltshire	£400.00	£740.00	£400.00	£740.00	£400.00	£740.00	£400.00	£740.00
Dorset	£269.00	£579.00	£294.00	£604.00	£349.00	£820.00	£398.00	£869.00
Devon	£366.38	£529.20	£366.38	£529.20	£366.38	£529.20	£378.00	£540.82
Somerset	£256.80	£367.25	£280.29	£390.74	£327.53	£437.98	£379.28	£489.73

Fees and Allowances

Fostering in Somerset compared to bordering Local Authorities



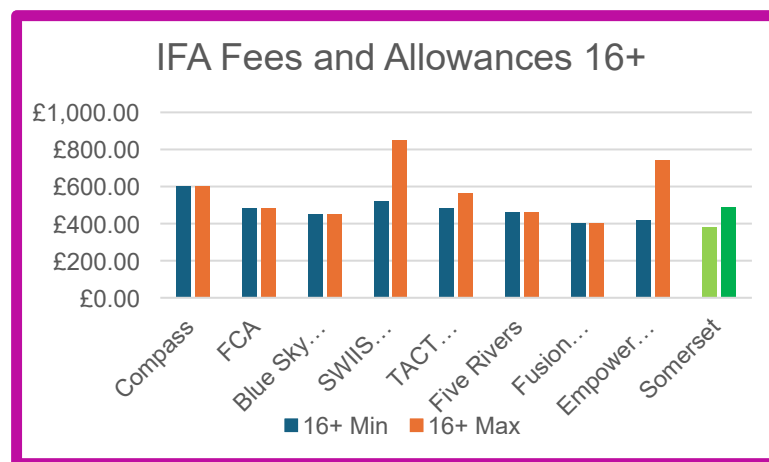
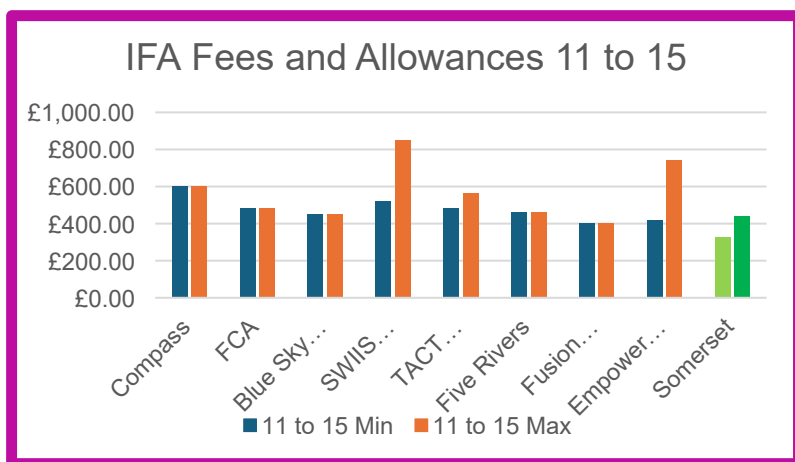
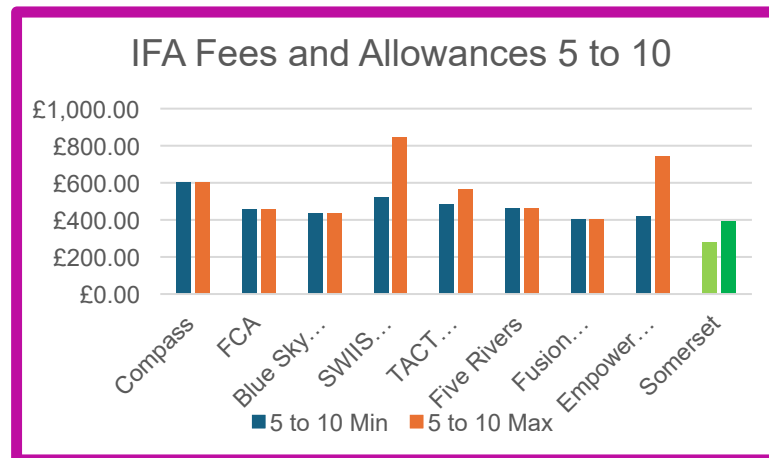
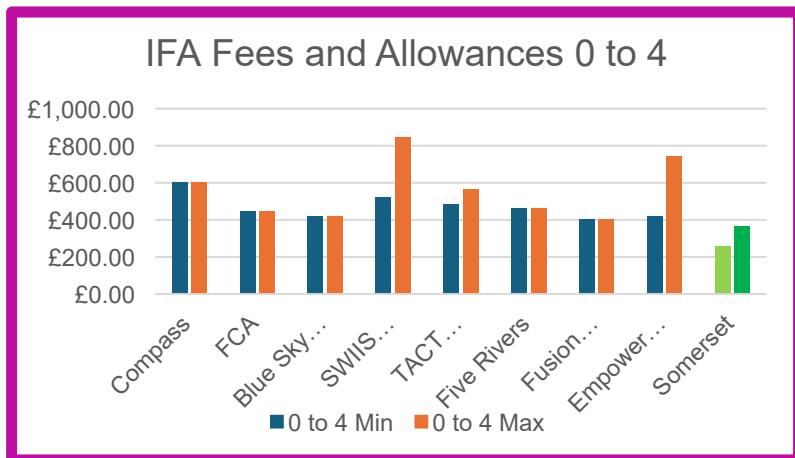
Fees and Allowances

