

Foster Carer Retainer Payments

1. Caerphilly County Borough Council values its Foster Carers and strives to ensure that Foster Carers are recruited and retained to meet the needs of the Looked After Children population.
2. It is acknowledged that on occasions approved Foster Carers will not have a child or young person in placement. In order to retain Foster Carers it will be necessary to pay a retainer.
3. A retainer payment of £110 per week will be paid to Career Foster Carers and a payment of £55 per week will be paid to Probationary and Mainstream Foster Carers when there is no child in placement. The retainer payment will be paid for a maximum period of three months unless one of the circumstances detailed below applies:

Circumstances where retainer payments will not be paid, may cease or be reviewed:

1. In order to qualify for the retainer payment, the Foster Carer must have had at least one full time placement. Newly approved Foster Carers will not receive a retainer payment until they have provided at least one full time placement.
2. Foster Carers will not be paid a retainer payment if they have expressed a wish to be placed on hold i.e. they do not wish to be considered for placements for a period of time for reasons agreed with the Fostering Team.
3. Foster Carers will not be paid a retainer payment if they take holidays in excess of their two weeks paid annual leave entitlement.
4. The retainer payment will be reviewed by the Team Manager and/or Service Manager on a monthly basis and a decision made as to whether or not the retainer payment should continue in the following circumstances:
 - Where there have been concerns or allegations made against Foster Carers and children have been removed whilst an investigation is pending
 - Where carers have refused to take children / young people who are considered by the Fostering Team to be an appropriate and suitable match.

NB: Respite placements are not considered to be full time placements for the purposes of this policy.