



Department  
for Education

 **Foundations**  
What Works Centre for Children & Families

# **Kinship Allowance Pilot**

**Expression of Interest (EOI) supporting  
guidance for local authorities**

**June 2025**

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## Executive summary

The Department for Education (DfE) will provide funding for up to 10 local authorities in England to deliver an allowance for kinship carers with a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or a 'lives with' Child Arrangement Order (CAO) looking after children who would be 'otherwise in care'. This will include all children subject to a kinship SGO application and children subject to a CAO application by the family court who would 'otherwise be in care'.

The allowance will match the [National Minimum Allowance \(NMA\)](#) delivered to kinship foster carers (or 'Friends and Family Foster Carers') by selected local authorities. The pilot will run between November 2025 and March 2029. The pilot will be independently evaluated, and decisions about future rollout will be informed by the findings of the evaluation.

## Background

The pilot was announced by the government in the autumn 2024 budget. The pilot fits within the governments' vision to reform the Children's Social Care system, as laid out in the policy statement [Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive](#) published in November 2024.

The Kinship Allowance Pilot aims to support certain formal kinship carers through the following means:

Improving the financial support available for kinship carers with an SGO in relation to the child they are looking after or a "lives with CAO" for children who would otherwise be in local authority care.

Improving the financial support available to kinship carers in the process of obtaining an SGO or 'lives with' CAO for children who would 'otherwise' be in local authority care.

Minimising the risk of placement breakdown where the leading cause is financial difficulties, by improving financial stability for kinship carers with legal care orders.

Understanding whether an improved financial offer for certain formal kinship carers who apply for a legal care order, and/or obtain a legal care order, enables kinship families to consider placements outside of the care system; and,

To alleviate care placement pressures on local authorities.

## Pilot design

Delivery of the pilot by selected local authorities will involve:

Receipt of funds from the DfE to deliver the allowance locally, up to a pre-agreed amount, based on estimates of eligible Kinship Carers and subsequently recruited to the pilot.

Dispensing an allowance to kinship carers with a legal SGO or a 'lives with' CAO who care for children who would be 'otherwise in care'. More details and fuller definition can be found in the eligibility section below.

Dispensing an allowance for kinship carers who have applied and are waiting for a legal SGO or a 'lives with' CAO, for children who would be 'otherwise in care', in private law cases where the application was progressed by the Family Court after the 'First Dispute Resolution Hearing'. More details and a fuller definition can be found in the Eligibility section.

Funding to recruit up to 3 FTE to support local delivery of the pilot within a selected local authority.

Financial governance from the Department for Education by way of standard s14 and s31 grant funding agreements with pilot local authorities, in accordance with the Education Act 2002 and Local Government Act 2003.

Support from the Department's regional Kinship Allowance Pilot (KAP) delivery team. This may include (but is not limited to):

- check-ins with individual local authorities,
- coordinated group support for all participant local authorities for joint learning,
- provision of local authority peer-review during implementation; and,
- delivery of the pilot.

## Allowance payment

The allowance will be paid by participant local authorities to eligible kinship carers on a weekly basis. The allowance will match the National Minimum Allowance of financial support recommended in the [Foster Care statutory guidance](#). The allowance will vary by the age of the child and their region of residence. The legal basis for payments from local authorities to kinship carers will be made under s.1 of the Localism Act 2011.

Section 14 grant funding will be used to pay participant local authorities in either quarterly or monthly arrears, off-setting local allowance expenditure in the previous month/quarter to eligible Kinship Carers. In addition, section 31 grant funding will be allocated to

participant local authorities for early communication activity to increase awareness of the allowance amongst kinship carers in their local area.

**Important note:** Kinship SGO and/or 'lives with' CAO carers that receive payment for children that are subject to a kinship SGO or CAO application where the order is not granted will NOT have to pay back payments they have received already. However, the payment will be discontinued immediately if the applicant is unsuccessful for the SGO or CAO order.

## Evaluation

The pilot's impact on local authorities, kinship carers and children in their care will be assessed via an independent evaluation. The Department for Education has worked with Foundations – the What Works Centre for Children and Families to identify a preferred supplier.

The evaluator will work with participant local authorities for the duration of the pilot and publish findings about the implementation, impact and value for money of the pilot, following completion of the pilot in. This research will support future policy-making in this area, including decisions about further rollout of the kinship allowance. More details about the proposed evaluation methodology for the pilot can be found in the Supporting Information section.