Fostering in Somerset compared to IFAs

Agency	0 to 4 Min	0 to 4 Max	5 to 10 Min	5 to 10 Max	11 to 15 Min	11 to 15 Max	16+ Min	16+ Max
Compass	£600.00	£600.00	£600.00	£600.00	£600.00	£600.00	£600.00	£600.00
FCA	£447.69	£447.69	£457.69	£457.69	£481.71	£481.71	£481.71	£481.71
Blue Sky Fostering	£420.60	£420.60	£436.04	£436.04	£451.41	£451.41	£451.41	£451.41
SWIIS Fostering	£520.00	£847.00	£520.00	£847.00	£520.00	£847.00	£520.00	£847.00
TACT Fostering	£482.00	£566.00	£482.00	£566.00	£482.00	£566.00	£482.00	£566.00
Five Rivers	£459.48	£459.48	£459.48	£459.48	£459.48	£459.48	£459.48	£459.48
Fusion Fostering	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£400.00
Empower Fostering	£420.00	£742.00	£420.00	£742.00	£420.00	£742.00	£420.00	£742.00
Somerset	£256.80	£367.25	£280.29	£390.74	£327.53	£437.98	£379.28	£489.73

Fees and Allowances

Fostering in Somerset compared to IFAs



Fees and Allowances

Case study

Evaluation was completed with Wiltshire Council to compare a typical scenario. The scenario considers a foster carer for Fostering in Somerset who is a Fostering Plus carer caring for two children aged between 11 and 15 and a Home Away from Home Advanced carer from Wiltshire Council caring for two children aged between 11 and 15. The carers were chosen due to the similar experience level and service expectations.

	Somerset 1st child	Wiltshire 1st child	Somerset 2nd child	Wiltshire 2nd child
Fee	£ 198.33	£ -	£ 255.15	£ -
Allowance	£ 239.65	£ 510.00	£ 239.65	£ 510.00
Sub Total	£ 437.98	£ 510.00	£ 494.80	£ 510.00
Birthday Allowance	£ 239.65	£ 280.00	£ 239.65	£ 280.00
Festival Allowance	£ 239.65	£ 280.00	£ 239.65	£ 280.00
Summer Allowance	£ 479.30	£ 560.00	£ 479.30	£ 560.00
Sub Total	£ 958.60	£ 1,120.00	£ 958.60	£ 1,120.00
Total per child per year	£ 23,733.56	£ 27,640.00	£ 26,688.20	£ 27,640.00
	Somerset	Wiltshire	Variance	% Variance
Carer Total for 2 children	£ 50,421.76	£ 55,280.00	-£ 4,858.24	-8.7%

Fees and Allowances

Fostering Plus

- Fostering Plus for Fostering in Somerset is a progression scheme offered where carers are provided a higher remuneration package based on the completion of a portfolio evidencing how they have achieved a more advanced level of care for the service.
- The level of fee is significantly higher for carers who are Fostering Plus and the service expectation is both that carers are to support with more complex placements and support other foster carers through the buddy system, support groups or recruitment events.
- It is unclear how many Fostering Plus carers are supporting complex children and this needs to be considered when evaluating the scheme.
- Fostering Plus is difficult to manage for Supervising Social Workers due to the elements that can be supported and therefore the scheme can come across as tokenistic.

