

To all local authorities in England

December 2017

To Whom It May Concern

Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for Children's Social Care Innovation Programme Grant GR1000335.

This Determination is made between:

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

Purpose of the Grant

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

This grant is intended to support the projects these local authorities have requested to undertake relating to innovation and reform in children's social care. They may, however, choose how to spend the money in order to best meet local need.

The Children's Social Care Innovation Programme and Partners in Practice support the development, testing and spreading of more effective ways of supporting children and families who need help from children's social care services.

The Innovation Programme and Partners in Practice will focus on the policy priorities set out in [*Putting children first: Delivering our vision for excellent children's social care.*](#) This policy paper (published in July 2016) sets out the Department for Education's vision for this Parliament.

This is to radically reform the children's social care system, putting practice excellence and achieving more for the children we serve at its heart. Reforms will be structured around three areas:

1. People and leadership – bringing the best people into the profession, and giving them the right knowledge and skills for the incredibly challenging but hugely rewarding work we expect them to do, and developing leaders equipped to nurture practice excellence;
2. Practice and systems – creating the right environment for excellent practice and innovation to flourish; and
3. Governance and accountability – making sure that what we are doing is working, using data to show us strengths and weaknesses in the system, and developing innovative new organisational models with the potential to radically improve services.

The Innovation Programme and Partners in Practice will play a key role in delivering the Government's vision.

The Innovation Programme and Partners in Practice will continue to provide valuable lessons about how to secure better outcomes for our most vulnerable children and how best to structure and resource the work we do with them. They are seeking to inspire whole system change so that by the end of this parliament we achieve:

- Better life chances for children receiving help from the social care system;
- Stronger incentives and mechanisms for innovation, experimentation and replication of successful new approaches; and
- Better value for money across children's social care.

Local authorities are undertaking a range of projects to test new ideas and to support other local authorities and children's social care organisations to test and implement new ideas.

Annex A reflects a total amount of funding awarded to each local authority for 2017/18 across the Innovation Programme.

Annex A provides details of payments being made to local authorities involved in innovation projects where funding was agreed by 4 October 2017. Details of payments to local authorities involved in further projects approved during the funding period will be published in an updated version of this letter.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Graham Archer,
Director
Department for Education

Innovation Programme GRANT DETERMINATION [2017-18]: No. 31/3169

The Secretary of State for Education (“the Secretary of State”), 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 Innovation Programme Grant Determination [2017-18] [No. 31/3169].

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 Secretary of State determines the authorities to which grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid; these are set out in Annex A.

Treasury consent

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

Payment arrangements

5) The total grant to be paid to each authority is set out at Annex A. The grant will be paid in one instalment in December 2017 and will be for the sum attributed to the 2017-18 financial year.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Graham Archer
Director
Department for Education

Annex A

Local Authorities	Funding amount
Suffolk County Council	£154,203.00
North East Lincolnshire Council	£169,550.00
North Tyneside Council	£310,933.00
Bristol City Council	£161,225.00
Portsmouth City Council	£151,740.00
Total	£947,651.00