

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference**

**Please provide me with details of what sick pay arrangements are in place for foster carers registered with you. Can you please also provide any policies which outline these arrangements? Equally if there are no sick pay arrangements in place can you please reply to confirm.**

Foster carers are not Northern Health and Social Care Trust employees with contracts of employment; therefore, the Trust policies and procedures in respect of sick pay allowances are not applicable to this group. Foster carers however do receive financial support.

All foster carers receive Boarding out allowances, which are regionally agreed. This allowance is based on the age of the children in placement.

Should a foster carer become unwell we provide supports and work closely with our carers to enable where possible children to remain in placement, as in other family situations.

We appreciate that illness creates anxiety and pressure on any family situation and we do all we can to support the situation e.g. provide domestic support, day care provision, short break provision. Should a child need to be cared for by another foster carer due to illness the foster carer who is unwell will be provided with a retainer until the child is able to return.