## Timeline

A high-level timeline for the EOI application and selection process can be found in the table below. Please note that post- EOI window closure, all subsequent dates in the timetable are subject to change. DfE will endeavour to keep changes to a minimum.

Applicants can find further details about the EOI assessment and selection methodology in the local authority Selection Process section.

Key Date	Timing
EOI window opens	17 June 2025
Clarification window begins	17 June 2025
Clarification window closes	23:59 on 1 July 2025
EOI window closes	23:59 on 15 July 2025
Assessment of applications	16 July 2025 – 29 August 2025
Final DfE approval	Mid-September 2025
Grant Offer Letters issued by the DfE	Late September 2025

Key Date	Timing
Grant funding agreements between the DfE and pilot local authorities in place (including up-front Section 31 grant payments distributed for set-up costs)	October 2025
Pilot local authorities commence preparation for evaluation set-up with supplier (e.g. Data Sharing Agreements, Ethical Consent etc.)	October 2025
Pilot delivery commences	Early November 2025

## Eligibility

### Kinship Carer eligibility for the allowance pilot

A financial allowance should only be offered to “kinship carers” in respect of any child up to the age of 18 living in a kinship arrangement who is the subject of either a special guardianship order (SGO) or a child arrangements order that specifies the primary residence of the child and who they will live with ('lives with CAO') and who would have otherwise been in care.

This is determined by one of the conditions under paragraph 4b below being fulfilled.

Kinship carers who obtain a SGO or 'lives with' CAO in public law children proceedings are eligible for a weekly financial allowance.

Kinship carers who obtain a SGO in private law proceedings are eligible for a weekly financial allowance.

Kinship carers who have applied for a SGO through private law proceedings and have passed the First Hearing Dispute Resolution Appointment (FHDR) are eligible for a weekly financial allowance.

Kinship carers who obtain a “lives with” CAO in private law, or who have applied and have attended a FHDR meeting for children proceedings are eligible for a weekly financial allowance if one of the following conditions apply:

The interim or final “lives with CAO” does not name a parent of the child subject to the Order and

One or more of the following criteria apply in respect of the child’s circumstances:

Immediately prior to the child being placed in a kinship arrangement, they were looked after by a local authority either via, an interim care order or an arrangement under section 20 of the Children Act 1989;

Immediately prior to the kinship arrangement, the child was or is still under a child protection plan;

The “lives with CAO” was obtained in private law children proceedings during which the family court noted safeguarding concerns arising from the contents of a welfare report.

- i. A Family Group Decision Making meeting was convened and a decision was taken for the child named under the “lives with” CAO to live full-time with a named kinship carer; which is now happening.
- ii. Both parents of the child subject to the “lives with” CAO are dead; but before they died, at least one of them was caring for and living with the child named under the “lives with” CAO.
- iii. The child subject to the “lives with” CAO was abandoned by either or both of their parents and at least one of them was previously caring for and living with the child subject to the “lives with” CAO immediately before abandoning the child.
- iv. Either one or both parents of the child subject to the “lives with” CAO are imprisoned but immediately prior to that, the parent/s were previously caring for and living with the child.
- v. Either one or both parents have been detained in hospital pursuant to the Mental Health Act 1983 but they were previously caring for and living with the child immediately prior to being detained.

## Local authority eligibility for the allowance pilot

Local authorities who fulfil the following criteria are **not eligible to apply**:

- You have been issued a section 114 notice that is still in effect at the time of the publication of this Expression of Interest process.
- You already offer a regular financial allowance that matches the [foster care National Minimum Allowance \(NMA\)](#) to kinship carers with legal orders (obtained) that meet the eligibility criteria for this pilot. In other words, you are not eligible to apply if your existing financial offer matches the pilot offer.

**Any other local authorities are eligible to apply.** This includes local authorities with the following circumstances:

- a) You received a ‘requires improvement’ or ‘inadequate’ rating during your last Ofsted inspection.
- b) You are part of another programme or pilot funded by the Department for Education, or other government departments.

## Delivery requirements for participant local authorities

Local authorities selected for the pilot will be expected to facilitate access to the allowance for kinship carers meeting the eligibility criteria via the following steps:

1. Advertise and promote the allowance to eligible kinship carers in their local area (all kinship carers with or awaiting) SGOs or 'lives with' CAOs
2. Advertise the allowance as part of their local kinship offer
3. Recruit, assess and deliver the allowance to eligible kinship carers as follows:
  - *Recruitment:* Eligible carers will be able to make a voluntary claim to receive the allowance. A communications budget will be provided for each participant local authority to self-determine promotion of the new allowance to kinship carers in the most suitable way for their area.
  - *Assessment:* Local Authorities will assess the kinship carer's eligibility against the pilot eligibility criteria.
  - *Delivery:* Participant local authorities will be expected to deliver the allowance to kinship carers using local existing payment infrastructure and systems.
4. Explore all appropriate formal kinship options with kinship families and promote the allowance to kinship families where an SGO or 'lives with' CAO placement is the best option to meet the needs of kinship carers and children in their care.

