

To all local authorities in England

August 2023

To Whom It May Concern

Our ref:

Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for Early Years, Childcare and Families - Families First for Children Pathfinder Grant GD31/6760.

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 been requested to undertake, relating to the Families First for Children Pathfinder (FFCP) programme Wave 1, as described in the government's strategy and consultation, [Stable Homes, Built on Love](#). Through the FFCP programme, we will work with local areas in two waves to co-design and deliver end-to-end service reform, implementing new Family Help services, child protection arrangements and support for kinship care. This will deliver our future vision for how we want to work with children and families in a select number of areas.

The aim of the FFCP programme in Wave 1 is to:

- Work with key partners in local areas on the reform journey, creating sector champions.
- Take a 'test and learn' approach to answer some of the challenging questions about 'how' to operationalise, integrate and embed reforms – and how these will work - in local areas.
- Develop evidence about specific new ways of working, at a smaller scale, before the next stage of delivery – including where there are risks and how to mitigate these.

- Inform future revisions of the statutory framework (including *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*).
- Provide evaluation evidence on implementation, delivery, and any emerging impacts, including any barriers, facilitators, and unintended consequences.
- Evidence implementation costs for the reforms.

The payments specified in this grant letter will enable local areas to co-design their delivery and prepare a costed plan for the pathfinder in their area. Following the completion of these costed plans, DfE intends to make further grant funding available to the local authorities for the delivery of the pathfinder.

Local areas will receive support from an external delivery partner to help them implement the required changes.

DfE will work with the Evaluation Partner selected through the commercial process of appointing a preferred supplier to evaluate the impact of this programme.

Local areas must indicate that the programme is funded by the Department for Education in all materials used externally.

Annex A provides details of payments being made to local authorities involved in the programme where funding was agreed by 31 July 2023.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Helen Waite
Deputy Director
Department for Education

Signed by person authorised to sign on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education:	
Signature:	<i>Helen Waite</i>
Name:	Helen Waite
Role:	Deputy Director
Date:	16 th August 2023

Families First for Children Pathfinder programme GRANT DETERMINATION [2023-24]:

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 Families First for Children Pathfinder programme Grant Determination [2023-24].

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 July and will be for the sum attributed to a proportion of the fixed costs to Families First for Children Pathfinder local authorities in the 2023-24 financial year.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Helen Waite
Deputy Director
Department for Education

Annex A

Families First for Children Local Authority	July 2023	DfE Ref
Dorset	£200,000	con_20047
Lincolnshire	£200,000	con_20048
Wolverhampton	£200,000	con_20046