



Department  
for Education

Department for Education  
20 Great Smith Street  
London  
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Director of Children's Services for:  
Blackpool  
Derby  
Norfolk  
Oldham  
North Yorkshire  
Somerset  
Bradford  
Doncaster  
Cambridgeshire  
East Sussex  
Suffolk  
Stoke-on-Trent

08 January 2018

Dear Director of Children's Services,

**Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for the Essential Life Skills programme Y1 Grant (2017-18 [DfE GR1000361] DCLG Ref: 31/3178)**

This Determination is made between:

- (1) **The Secretary of State for Education and**
- (2) **The local authorities listed at Annex A.**

I am pleased to be writing to you to confirm further details of the Government's offer to your local authority following agreement that the Essential Life Skills (ELS) Grant would be devolved.

We will devolve this Grant under a Section 31 non-ring fenced transfer (Local Government Finance Act 2003). Our expectation is that the named local authorities will use the funds to support the aims of the Essential Life Skills programme. The Senior Responsible Owner for this Grant, Richard Vaughan, will require your responsible officer to confirm at the end of each financial year that the funding has been properly expended.

The total funding available for the ELS programme is £22m, over two years, 2017-18 to 2018-19. As set out in our recent letter this month, we expect a substantial proportion of that money to be channelled through the relevant top tier local authorities. The evaluation of the ELS programme will be procured centrally, using a

portion of the overall ELS budget. For this year, we expect funds to be made available to local authorities in the form of one non-ring-fenced grant in December. A total of £7.95m will be paid in January 2018 to the 12 local authorities concerned, to 'kick-start' the ELS programme, including any new burdens where these have been identified. Details of the December payment can be found in Annex A.

### Purpose of the Grant

The named local authorities can spend this grant to promote extra-curricular activities that will develop essential life skills in children and young people living in their area. Whilst local authorities may choose how to spend the money in order to best meet local need, we anticipate that all decisions will be informed by the recommendations of the local Opportunity Areas ELS delivery plans.

The Department's aspiration is that local authorities should use the funding provided to:

- Offer new or significantly extended access to relevant activities for disadvantaged children beyond what could reasonably be expected as part of the standard school day and not duplicate or substitute core curriculum teaching.
- Provide activities targeted towards helping children and young people to develop essential life skills such as resilience, leadership, teamwork and communication.
- Provide regular activities that are part of a broad offer across the OA with sufficient variety and appeal to children and young people of both genders, all ethnic backgrounds and across a range of abilities including those with SEND.
- Not fund any activity which is already being funded whether directly or indirectly by HM Government or its agencies.

The local authority may also use the grant to cover its reasonable expenses in helping to administer the OA programme and assisting with the DfE's evaluation of the programme.

### Payment arrangements

Payment will be made in January 2018.

Arrangements for keeping in touch with the Department for Education and the Head of Delivery

Formal reporting to the Department for Education on progress is not a condition of this grant. The Department for Education will, however, ask the named local authorities to provide a voluntary end of year return and report confirming activity that has taken place or been funded.

The Department for Education would also be happy to receive any information about effective practice and activity that substantively addresses social mobility across all life stages of children and young people.

This letter has been copied to the Chief Finance Officer of all participating local authorities, Directors of Children's Services, Opportunity Areas Heads of Delivery, Her Majesty's Treasury and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Enquiries

For all enquiries about the Essential Life Skills programme, please contact [Gillian.Machin@education.gov.uk](mailto:Gillian.Machin@education.gov.uk) .

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Education,



Richard Vaughan  
Deputy Director, Life Skills Division, Department for Education

Annex A

## **REVENUE grant determination (non-ringfenced)**

### **Essential Life Skills programme Y1 GRANT DETERMINATION 2017-18: DCLG Ref: 31/3178**

The Minister of State for Education (Justine Greening), in exercise of the powers conferred by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, makes the following determination:

#### **Citation**

1) This determination may be cited as the Essential Life Skills PS 1 Grant Determination (2017-18) [DCLG Ref:31/3178].

#### **Purpose of the grant**

2) The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them.

#### **Determination**

3) The Minister of State determines as the authorities to which grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid, the authorities and the amounts set out in Annex A.

#### **Treasury consent**

4) Before making this determination in relation to local authorities in England, the Minister of State obtained the consent of the Treasury.

Signed by authority of the Minister of State for Education



Richard Vaughan, Deputy Director, Essential Life Skills, Department for Education  
08 January 2018

<b>Authorities to which grant is to be paid</b>	<b>Opportunity Area</b>	<b>Amount of grant to be paid</b>
Blackpool Borough Council	Blackpool	£394,949.59
Derby City Council	Derby	£871,696.26
Norfolk County Council	Norwich	£341,566.46
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	Oldham	£907,021.13
North Yorkshire County Council	Scarborough	£299,801.38
Somerset County Council	W Somerset	£70,093.44
Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Bradford	£2,064,226.22
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	Doncaster	£1,008,267.22
Cambridgeshire County Council	Fenland & East Cambridgeshire	£523,368.65
East Sussex County Council	Hastings	£236,404.90
Suffolk County Council	Ipswich	£441,764.14
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	Stoke-on-Trent	£790,840.61
Total		£7,950,000