## Local authority selection process

### How we will process completed application forms

Applications will be sifted for eligibility on a rolling basis. This means that when we receive your application form, we will check you meet the eligibility criteria to apply for the pilot.

We will assess your eligibility using your answers to the Kinship weekly financial allowance spreadsheet, where we request information about your local kinship offer.

If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, your application will not reach the next stage of the selection process and you will be notified.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, we will add your application to our selection pool. Please refer back to the Eligibility criteria section for further information.

### Selection rationale for participant local authorities

The Department for Education seeks to understand the impact of improving financial support for kinship carers who are less likely to receive support.

DfE acknowledges that there is variation in whether and how local authorities provide information and support, including financial, to kinship carers in their area. We expect that some local areas will already provide a comprehensive package of financial support,



similar to what is on offer with the Kinship Allowance pilot. These comprehensive offers represent a best practice which the pilot aims to promote in local areas that have not yet had the chance to progress their offers.

If the pilot was delivered exclusively in local areas with a comprehensive support package, it could compromise the evaluation findings about the impact of the pilot. This is because the pilot would not introduce a change meaningful enough (if at all) to be detected. This could impact subsequent decisions about the national rollout of the pilot.

As such, the DfE would like to work with local areas that are interested in improving their support for kinship carers but have not yet had the opportunity to do so. Being able to demonstrate the impact of scaling is important to inform the decision making about the future rollout of this policy, and share learnings on what works, and what works less well.

## Selection

The Department for Education will be supported by Foundations, assessing and selecting participant local authorities. There will be two selection stages. The eligibility criteria to submit an EOI for the pilot was designed to ensure that most applicants would be sifted to the second and final selection stage. Answers provided in the application form and spreadsheets will be used toward the selection process. Specifics on what documents will be used to inform selection are described below.

**Please note:** The size of your local authority does not make you more or less likely to be selected. In addition, failure to provide accurate population estimates does not impact your eligibility for the pilot.

### 1. First selection stage

We will assess your responses to the Kinship weekly financial allowance spreadsheet to understand the likely value added of the pilot to your current offer. The information we request in this spreadsheet is summarised on page 12 of this Guidance, and within a dedicated tab on the spreadsheet itself.

Responses will be classified into 3 categories: 'High value-added', 'Medium value-added' and 'Low value added'.

Classification will be done using multiple dimensions to understand your kinship local offer vs. the pilot's offer. These dimensions include:

- whether you offer regular financial support to kinship carers in different kinship care arrangements,
- how much support you offer and for how long; and
- how you assess carers' eligibility to receive support.

All submissions classed as 'Medium value-added' and 'High value-added' will progress to the next selection stage.

## **2. Second (final) selection stage**

There are two selection methods the DfE will use depending on the number of applications received. These methods and the rationale for choosing these methods are described below.

### **Scenario 1: Stratified random selection**

To ensure fairness in selection, the Department for Education aims to use a process that selects participants at random, while achieving a balanced representation of local authorities across specific characteristics. A selection process that is both random and balanced with respect to key characteristics is called '**stratified random selection**' (please refer to the definition provided in the Supporting Information section).

Where it is statistically sound to do so, the DfE will use a stratified random selection process. During this process, local authorities will be grouped by regions and deprivation levels. The DfE may also choose to group participants with respect to their kinship offer, to balance both representativity in offers and support a robust evaluation. This will depend on the diversity of kinship financial offers among the applicant pool identified in Stage 1. An algorithm will randomly select participants within these groups.

We will then ensure that the final list of participants is balanced with respect to the total number of eligible kinship carers across all randomly selected local authorities and the budget allocated to the DfE to deliver the pilot. We will use information from your answers in the spreadsheet Kinship population estimates. The information we request in this spreadsheet is summarised on page 12 of this Guidance, and within a dedicated tab on the spreadsheet itself.

The random stratification selection method will be used **where a minimum threshold of applications** are received. The only documents we will use to inform selection in this scenario are:

- Your Kinship population estimates spreadsheet
- Your Kinship weekly allowance spreadsheet

We will not use information from the rest of your application to inform selection. However, your answers will be used to support the pilot and evaluation set-up.