Fees and Allowances

Analysis

- Fostering in Somerset's fee offer in comparison to other LA's and IFAs appears more complicated due to a circumstantial pay offering (e.g. a higher rate for a second child)
- Fostering in Somerset's fee offer is related to the skills of the carer and not reflective of the individual needs of the child.
- Whilst the merits of Fostering Plus are clear in principle, it is unclear how many Fostering Plus carers support complex children and events or buddying, making it appear tokenistic. Replacing this scheme with a progression matrix more related to the skills of the carer and ensuring that the most complex children are supported by the appropriate carer group would improve placement stability.
- The only LA who has lower Minimum fees than Fostering in Somerset is North Somerset, which is marginal. All of the others have a higher minimum fee paid to carer.
- Whilst Fostering in Somerset's maximum fee for mainstream care is significantly lower, these figures do not include the fees for the strategic partnership with Homes and Horizons (high needs service) and therefore caution should be taken with the maximum fees and allowances.

Fees and Allowances

Analysis

- No other local authority offers a higher amount for having a second child in placement except Fostering in Somerset. It needs to be considered if this is the most effective way for multiple placements to be provided in households or if it is even still a required incentive.
- 83% of the local authorities researched offer incremental rises in allowance for children based on their age range in line with the approach taken by Fostering in Somerset.
- As predicted, IFA's offer higher fees and allowances than Somerset. However, the data suggests Somerset are still competitive in this market when consideration is taken of the other benefits offered such as council tax reductions, payments for training and increased payment thresholds for mileage claims.

Pre-Approval Support Package

Fostering in Somerset current offer

- Support throughout the process from a designated Assessing Social Worker and Senior Social Work Assistant.
- Pre-approval training provided to ensure foster carers are ready to step into the fostering service when approved.
- £200 welcome payment to foster carers approved by ADM from 1st January 2025.
- Parking and lunch now offered at Skills to Foster training.
- Application visits offered to expediate starting the assessment process.



Pre-Approval Support Package

Foster Talk Pre-Approval Membership

- Currently Fostering in Somerset do not support Foster Talk pre-approval training.
- There would be significant benefits to applicants in adding this to the package we offer including independent advice and quotes for car and home insurance.
- The cost of this membership to Fostering in Somerset would be £26 per year per membership. As an organisational member 20 could be purchased (for example) and recycled when the applicant becomes a foster carer and gains full membership. Therefore, the **annual cost to Fostering in Somerset would be £520.**
- The value of using Foster Talk to administer 'Journey to Foster' their equivalent of 'Skills to Foster' should be explored (click on the picture to view the document). This would ensure our material is always up to date and avoid removing front line staff from their roles to administer training.

£26/YEAR**

PRE-APPROVAL MEMBERSHIP

Membership designed to support you, on your journey into Foster Care.

JOIN NOW

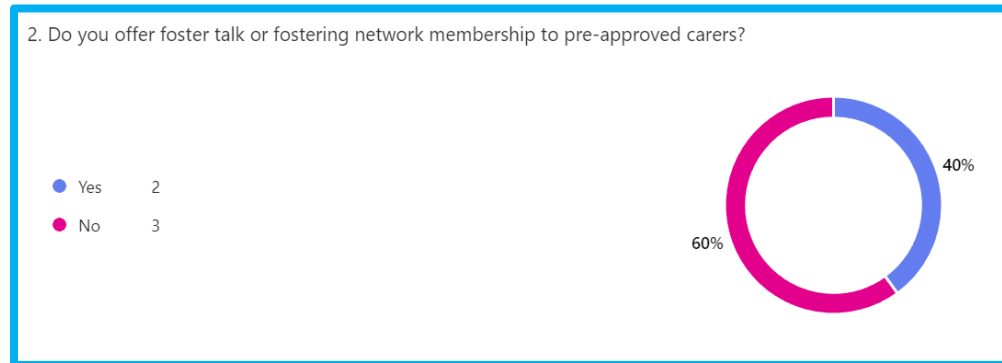
Household Coverage	✓
Members Magazine, Newsletters	✓
Events	✓
FosterTalk Spotlight Awards	✓
Social Work Advice Helplines*	✓
Legal Insurance**	✗
24/7 Legal Helpline	✓
24/7 Counselling Helpline	✓
24/7 Medical Helpline	✓
Financial Advice	✓
Tax, Benefits, and NI Advice	✓
Discounted Tax Return Service	✗
Home, Car, and Business Insurance Quotes	✓
Education Advisory Service	✓
Shopping & Lifestyle Discounts	✗



Pre-Approval Support Package

Analysis

- There is limited availability in analysing the support provided by other local authorities in terms of pre-approval support.
- The Recruitment and Assessment Team have recently evaluated the pre-approval support offering which has been well received by applicants.
- The total cost to Fostering in Somerset would be £520 per year, which as an additional support to pre-approved carers could be considered a small outlay.
- Through a survey of Southwest Local Authorities (5 responses), 40% offer pre-approval membership and have found it helpful to applicants.
- The Journey to Foster pre-approval training would require further costing information and analysis to its value.



