



Department
for Education

To:

Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services, Lead Members for Children and Chief Finance Officers in all Local Authorities

12 March 2015

Dear Colleague

Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for the Role of Regional Lead for the Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms in 2015-16: [DfE ref CSDSD63/2014] [DCLG ref 31/2508].

This Determination is made between:

(1) The Secretary of State for Education and

(2) The following local authorities:

- London Borough of Bromley
- Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
- Coventry City Council
- Dorset County Council
- Durham County Council
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Leicester City Council
- Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Portsmouth City Council

Purpose of this grant

Named local authorities can use this grant funding to support them in their role as regional lead for the implementation of the Special Educational Needs reforms from April 2015. They may, however, choose how to spend the money in order to best meet local need.

The aspiration of the Department for Education, in agreement with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Children's Services, is that Regional Leads should use the funding provided to:

- develop a clear and sustainable strategy for partnership working with local authorities and with the main stakeholder groups across the region; including education settings for ages 0-25; health services; parent carers;

Parent Carer Forums and children and young people across the 0-25 age range;

- share good practice and offer targeted support on specific reform themes, according to regional needs; and
- co-ordinate peer support activities which might include action learning sets, workshops, regional events and local working groups.

Some success measures which Regional Leads may wish to employ are provided at Annex A.

Grant allocations

Total funding of £450,000 is available for this programme in 2015-16, with funding to be split between the Regional Leads. Funds will be made available in the form of an unringfenced grant. Details of allocations to be made to each Regional Lead are set out in Annex B.

Payment arrangements

Payment will be made in four quarterly instalments on the last Fridays in May 2015, August 2015, November 2015 and February 2016.

Arrangements for keeping in touch with the Department for Education and the Delivery Support Contractor.

Formal reporting to the Department for Education on progress is not a condition of this grant. However, successful applicants have described in their expressions of interest how they intend to use the funds to drive improvement in their region and they have been invited to work with the Delivery Support Contractor on the development of a delivery plan and systems for measuring and sharing progress on a voluntary basis. The Department for Education would also be happy to receive any information about effective practice that is gathered by the Regional Leads.

This letter has been copied for information to Heads of SEN in all local authorities and to Her Majesty's Treasury and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, please contact the SEN and Disability implementation mailbox at SEN.IMPLEMENTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Director of Special Needs, Children in Care and Adoption
Department for Education

REGIONAL LEAD FOR THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY REFORMS: GRANT DETERMINATION 2015-16: [DfE ref CSDSD63/2014] [DCLG ref 31/2508].

The Minister of State for Education (“the Minister 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 Regional Lead for the Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms Determination 2015-2016 [DfE ref CSDSD63/2014] [DCLG ref 31/2508].

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 the authorities to which grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid; these are set out in Annex B.

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 on behalf of the Minister of State for Education by Ann Gross,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Gross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Director of Special Needs, Children in Care and Adoption
Department for Education

ANNEX A: SUCCESS MEASURES

Funding under Section 31 Grant reference [DfE ref CSDSD63/2014] [DCLG ref 31/2508] is intended to facilitate a peer learning approach to support implementation of the Special Educational Needs reforms from April 2015. Success measures which Regional Leads may wish to employ when assessing the impact of this grant might include:

- evidence of progress across key areas of the SEN and disability reforms such as:
 - the development of Education, Health and Care plans,
 - the local offer,
 - personal budgets,
 - multi-agency working and joint commissioning,
 - preparing for adulthood,
 - participation of children, young people and parent carers,
 - organisational change, and
 - workforce development;
- a clear and sustainable strategy for partnership working with local authorities across the region;
- development of a clear and achievable delivery plan for regional activities and peer support;
- a strategy for assessing the impact their work has had in the region;
- evidence of effective partnership working with the main stakeholder groups in the region to shape approaches - including education settings for ages 0-25, health, social care, parent carers, and children and young people across the 0-25 age range;
- a strong working partnership with their own local parent carer forum that can help to influence and encourage participation and co-production within the region;
- evidence of effective partnership working with national partners and support agencies to meet regional needs and share information;
- a strategy for sharing of effective approaches from the region, including with neighbouring areas; and
- evidence of an improved experience for children and young people and their families.

ANNEX B – REGIONAL LEAD FOR THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY REFORMS: GRANT DETERMINATION 2015-16: [DfE ref CSDSD63/2014] [DCLG ref 31/2508].

Authorities to which grant is to be paid	Region to be supported	Amount of base funding	Top up amount, based on the number of authorities in each region	Total grant funding
Bromley	London	£37,500	£24,424	£61,924
Calderdale	Yorkshire & Humber	£37,500	£11,102	£48,602
Coventry	West Midlands	£37,500	£11,842	£49,342
Dorset	South West	£37,500	£10,362	£47,862
Durham	North East	£37,500	£8,882	£46,382
Hertfordshire	East of England	£37,500	£8,141	£45,641
Leicester City	East Midlands	£37,500	£6,661	£44,161
Oldham	North West	£37,500	£17,023	£54,523
Portsmouth	South East	£37,500	£14,063	£51,563
Total		£337,500	£112,500	£450,000