

To all local authorities in England

November 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 GD31/6890.

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:

- 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.
- Work with the key partners in local areas on the reform journey, creating sector champions.
- 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 local authorities named have begun a period of co-design to develop their local delivery models, which will be agreed by DfE. The payments specified in this grant letter will enable local authorities to complete their co-design and prepare for Wave 1 implementation of the pathfinder programme.

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.

Annex A provides details of the payments being made to local authorities involved in the programme where funding was agreed by 3 November 2023.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Helen Waite
Deputy Director
Department for Education
Date: November 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 November 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.

UK Government Branding

6) The Grant Recipient shall at all times during and following the end of the Funding Period:

6.1 comply with requirements of the Branding Manual in relation to the Funded Activities; and

6.2 cease use of the Funded by UK Government logo on demand if directed to do so by the Authority.

7) **Branding Manual** means the HM Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland '[Funded by UK Government branding manual](#)', first

published by the Cabinet Office in November 2022, including any subsequent updates from time to time.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Helen Waite
Deputy Director
Department for Education

Annex A

Families First for Children Local Authority	November 2023	DfE Ref
Dorset	£887,914	con_20047
Lincolnshire	£1,031,000	con_20048
Wolverhampton	£950,000	con_20046