

Financial Management and Reporting (the Dashboard) – Internal Care reported cost for Scrutiny

The table below is an extract from September’s Children in Care Dashboard report, detailing Unit Costs for each placement type.

Placement Type	Children in Care at 31.03.13	Weekly Unit Cost 2012/13	Children in Care at 31.07.13	Weekly Unit Cost 31.07.13	Children in Care at 31.08.13	Weekly Unit Cost 31.08.13	Children in Care at 30.09.13	Weekly Unit Cost 30.09.13
Placed for Adoption	14	N/A	12	N/A	13	N/A	14	N/A
Relative/Friend Carer	36	413	33	£409	33	£412	33	£408
LA Carer	114	416	126	£451	128	£452	130	£446
Agency Foster Carer	94	£821	91	£846	90	£841	84	£824
Residential Placements	45	£2,910	45	£2,685	45	£2,684	45	£2,649
Placed with Parents	14	N/A	9	N/A	9	N/A	12	N/A
Supportive Lodgings	3	N/A	4	N/A	4	N/A	3	N/A
Other Placement	0	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A	0	N/A
TOTAL =	320	£888*	321	£858*	323	£862	321	£847

The revised methodology for calculating both the Internal Fostering and Relative/Friend carer Unit cost is then broken down for information in the table below.

This is modelled on the first completion of the West Midlands Children’s Strategic Commissioning Group LA Fostering Service Unit Cost Project. A copy of the proforma is attached at Appendix 1 for information.

<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Internal Fostering</i>	<i>Relative Carers</i>
Staff Costs	£700,805	£174,357
Service Overheads	£293,725	£73,078
Carer/Client Costs	£1,896,932	£471,949
Other	£110,641	£27,527
Total Costs	£3,002,103	£746,911
Divided by Total weeks for children in care	6,739	1,832
Weekly Unit Cost £'s	£446	£408

The changes in unit cost from application of the West Midlands approach is shown in the table below.

Placement Type	Weekly Unit Cost at year end 2012/13 - no Overhead included	Weekly Unit Cost 30.09.13	Increase/ (Decrease) in Unit Cost
Relative/Friend Carer	£413	£408	(£5)
LA Carer	£416	£446	£30

Relative Care Unit cost is a lower rate than Internal LA Carer due to reduced marketing and recruitment costs.

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