Support Packages

Local Authorities

- 60% (excluding Fostering in Somerset) of bordering Local Authorities offer some form of council tax reduction. This ranges from a 25% reduction to a full reduction.
- 80% of bordering Local Authorities use Fostering Network as a benefit to members, whereas 20% used Foster Talk (which is used by Fostering in Somerset).
- Only 10% of bordering Local Authorities offer payment to carers for training (not including Fostering in Somerset). This is offered by Devon County Council but in a different way to Fostering in Somerset. Whilst Fostering in Somerset pay applicants for attendance, Devon County Council pay carers an additional £64.47 per week with the expectation that foster carers attend a minimum of 6 training courses a year. They also pay carers £64.47 per week to attend a minimum of 6 support groups.
- All Local Authorities offer dedicated support groups, events for looked after children and events for birth children in various forms.
- All Local Authorities offer travel payments from mile 0 at 45p per mile.
- Devon County Council offer a dedicated children's promoting stability team offering therapeutic support and guidance seven days a week, including unsocial hours, which supports retention.
- No other Local Authority researched promotes the use of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing course which Fostering in Somerset offers to carers, particularly 3 sessions in the first year of fostering.
- Only 10% of bordering Local Authorities promote the offer of payments during holidays, birthdays and Christmas, something that Fostering in Somerset also offer.



Support Packages

IFAs

- 100% of IFA's researched offer paid respite to carers, ranging from 14-28 days per year.
- Much of the support offer listed by IFAs relates to support all foster carers get such as tax relief and blue light cards, with very little practical support offerings listed.
- The focus on support from IFAs is predominantly focused on financial incentives. In the economic context of fostering, this makes sense as IFAs need to operate a different business model to Local Authorities to attract carers and compete in the market.
- One IFA claims on their website to be offering £3,000 as a refer a friend scheme.
- Other elements offered include support groups and events for birth children but none of the IFAs researched highlight these support elements in detail or as a unique selling point.



Support Packages

Analysis

- Council tax reduction is a benefit offered by a significant number of our bordering Local Authorities and is a significant driver in attracting and supporting foster carers in Somerset.
- Fostering in Somerset are fairly unique in offering payments to foster carers for training based on the research. However, the effectiveness in this in driving carers to complete more training should be considered along with the position Devon County Council take in paying foster carers for training attendance.
- The Emotional Health and Wellbeing offering is not offered by any other Local Authority researched and should be a key benefit to our offer to foster carers.
- Fostering in Somerset's offer to foster carers is competitive with the LA's researched. However, further consideration needs to be given to how effective this is promoted to potential carers, particularly on the website.
- Fostering in Somerset is not competitive financially with IFA's.
- IFAs are arguably unable to compete with support package offered by Fostering in Somerset, and given Fostering in Somerset's ethos and financial position, a motivation in supporting the needs of the children would be far more beneficial to the service.



Training Packages

Local Authorities

- All Local Authorities researched only give a generalised account of the training offered on their websites.
- 1 Local Authority highlights the mandatory training available and 1 Local Authority highlights the requirement to complete TSD's within the first year of being a foster carer.
- Almost all local authorities researched highlight that they have an extensive training package available.
- North Somerset Council highlight that they reward carers through foster carer fee by completing course which increase their skillset and expertise. Fostering in Somerset do partially do this through the Fostering Plus scheme but little else.

IFAs

- IFA training listed is all quite generalised and difficult to get a good picture of the package offered.
- IFAs only really highlight the pre-approval training on their websites.

