



Department  
for Education

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Staying Close Local Authority Providers

Date: 22 May 2025

**Dear Recipient**

**Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for Staying Close Children's Social Care (Annex A) [31/7853]**

This Determination is made between:

- (1) **The Secretary of State for Education** and
- (2) **Local Authorities listed in Annex B**

### **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 Staying Close programme, to improve outcomes for young people leaving care. Currently there is a gap in support nationally for young people leaving residential homes and other forms of accommodation (including supported accommodation and UASCs) who do not have that continued support as they transition into independence.

Staying Close is a programme that aims to radically improve outcomes for young people transitioning from a variety of settings, including but not limited to, residential care. It intends to address the 'cliff edge' faced by care leavers by providing care leavers with an offer of support to find and keep move-on accommodation, alongside a package of practical and emotional support, provided someone they know and trust. These bespoke packages of support help develop their confidence and skills for independent living, and for their emotional health and wellbeing.

The aims vary slightly from programme to programme but the key desired outcomes across all projects are:

- Improve access to education, training, and employment (EET)
- Increase suitable and sustainable accommodation

- Decrease risk of homelessness
- Increase consistency of workers
- Decreased levels of offending and risk
- Improve emotional and mental wellbeing by building lifelong support networks.

A total of **£19,787,810.80** grant funding will be allocated to 47 local authorities already involved in the Staying Close programme in 2025-26. Annex B includes the total amount of funding awarded to each local authority for 2025/26.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Education.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a large loop.

May El Komy

Deputy Director, Children's Social Care

For and on behalf of Department for Education

## **S31 Grant Determination Letter for Staying Close Children's Social Care (Annex A)**

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: [31/7853]

### **Citation**

1) This determination may be cited (as listed in Annex B) Determination [2025 to 2026].

### **Purpose of the grant**

2) The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities (LAs) 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 B.

## **DfE Governance, Monitoring and Reporting**

### **Governance**

4) DfE's Principal Accounting Officer is accountable to Ministers and Parliament and as such LAs are expected to participate in reporting projects funded through the programme.

5) LA Directors of Children's Services (DCS), or equivalent lead officer, will have oversight of the Staying Close programme.

6) Where an LA identifies significant risks or issues of financial or delivery under-performance there is an expectation that these will be escalated to the DfE by emailing [Staying.CLOSE@education.gov.uk](mailto:Staying.CLOSE@education.gov.uk).

### **Monitoring and Reporting expectations**

7) LAs will submit a quarterly monitoring return to the DfE which will include a summary of support delivered through this funding and outcomes for the young people that have been supported.

8) LAs will commit to attending review meetings with the DfE where significant risks or issues of financial or delivery under-performance are identified.

## Payment of Grant

4) Payment will be made in two instalments, in May 2025 and November 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



May El Komy

Deputy Director, Children's Social Care

For and on behalf of Department for Education

## Annex B

Local Authority	FY 25/26 budget	Payment 1	Payment 2
Portsmouth	£280,136	£140,068	£140,068
North Tyneside	£285,193	£142,596.5	£142,596.5
North East Lincs	£290,076	£145,038	£145,038
Suffolk	£342,875	£171,437.5	£171,437.5
Bristol	£332,586	£166,293	£166,293
Wiltshire	£371,606	£185,803	£185,803
Wakefield	£221,194	£110,597	£110,597
Sheffield	£783,905	£391,952.5	£391,952.5
Newcastle Upon Tyne	£654,782	£327,391	£327,391
Tameside	£110,000	£55,000	£55,000
Manchester	£490,107	£245,053.5	£245,053.5
Stockport	£772,875	£386,437.5	£386,437.5
Gateshead	£230,361	£115,180.5	£115,180.5
Hull City Council	£215,901	£107,950.5	£107,950.5
Somerset	£519,396	£259,698	£259,698

Southampton	£310,083	£155,041.5	£155,041.5
South Tyneside	£193,909	£96,954.5	£96,954.5
Dorset	£244,172	£122,086	£122,086
Coventry	£350,117	£175,058.5	£175,058.5
Durham	£180,841	£90,420.5	£90,420.5
Croydon	£541,000	£270,500	£270,500
Derby	£137,751	£68,875.5	£68,875.5
Leeds	£1,248,079.3	£624,039.65	£624,039.65
Lincolnshire	£702,079	£351,039.5	£351,039.5
Northamptonshire	£286,110	£143,055	£143,055
Cheshire East	£602,060	£301,030	£301,030
Darlington	£232,962	£116,481	£116,481
Derbyshire	£396,312	£198,156	£198,156
Enfield	£150,010	£75,005	£75,005
Essex	£233,560	£116,780	£116,780
Knowsley	£112,942	£56,471	£56,471
Nottinghamshire	£325,719	£162,859.5	£162,859.5
Central Bedfordshire	£292,907.5	£146,453.75	£146,453.75
Bolton	£496,834	£248,417	£248,417
Devon	£764,737	£382,368.5	£382,368.5
Doncaster	£500,000	£250,000	£250,000
Gloucestershire	£754,676	£377,338	£377,338
Hartlepool	£604,936	£302,468	£302,468
Hertfordshire	£638,791	£319,395.5	£319,395.5
Hillingdon	£436,117	£218,058.5	£218,058.5
Leicester	£303,399	£151,699.5	£151,699.5
Redcar and Cleveland	£677,242	£338,621	£338,621
St Helens	£56,278	£28,139	£28,139
Wirral	£581,827	£290,913.5	£290,913.5
Wokingham	£183,504	£91,752	£91,752
Wolverhampton	£1,065,363	£532,681.5	£532,681.5
York	£282,500	£141,250	£141,250