### **Scenario 2: Purposeful selection using a Red-Amber-Green (RAG) rating system**

Random stratified selection works best with larger numbers, where more than one local authority can be randomly chosen from, within each regional and deprivation groups. With fewer local authorities, randomised stratified selection can lead to biased decisions where there are groups with no local authorities to choose from.

This is why the DfE will use an alternative selection method **where a minimum threshold of applications** are received. The DfE will not use a simple random selection in this scenario, instead we will look to select a balanced representation in regions and deprivation levels in the final list of participants.

If the minimum threshold of applications is not met, we will use a Red-Amber-Green (RAG) selection system (please see Supporting Information section for a full description) to select a list of up to 10 local authorities in the pilot. We will review your application and provide a RAG rating (Red, Amber or Green) based on a list of 5 criteria, including:

- The pilot likely value-added to your local offer (using your answers to the Kinship weekly financial allowance Spreadsheet)
- Your data collection capacity (using your answer to question 2, Theme 1 in the EOI form)
- Your commitment and buy-in to the pilot (using your answer to question 2, theme 2 of the EOI form)
- Your operational capacity to deliver the pilot (using your answer to question 1, theme 3 of the EOI form)
- The socio-economic and regional profile of your local authority (using open source data)

We will have 2 assessors review and independently assign a 'Red', 'Amber' or 'Green' mark for each of these criteria. Conflicts will be resolved during a selection panel meeting, after which we will select one or more potential local authority lists made of different compositions of the 'most promising' applications. The 'most promising' applications will be selected from RAG-rated grids with fewer red/amber marks.

Each list will be assessed taking into account the regional diversity and deprivation factors listed earlier, the total size of the eligible kinship population and whether they meet the Department's budget criteria. The list that best balances these dimensions and criteria following the steps above will be selected.

The documents we will use to inform selection in this scenario are:

- Your Application form
- Your Kinship population estimates spreadsheet,
- Your Kinship weekly allowance spreadsheet.
- Answers provided in your Application form will be used to inform the set-up of the pilot and evaluation.

## Expression of interest application documents

There are 3 documents in total to complete.

### Document 1: Application form

The application form includes 4 themes:

- **Theme 1:** Kinship carers in your area
- **Theme 2:** Your local kinship offer
- **Theme 3:** Your operations
- **Theme 4:** The support you might need

Please note:

- To complete Theme 1, you will also need to complete document 2: *Kinship population Estimates spreadsheet*.
- To complete Theme 2, you will also need to complete document 3: *Kinship weekly financial allowance spreadsheet*.

### Document 2: Kinship population estimates spreadsheet

This spreadsheet includes 4 worksheets (tabs):

- **1. Cover sheet:** General information about the data collected
- **2. Definitions:** defines relevant terms to complete the spreadsheet
- **3. Guidance:** guidance on how to complete the spreadsheet
- **4A. Population Estimates:** contains the table you must complete.
- **4B. Example:** contains an illustrative example of how to complete the table in 4A.

### Document 3: Kinship weekly financial allowance spreadsheet

This spreadsheet includes 4 worksheets (tabs):

- **1. Cover sheet:** General information about the data collected
- **2. Definitions:** defines relevant terms to complete the spreadsheet
- **3. Guidance:** guidance on how to complete the spreadsheet
- **4A. Weekly Financial Allowance:** contains the table you must complete.
- **4B. Example:** contains an illustrative example of how to complete the table in 4A.

## Application process

### How to apply

The application period for local authorities will open from 17 June 2025 and will close at 23:59 on 15 July 2025.

Your EOI should be e-mailed to [Kinship-Allowance.TEAM@education.gov.uk](mailto:Kinship-Allowance.TEAM@education.gov.uk) by no later than **23:59 on the 15 July 2025**.

The email subject line should be '*local authority name*' followed by '*Kinship Allowance Pilot (KAP) application*' when submitting your application. When you have sent the DfE your application, you will receive an email response confirming receipt.

The application form is made up of 3 documents that you must complete and submit:

- 1. An Application form.** This is a Word document. There are 4 themes with questions you must complete. Some questions within the themes are optional; you will not be assessed based on the answer to these questions. These optional questions are clearly marked. You do not need to provide an answer to these questions for your application to be valid.
- 2. A 'Kinship population estimates' spreadsheet.** This is an Excel spreadsheet. You must complete the table in the worksheet '4A. Population Estimate'. There are no optional questions.
- 3. A 'Kinship weekly financial allowance' spreadsheet.** This is an Excel spreadsheet. You must complete the table in the worksheet '4A. Weekly Financial Allowance'. There are no optional questions.

