

	Private fostering	Family care (informal)	Family and friends foster care Unrelated foster care	Residence order	Special Guardianship order (SGO)	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	Can claim child benefit and child tax credit 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 section17 Children Act	LA has discretion to make one-off or regular payments under section17 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 and may be means tested.	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 and may be means tested.	Subject to assessment, one off payments or regular adoption allowance may be paid.