TRAINING



Training Packages

Analysis

- There is little evidence for the research completed to compare Fostering in Somerset's training offer with other Local Authorities or IFAs.
- A consideration of how Fostering in Somerset pay carers for training and if the amount we pay them is reflective could be beneficial when considering our foster carer offer



TRAINING

fostering
in somerset

Recruitment and Assessment Process

Local Authorities

- 80% of Local Authorities researched had a clear linear process map on their website, outlining what the process of recruitment and assessment to becoming a foster carer entails.
- All Local Authorities provide clear explanations of each stage on their website, with most using a 8 step process map to explain what each stage means to the applicant.
- None of the Local Authorities researched provided any timescales with their process map, suggesting that there is more emphasis on the applicants' journey than the time it may take.
- Finding the process map for some Local Authorities on the website was not straightforward and it could be argued that the process should be one of the most commonly accessed pages on the site.

IFAs

- Of the IFAs researched, 100% of them show a clear linear process map which clearly outlines what the foster carers can expect and is extremely focused with clear and fixed timescales for each process
- Process maps were easy to find and very clear to applicants with clear explanation.

ASSESSMENT



Recruitment and Assessment Process

Analysis

- It could be suggested there is a need on the Fostering in Somerset website to provide a clear and linear process map, with a clearer synopsis of each stage, comparable to that of Local Authorities and IFA's
- Fostering in Somerset have clear timescales and this is currently not communicated on the website to applicants. Whilst we explain the process, a linear diagram with clear timescales would support our foster carer offer as Fostering in Somerset have a successful track record of meeting timescales and KPI's in this area.

ASSESSMENT



Recommendations

Fees and Allowance


- A review of the structure fees and allowances provided by Fostering in Somerset should be conducted to provide a system of fee which is more child centred, matching the expertise of carers with the needs of the children supported.
- A review of the fees and allowance offered by Fostering in Somerset should be conducted as the research shows Fostering in Somerset provide lower fees in comparison to most bordering Local Authorities.

Pre-Approval Support Package

- It is recommended that Fostering in Somerset adopt the pre-approval membership to Foster Talk at a cost of £520 per year.
- A review should be conducted to further explore the benefits of the 'Journey to Foster' pre-approval training package and the cost effectiveness of adopting this within Fostering in Somerset's pre-approval training offer.

Support Package

- A review of the benefits of paying foster carers a weekly amount with the condition they attend a prescribed number of training sessions and support groups should be considered in terms of its cost effectiveness.
- All support offers should be considered in a wider sense to ensure that they are both widely offered and promoted to foster carers, as well as processes refined.



Recommendation

Recommendations

Training Packages

- Further research is needed in this area to establish how Fostering in Somerset's offer compares with other Local Authorities and IFAs.

Recruitment and Assessment Process

- A linear map of the process of Recruitment and Assessment needs to be added to the website in a prominent position with clear steps and timescales.



Recommendation

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Research of Bordering Local Authorities

