



Department  
for Education

August 2024

Dear Local Authority,

**Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance Investment – Children’s Social Care  
No 31/7421**

This Determination is made between:

- (1) **The Secretary of State for Education** and
- (2) **The Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliances (RIAs) and local authorities listed in Annex A**

This letter sets out the requirements for the **Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance** investment funding for FY 2024 – 25. 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 four core functions of RIAs, which are;

- Collection of 25 agreed core children’s services indicators, to be submitted to the Department for Education on a quarterly basis - £80,000 allocated to each region to fund a full-time regional data coordinator post. London weighting of 14% will be included.
- 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 - £94,000 allocated to each region based on four LAs receiving 39 days of support, costed at £600 per day.
- A self-assessment and peer challenge programme that includes all LAs

in the region, to support improvement and target sector-led improvement activities - £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.

- Developing regional data capability and expertise through the Data to Insights Project - £10,000 allocated to each region for data improvement activity – full £90,000 to be paid to the South East as the provider, Data to Insight, are part of East Sussex LA who are also the South East RIIA lead LA.

In addition to this for FY2024-25, DFE are providing funding of £27,200 per region to support local authorities, via RIAs. This funding is to be used to support the implementation of the [Children's Social Care National Framework](#). The National Framework sets national direction for practice and provides clarity on the outcomes that children's social care should achieve when supporting children, young people and families. Local authorities have a 12-month implementation period (which began in December 2023) to move towards the outcomes.

This funding will be used to enable RIAs to deliver small packages of sector-led improvement support, to local authorities who would most benefit from it, as they move towards the kinds of practice set out in the National Framework. It is costed on £600 per day, for 11 additional days of support for 4 LAs in each region. The funding may be used flexibly on activities that support the implementation of the National Framework. We committed to providing funding in '[Supporting Local Areas](#)', published in December 2023, alongside the National Framework. Local authorities should use this advice in the delivery of sector led improvement support.

Please refer to the 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 24-25 financial year.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Laura Bond  
Deputy Director  
SEND & CSC Operational Policy & National Delivery

For and on behalf of the Department for Education  
Children's Social Care Improvement and Intervention National Programme

## **[The Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance Investment] GRANT DETERMINATION [2024/2025]: No 31/7421**

The Minister of State for Education (“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 [Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance Investment] Determination [2024/2025] [No 31/7421].

### **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 the grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid; these are set out in Annex A.

### **Payment of Grant**

4) The grants shall be payable to local authorities in one instalment on or before 30 August 2024 for 2024/2025.

### **Treasury consent**

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

Signed by authority of the Minister of State for Education

Laura Bond  
Deputy Director  
SEND & CSC Operational Policy & National Delivery

For and on behalf of the Department for Education  
Children’s Social Care Improvement and Intervention National Programme  
Regions Group National Directorate  
Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

16 August 2024

**ANNEX A – [The Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance Investment] GRANT DETERMINATION [2024/2025]: No 31/7421**

<b>Region &amp; LA to which grant is to be paid</b>	<b>Amount of grant to be paid</b>
East Midlands – Lincolnshire County Council	£233,200
East of England – Essex County Council	£236,400
London – Camden London Borough Council	£318,000
North East – Durham County Council	£239,600
North West – Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	£278,000
South East – East Sussex County Council	£352,000
South West – Wiltshire County Council	£260,600
West Midlands – West Midlands Combined Authority	£246,000
Yorkshire and Humber – North Yorkshire County Council	£249,200