Failure to respond to **all** mandatory questions in the form and spreadsheets will result in your application being discarded from the eligible selection pool.

You will not be able to resubmit documents after your application. Please make sure that all your submitted documents are the correct version.

### Clarification requests

Clarification requests should be emailed to:  
[Kinship-Allowance.TEAM@education.gov.uk](mailto:Kinship-Allowance.TEAM@education.gov.uk) until 23:59 on Tuesday 1 July 2025.

Responses will be grouped and answered in batches, shared with all interested parties for transparency. After this date, DfE reserves the right not to respond to further requests for clarification.

### DfE decision-making on participant local authorities

Following the steps set out in the local authority Selection Process section, the DfE will endeavour to notify successful applicants of its decision within the period indicated in the Timelines section (mid-September 2025).

## Supporting information

### Definitions

This EOI refers to different terms to define kinship carers and children in their care. We have provided an index of definitions to help applicants to complete the form. **You have the option to tell us if you use a different definition, but it is not mandatory to do so.**

Term	Acronym	Definition
<b>Kinship placement</b>	None	Where a child lives with and is cared for by a relative, friend, or someone else connected to them, instead of their parents, and that person provides all or most of the care and support to the child.
<b>Kinship Carer (for this pilot)</b>	None	A person, or persons caring for and living with a child who is subject to a special guardianship order, or a child arrangements order that specifies where the child is to reside, and who they are to live with, where the person or persons are those specified in the order.
<b>Parent</b>	None	Biological parent

<p><b>‘Cared for child’ or,</b></p> <p><b>‘Looked-after child’</b></p>	<p>CLA or, LAC</p>	<p>A child who is in the care of a local authority under section 20 of the 1989 Children’s Act.</p> <p>We recognise the terminology about children in the care system varies across local areas and institutions.</p> <p>The term most used by the Department for Education in official documentation is ‘looked after’ child (LAC).</p> <p>This terminology may not be used by children and kinship carers in your area. Your local area may instead use the term ‘cared for’ children, or other terminology.</p> <p>As such, we use ‘cared-for’ and ‘looked-after’ child interchangeably in this EOI.</p>
<p><b>‘Previously looked after child’ or</b></p> <p><b>‘Child previously cared-for’</b></p>	<p>PLAC</p>	<p>A child who was previously in the care of a local authority immediately prior to living under adoption, a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or a Child arrangement order (CAO).</p>
<p><b>Non ‘Previously looked-after child’ or</b></p> <p><b>‘Child not previously cared for’</b></p>	<p>Non-PLAC</p>	<p>We sometimes refer to children in kinship legal order placements who do not classify as PLAC. This is a situation where the child was not cared for immediately before being subject to a legal care order. We use the terminology ‘non-PLAC’ in these instances.</p>

		To note, it is possible for a non-PLAC child to have a history of being cared for.
<b>Friends &amp; Family Foster Carer or</b>  <b>Kinship Foster Carer</b>	FFFC, or F&F FC, or KFC	A foster carer (family or friend) known to the child prior to the care arrangement being made and formally registered as a 'Friends & Family' foster carer.
<b>Kinship Special Guardianship Order</b>	Kinship SGO	Special Guardianship Order: An order made under section 14A of the Children Act 1989.
<b>Kinship 'Lives with' Child Arrangement Order</b>	Kinship 'Lives with' CAO	Child Arrangement Order: An order made under section 8(1)(a)&(b) of the Children Act 1989 which specifies with whom a child should live and when they should live with them.