Organisation	Fees	Allowance	Foster care offer	Support package	Training package	Navigation of the website	Clarity of application process
North Somerset	Skills based fee/Foundation- £72.03 Basic fee- £36.01 Advanced- £181.05 Advanced + Managed/High care- £32.79 Single Placement/Managed Scheme- £377.27	05-16- £118.79 05-16- £208.37 11-16- £228.21 16-18- £229.37	Council fee exemption for all North Somerset Carers. Access to support through Fostering Network, Manage payment form table 0	As job of focus and emergency services Health professionals Education services Access to specialist psychologists A youth service that provides young people with fun projects. Access to regular support support groups Access to a dedicated foster care training service Membership of the North Somerset Foster Care Association (NSFCA) Membership of the Fostering Network Support for both children through our "Carers Crusader" group	Nothing specific but reward carers through training and gaining experience through fees	Enquiry from fees enquiry to SFV Hub enquiry. Fairly similar navigation to Somerset. No information or details about transferring. Enquiry is not first and centre of home page and you have to browse for it.	Clear approach with 8 steps to becoming a foster carer clearly outlined. No timescales included however so it is unclear to carers how long the process takes.
Bath and North East Somerset	SKS based fee: Tue 1- £196; Tue 2- £237; Tue 3 - £268	05-16- £168 11-16- £265 16-18- £269	20% reward reimbursement for carers who support a child for 70% of the year- grants for additional equipment. Discounts through the fostering network	Generic- nothing specifically mentioned	Generic/very high highlighted Fost. Aid, Child Protection, Safe Care and Therapeutic Planning A dedicated Child Psychologist in our team to support foster carers	Easy and clear to navigate. Enquiry form link and phone number is on every page of the website and is clear. Information about transfer process is linked. Layout is good and simple.	Clear with clear steps to becoming a foster carer. No timescales included
Wiltshire	Carers - £352 per child per week. Advanced carer - £310 per child per week, specialist carer - £292 per child per week	Fees and allowances combined	£1,120 in payments for holidays and holidays per year. There are plenty of opportunities to meet up with other foster carers through support groups and our buddy scheme so you won't feel isolated.	Not for profit - our work is focused on providing the best care for our children and young people Carers receive payments up to £292 per week, per child Children receive 3hrs of free care in holiday time- carers will be approached first, so it's free for foster carers to have children living with them Keep young people local High-quality training and excellent support provided locally Free evening and out time (also individual discounts for gym and exercise classes for foster carers and their children at all 60 Leisure Centres) The Wiltshire Rewards scheme gives you access to a choice of savings and discounts from major supermarket chains, top street retailers, holidays and entertainment	We provide excellent training and development programmes to help and equip you in your role as a foster carer	Website is simple to use and contains limited but vital information. Clear transfer process and easy to use	None on website
Devon	Combined	0-4 SKS Level 1 £209 SKS Level 2 £215 SKS Level 3 £220 SKS Level 4 £219 5-15 SKS Level 1 £204 SKS Level 2 £210 SKS Level 3 £210 SKS Level 4 £204 16-18 SKS Level 1 £180 SKS Level 2 £206 SKS Level 3 £212 SKS Level 4 £209 05-11 SKS Level 1 £205 SKS Level 2 £244 SKS Level 3 £252 SKS Level 4 £270 SKS Level 5 £265	Keeping local children close to their schools, friends and birth families is really important to us at Devon Council. Our fostering service helps children to care stay close to home by placing them with foster carers from their local communities. By doing this, we are able to offer young people through Devon a strong, stable place to call home. By becoming a foster carer with Devon Council, you'll become a part of a wider community of carers made up of around 300 households across Devon. You'll benefit from our 24/7 wrap around care and support, and will have easy access to all our training and respite services.	Once you've been approved as a carer with Devon Council, we'll provide visits every month to make sure things are going well, with regular telephone contact and additional support visits as needed. Through these visits, our fostering social workers will help you develop a consistent and quality approach to caring for the young people placed with you. While support is also available through support groups. We offer you a choice of financial rewards on a quarterly basis) the day holiday and social work services and offers you a choice of financial rewards on a quarterly basis) the day holiday and social work services and offers you a choice of financial rewards on a quarterly basis) the day holiday and social work services	Our foster carers get an extensive training and support package throughout their fostering journey that's tailored to their needs. This includes access to the Foster Care Training Handbook which details all the courses available to you. You'll also have access to our online training. Within 12 months of your approval, or 18 months if you're someone who has a connection to the family, you'll be offered support to achieve your Training and Development Standard. You'll also be expected to have a personal development portfolio- up to date so you can show what learning and development you have completed.	Clarity and difficult to locate what you are looking for. Clear at the top of the website how to enquire and transfer however. Offer enquires the chance to book a telephone for a call which could be useful.	Very clear and neatly good diagram depicting this. No timescales noted
Devon	Standard (including training and support group whenever) £305.38 or £378 for 14+ Advanced (team) £458.57 or £489.65 for 14+ Dedicated (one to one) £520.25 or £546.82 for 14+ Single placement (one to one) £341.77	Combined	combined training packages local to where you live, before you care for young people and afterward local support groups access our four different geographical areas Peer support from experienced foster carers who can support you in your new role support from your own dedicated supervising social worker a personal programme of activities a dedicated children's promoting stability team offering therapeutic support and guidance seven days a week, including specialist therapy paid membership of professional organisations such as FosterTalk	Carers support groups There are local regularly where experience, fresh ideas and mutual support is shared. There are guest speakers, presentations and resources to network. Carers are expected to attend at least six support group activities per year. Approved foster carers can find out more about planned support group events. Children who foster groups There are activity groups and days out for the families of foster carers where they can meet, swap stories, and have a good time. Fostering strategy group You'll get a good idea, or a chance for concern you can bring it up with management via this group. Contact your foster supervisor. Call your line worker for how to arrange. Peer guides Peer-to-peer advice, advice or peer support should be able to be accessed to talk to an experienced carer. Our Peer Guide Scheme is now well-established, following a request from foster carers for more support from experienced colleagues. Peer guides are selected based on experience, skills and commitment. Each locality has at least one peer guide who attends monthly supervision and training groups, where they receive regular updates on policies and procedures. They have local contact numbers both in social care services and other agencies and can offer lots of help and advice. FosterTalk membership FosterTalk needs to promote good practice in foster care. FosterTalk membership is provided to all carers and offers independent support, legal advice and discounts from the national organisation, Fostering Network.	Extensive training package which is available online	Fairly easy and lots of information. Easy to enquire and separate number for transferring foster carers. Easy to book an online info session there and then.	Really clear and easy explained. No timescales included

