



Department
for Education

December 2023

Dear Local Authority,

Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for Regional Improvement Alliance Investment, variation 3.

DLUHC reference: 31/6558. DFE Reference: CON_007.

The variation order to our Grant Funding Agreement to take effect from 14 December 2023 is as follows:-

This Determination is made between:

(1) The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

and

(2) The Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliances (RIAs) listed in Annex A and local authorities

Variation number: 3

1. The purpose of the grant is amended to read as follows:

Purpose of the Grant

The purpose of this grant is to provide core funding to all nine Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliances (RIAs) to support the continuation of key activities that aid the improvement of local authority (LA) children's services.

The fund will support core functions of RIAs, which are;

1. Collection of 25 agreed core children's services indicators, to be submitted to the Department for Education on a quarterly basis.
 - a. £80,000 allocated to each region to fund a full-time regional data coordinator post. London weighting of 14% will be included (paid in June 2023).
2. Developing regional data capability and expertise through the **Data 2 Insights Project** during the 2022/23 financial year.
 - a. £10,000 allocated for each region for data improvement activity (full £90,000 was paid to South East in July 2023).
 - b. £15,600 to be paid to South East to conduct research with local areas, with a view to informing future improvements to harm outside the home data (additional payment being made in January 2024)
3. Providing small packages of sector-led improvement support, aimed at LAs in the region that require support to improve their children's services. This support will include peer reviews, diagnostic work and case audits, and will not exceed 39 days.
 - a. £94,000 allocated to each region based on four LAs receiving 39 days of support, costed at £600 per day (paid in June 2023)
4. A self-assessment and peer challenge programme that includes all LAs in the region, to support improvement and target sector-led improvement activities. Original funding: £3,200 allocated to each LA within the region to cover four days of the Director of Children's Services time - costed at £800 per day. (Paid in June 2023). Additional grant funding allocation of £3,200 for self-assessment and peer challenge activity (paid in January 2024) covering:
 - a. Using existing self-assessments and peer challenge models to

identify where practice in LAs is working well to achieve positive outcomes of the Children's Social Care National Framework. Where strong practice is identified, RIAs will support LAs to share learning including through learning events. £1600 allocated to each LA within the region to cover two days of the Director of Children's Services time - costed at £800 per day.

- b. Using self-assessment models to ascertain readiness to implement the social worker agency rules published 25 Oct and identify best practice and support needs around social worker workforce. We will be working with Research in Practice who will provide support to the RIA for this activity. £1600 allocated to each LA within the region to cover two days of the Director of Children's Services time - costed at £800 per day.

Please refer to the updated Memorandum of Understanding agreed in 2022, reflecting the updated data sharing arrangements.

This grant determination letter sets out the arrangements for distributing this sum in the 23-24 financial year.

We look forward to working with you to continue to improve children's services.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Taylor (Deputy Director) Regions Group, Department for Education

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families (“the Parliamentary Under 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 Regional Improvement Alliance Investment Determination 2023 CON_007

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 Parliamentary Under Secretary of State determines the authorities to which the 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 Parliamentary Under Secretary of State obtained the consent of the Treasury.

Signed by authority of the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Mark Taylor
Deputy Director
Regions Group
Department for Education

2. Annex A is amended to read as follows:

Annex A		
RIAs to which grant is to be paid	Total paid this FY (23-24)	Revised total, including uplift, for this FY (23-24)
East Midlands	£206,000	£238,000
East of England	£209,200	£244,400
London	£290,800	£396,400
North East	£212,400	£250,800
North West	£250,800	£327,600
South East	£324,800	£401,200
South West	£222,000	£270,000
West Midlands	£218,800	£263,600
Yorkshire and Humber	£222,000	£270,000