

Staying Put Arrangement (SPA) – Financial Principles

1. YP will contribute a maximum of £20 per week to the carers

This is the recommended maximum that YP should be asked to contribute, no matter what their income. YP who are working or at uni will not be expected to contribute more than YP on universal credit in order to not inadvertently discourage progression to work or further education.

Where possible staying put carers are encouraged to save this money for YP to give back to them at the end of the Staying Put Arrangement as a lump sum to support them as they move on to the next stage of their independence journey.

Staying put carers are asked to ensure that financial contributions made by care leavers are in line with contributions made by other family members.

There may be some circumstances on which a YP will contribute more but this will be on individual circumstances only.

2. Staying Put carers will be offered 80% of the 16 plus allowance – currently this is 80% of £251.37 = £201.01 per week

Some discussion to meet individual circumstances may be considered.

3. Panel app is then jointly presented with the leaving care team explaining why SPA is in the YP best interests and with the Fostering team.

4. SPA financial agreements will be reviewed annually between fostering team and the child care team to ensure SPA financial agreement is still reasonable in light of any changed circumstances (both YP and SPA carers) and will be represented to panel jointly by the fostering team and the leaving care team for ongoing agreement/change.

Note 1: housing benefit

In a case where the SPA carers set themselves up as a landlord and where a YP is able to claim housing benefit, then this amount of money will be claimed by the YP and paid to the carers. This amount will be taken off the SPA sum paid by the LA to the SPA carers.

Note 2: for a YP who is away at uni and returning to staying put carers during holidays, the Staying Put carer will be offered 60% of the 16 plus allowance – currently £150.82

Note 3: discussions about the financial agreement for SPAs need to commence at the age of 14 plus when SPA is being discussed as part of long term planning so that foster carers and YP are clear in advance of what the financial arrangements are likely to be at the age of 18.