Appendices

Appendix 2 – Research of IFAs

Organisation	Fees and Allowances (if available)	Foster carer offer	Support package	Training package	Navigation of the website	Clarity of application process
Compass	£600 Average	Takes 3-6 months but can be fast tracked. £3250.00 refer a friend scheme. Diploma level 3 offered.	Paid respite, blue light card. Support payments whilst waiting for first child which then comes off their payments, tax relief. Support meetings, planned days out.	3 days STF, lots of training listed including report writing.	Easy to enquire using online form, have to request brochure, no information on transferring.	Clear process explained in list form.
FCA	£23280.00 for under four approx, 5-10 yrs 23800.00 11-17 yrs 25049.00.	<u>Foster parents receive a generous fostering allowance, specialised training, ongoing support from fostering support teams.</u>	Regular family activities and local support groups, support workers, therapists, educational support workers.	Information on pre assessment and ongoing training.	Can download brochure, easy online form to apply, or live chat. Information on transferring.	Very clear process explained in detail lists.
Blue Sky Fostering	0-4 yrs £21,871.51 for standard fostering which goes up in age, 5-11 £22674.12, 12+ £23473.22	Outstanding ofsted 5 consecutive times. Support 24/7, valued and recognised for your contribution to children. 14 days paid holiday	Supervision fortnightly, monthly support meetings, family outings and social events, groups for birth children.	STF in assessment, not all training on website just an example of some.	Information on transferring, online form to enquire, couldnt see brochure.	Process explained in list form.
SWIIS Fostering	one child up to £520, HN up to £847, Two siblings up to £833, two unrealed children £1,006, parent and child £845 (a week)	£3,000 refer a friend scheme. Offer a kids pass scheme	Tax relief, health support, 24/7 support available from social workers	Offer 4 days of pre- approval training and post aproved training	easy to acces online and navigate around website, have a live chat on website. can enquire easy online.	Clear process explained in detailed list form.
TACT Fostering	one child £482, two children £964, HN £566 P&C £852 (per week)	Tact connect, community connections, wellbeing package Paid short breaks if needed, on going support when needed, 14 days paid respite per year	reduced council tax payments, 24 hour support.	inital traning STF, 2 traning courses to be completed in first 12 month	Can enquire online easily, have an online chat box on website, clear and easy to acces infomation, infomation on transferring	Broken down steps of the journey to become a foster carer, using pictures and detailed expination of each stage
Five Rivers	one child £459.48, parent and child £906.36 siblings £906.36 (per week) 0-18 years: £400 per week, solo placement: £500 per week, parent and child £600-£800 per week. Higher allowance can be sometimes paid to care for children and young people with special needs .	carers receive special tax exlusions, 14 days of paid annual leave, pension scheme, staff social events and activities , plus family events	24 hour support if needed, access to therapist , foster talk	inital traning package STF	infomation on tranfering available, can enquire online with best day and time to call back	clear application process shown on website list form, easy to find
Fusion Fostering			meetings with carer support groups, 14 days paid annual leave per year, the organization has public liability insurance covering carers within their work,	skills to foster training over 3 days where 6 modules are covered	all information is available however one needs to read and look for what you enquiring about	process explained .
Empower Fostering	newly approved foster carer up to £420 per week, experienced specialist foster carer with training up to £ 742 per week, parent and child up to £848 per week, sibling group up to £900 per week	up to 26 days paid respite per year, fortnightly support from social workers , regular phone calls and visits from social workers as needed, family days and fostering outings	unrivald support, available 24/7, support groups and fun activities throughout the year , tax exemption, tax relief	skills to foster, 2 day course on understanding attachment	the webiste is easy to access and all information provided is easily accessible, has a lovely Q& A section too	great explanation of the whole process, from the enquiry stage up to the fostering stage, its explained in a lovely diagram too