



Department  
for Education

Department for Education  
20 Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

1 November 2023

**To whom it may concern,**

Derby City Council  
Norfolk County Council  
Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council  
Wiltshire County Council  
London Borough of Waltham Forest  
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham  
Warrington Borough Council  
Bracknell Forest Borough Council

**Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for the Fostering Recruitment Support Hub  
Mobilisation (2023-24 [DfE Ref] DLUHC 31/6916)**

This Determination is made between:

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

**Purpose of the grant and the role of the lead local authority**

The purpose of this grant is to enable local authorities (LAs) to mobilise regional fostering recruitment support hubs. The hubs should work to improve the customer journey for prospective foster carers, from initial enquiry through to application, with

the aim of increasing the conversion rate between initial enquiry and application. The recruitment support hub will be a centrally run front door across regional LA clusters which will act as the first point of contact for prospective carers making an enquiry.

Local authorities can spend this grant to support costs associated with meeting this responsibility.

Annex A attached includes the amount of funding awarded to each LA.

**Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Education.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Bacon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

**Jonathan Bacon, Deputy Director, Regional Commissioning and Fostering  
Division, Children's Social Care**

## **Sec 31 Fostering Recruitment Support Hub Mobilisation – GRANT DETERMINATION 2023-24: [No 31/6916]**

The Secretary of State for Education (Rt Gillian Keegan), 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 Fostering Recruitment and Retention Programme Grant Determination (2023-24) [31/6916].

### **Purpose of the grant**

- 2) The purpose of the grant is to support local authority 'cluster groups' to establish and mobilise a regional recruitment support hub.

### **Determination**

- 3) The Secretary of State determines the authorities to which the grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid. The authorities and the amounts are set out in Annex A.

### **Payment of grant**

- 4) The lead local authority will receive payment of the grant in November 2023.

### **Grant payments and expectations**

- 5) Local authorities should refer to the Memorandum of Understanding, setting out expectations as to how the funding will be spent. The Memorandum of Understanding should be read, signed and returned to DfE by every local authority.

### **Treasury consent**

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

### **UK Government branding**

- 7) The Grant Recipient shall at all times during and following the end of the Funding Period:
- 7.1) comply with requirements of the Branding Manual in relation to the Funded Activities; and
  - 7.2) cease use of the Funded by UK Government logo on demand if directed to do so by the Authority.
- 8) **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 and is available at <https://gcs.civilservice.gov.uk/guidance/marketing/branding-guidelines/> including any subsequent updates from time to time.

**Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Education**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Bacon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

**Jonathan Bacon,  
Deputy Director, Regional Commissioning and Fostering Division, Children's  
Social Care**

**ANNEX A – Mobilisation grant allocations by regional group**

<b>Regional Group</b>	<b>Authorities to which grant is to be paid</b>	<b>Amount of grant to be paid</b> <i>Mobilisation (November 2023)</i>
D2N2 (Derby City, Derbyshire CC, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire CC)	Derby City Council	£484, 360
Eastern Region	Norfolk County Council	£860, 419
GMCA	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	£755, 200
North East London	London Borough of Waltham Forest	£332, 261.50
North West	Blackburn with Darwen Council	£511, 848.50
South East Region	Bracknell Forest Borough Council	£1, 219, 212.50
South West	Wiltshire County Council	£834, 513
Cheshires & Merseyside	Warrington Borough Council	£665, 092.50
West London	Hammersmith and Fulham Borough Council	£354, 233
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>£6,017,140.50</b>