



Department
for Education

To Whom It May Concern,

Brighton and Hove City Council
Gateshead Council
Sunderland City Council
Telford & Wrekin Council

31st July 2023

Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for the Family Network Pilot Year 1 Grant, 2023-24 GD31/6761

This Determination is made between:

(1) **The Secretary of State for Education** and

(2) **The local authorities listed in Annex A**

I am pleased to confirm details of the Government's offer to the Council following agreement that the Family Network Pilot (FN) grant would be devolved. We are devolving this grant under a Section 31, non-ring-fenced transfer (Local Government Act 2003). The Senior Responsible Officer for this grant, Daniel Foster, will require your responsible officer to confirm at the end of the financial year that the funding has been properly expended.

Background to the grant

On 2nd February 2023, we published [Stable Homes, Built on Love](#) - an implementation strategy and consultation in response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

In the strategy we committed to launching the Family Network pilot, which aims to test the impact of Family Network Support Packages (FNSPs) on preventing children from becoming Looked After and improving their outcomes.

FNSPs should be used as a means of enabling more children to remain safely within their family networks, through providing funding when (i) a child has a suitable family network but (ii) there is a financial barrier to them stepping in and providing support. We want to understand their impact on tilting spend from acute services to preventative measures to keep children within their family network.

The total funding available for the Family Network Pilot Programme in financial year 2023-

24 is £2,731,366. The methodology for allocating the funding is based on the Looked After Children (LAC) statistics for each local authority.

For FY 2023-24 we expect funds to be made available to participating local authorities in the form of a non-ringfenced grant paid in two instalments. The first payment will be made after the local authority has confirmed their participation, submitted a delivery plan, and signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the DfE. The second payment will be made in December 2023 after the local authority has submitted satisfactory evidence of spend to date.

Purpose of the Grant

The purpose of this grant is to provide support to local authorities in England for expenditure lawfully incurred by the Family Network Pilot.

The Family Network pilot aims to do the following:

- i. Understand whether an FNSP reduces the likelihood of children at pre-proceedings stage entering the care system.
- ii. Gather additional data on the impact of an FNSP intervention at pre-proceedings, including information on the cost-effectiveness of the package and qualitative data on family experiences during the pilot.
- iii. Inform the scope of future national FNSP policy by evaluating what type of FNSP funding is perceived to be most effective.
- iv. Identify delivery challenges for the potential national roll-out of FNSPs.

The Department's aspiration is that local authorities should use the funding provided to support these aims. There will be a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines what the funding is expected to be spent on.

Arrangements for keeping in touch with the Department for Education

Formal reporting to the Department for Education on progress is not a condition of this grant. However, each local authority will be assigned a "DfE Account Manager" who will be the main point of contact and who will work closely with a nominated "Family Network Pilot Lead" from the children's social care team over the course of the pilot.

Please ensure that this letter is shared with your Chief Finance Officer for information. You should also note that this letter has also been copied to His Majesty's Treasury and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Enquiries

For all enquiries about the Family Network pilot please contact familynetwork.pilot@education.gov.uk



Yours faithfully,

Annex A

FAMILY NETWORKS PILOT GRANT DETERMINATION [2023-24]: No 31/6761.

The Minister of State for Education, Gillian Keegan, (“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 Family Network Pilot Grant Determination 2023 – 24 [No31/6761].

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 A.

Payment Arrangements

4a) The section 31 Grant payment will be made in two instalments.

4b) 50% of the funding will be paid at the end of July 2023;

4c) The second payment will be paid at the end of December 2023.

Treasury consent

5) Before making this determination in relation to local authorities in England, the Minister of State obtained the consent of the Treasury.

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 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, appearing to be 'DF', written in a cursive style.

Daniel Foster, Deputy Director Adoption, Family Justice and Alternatives to Care

31/07/2023

ANNEX A – FAMILY NETWORKS PILOT GRANT DETERMINATION [2023-2024]

Annex A

Authority to which grant is to be paid	Amount of Grant to be paid July 2023	Amount of Grant to be paid December 2023	Total Grant Paid FY2023/2024
Brighton and Hove City Council	£281,284	£140,642	£ 421,926
Gateshead Council	£389,918	£389,918	£779,836
Sunderland City Council	£450,054.50	£450,054.50	£900,109
Telford and Wrekin Council	£244,426	£244,426	£ 488,852