<p><b>‘Otherwise in care’</b></p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Kinship carers who obtain a “lives with” CAO in private law, or who have applied and have attended a FHDR meeting for children proceedings are eligible for a weekly financial allowance if -one the following conditions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The interim or final “lives with CAO” does not name a parent of the child subject to the Order and</li> <li>b. One or more of the following criteria apply in respect of the child’s circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Immediately prior to the child being placed in a kinship arrangement, they were looked after by a local authority either via, an interim care order or an arrangement under section 20 of the Children Act 1989;</li> <li>ii. Immediately prior to the kinship arrangement, the child was or is still under a child protection plan;</li> <li>iii. The “lives with CAO” was obtained in private law children proceedings during which the family court noted safeguarding concerns arising from the contents of a welfare report.</li> <li>iv. A Family Group Decision Making meeting was convened and a decision was taken for the child named under the “lives with” CAO to live full-time with a named kinship carer; which is now happening.</li> <li>v. Both parents of the child subject to the “lives with” CAO are dead; but before they died, at least one of them was caring for and living with the child named under the “lives with” CAO.</li> <li>vi. The child subject to the “lives with” CAO was abandoned by either or both of their parents and at least one of them was previously caring for and living with the child subject to the “lives with” CAO immediately before abandoning the child.</li> <li>vii. Either one or both parents of the child subject to the “lives with” CAO are imprisoned but immediately prior to that, the parent/s were previously caring for and living with the child.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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		<p>viii. Either one or both parents have been detained in hospital pursuant to the Mental Health Act 1983 but they were previously caring for and living with the child immediately prior to being detained.</p>
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## How your EOI data will be used

Responses provided through the EOI spreadsheets will be collected, stored and maintained by DfE. Your responses will be held for the duration of the pilot, including if you are not selected.

Responses will be used solely to inform Kinship Allowance policy development by DfE, not to inform any other strands of work.

Data may be shared with the DfE's partners, including Foundations - the What Works Centre Children and Families, and the selected independent evaluator.

## About Foundations – What Works Centre for Children and Families

Foundations is the national What Works Centre for Children & Families. Foundations funds independent evaluations to inform policy-makers and local leaders on what works for vulnerable children and families. By funding research to evaluate the effectiveness of family support services and interventions, we generate the actionable evidence needed to improve them, so more vulnerable children can live safely and happily at home with the foundations they need to reach their full potential. Foundations partners with the Department of Education to support the delivery of the pilot and appoint a trusted and independent evaluation partner.

## Section 14 grant recipient responsibilities

Funding for distribution of the allowance itself to eligible local authorities will be awarded via Section 14 grants to participants. A grant agreement with the DfE will be entered into, setting out agreed objectives, payment schedules, pilot governance and monitoring and reporting arrangements. Payment to the kinship carer will be via the local authority.

Local authorities should familiarise themselves with the [Terms and Conditions DfE Grant Funding Agreement](#), on the requirement of grant recipients from the DfE, including use of funding, reporting, audit and governance arrangements.

## More information about the selection methodology

### Stratified random selection

Stratified random selection is a sampling method in which a population is divided into distinct subgroups, or *strata*, based on shared characteristics. Then, a random sample is taken from each stratum, either proportionally or equally, depending on the desired outcome. This approach ensures that all key subgroups are adequately represented in the final sample.

Proportional selection means that the number of units chosen from each subgroup reflects the actual size of the subgroup in the entire population. For example, if 11% of local authorities are in the South East, and 5% are in the East of England, then proportional selection would ensure 11% of the selected local authorities are from the South East region, and 5% are from the East of England region.

Equal selection means selecting the same number of units from each subgroup, regardless of how large or small the subgroup is in the population. For example, an equal selection would ensure to select a fixed number of local authorities per region (e.g. one), regardless of how many local authorities there are in each region.

### RAG rated grid

Dimension	Definition	Traffic Light	Source
Likely value-add of pilot	The likely meaningful improvement the pilot will make to the local offer	Red = low Amber = medium Green = high	Answers from the Kinship weekly financial allowance spreadsheet
Data collection capacity	The ability to collect timely, accurate data for evaluation	Red = low Amber = medium Green = high	Question 2 from theme 1
Commitment and buy-in	Local authority leadership commitment to pilot	Red = low Amber = medium Green = high	Question 2 from theme 2
Operational capacity to deliver pilot	The ability to deliver the pilot activities, including resourcing and experience	Red = low Amber = medium Green = high	Question 1 from theme 3
Socio demographic characteristics	Region, urban/rural location, levels of deprivation	Red = low Amber = medium Green = high	Open source data

## More information about the evaluation

The impact of the Kinship Allowance pilot on kinship carers and children in their care will be independently evaluated. The evaluation will include three strands of research: an Impact Evaluation, an Implementation and Process Evaluation and a Cost Benefit Analysis.

The Impact Evaluation will be conducted using a quasi-experimental design (QED). It will use secondary data sources from the Department for Education, the Ministry of Justice and CAFCASS to determine the impact of the pilot on a range of outcomes. The Implementation and Process Evaluation will assess delivery of the allowance, what works well, and what should be changed for future delivery. The Cost Benefit Analysis will evaluate the financial cost of implementing the pilot with the benefits it provides to local authorities and kinship carers.

The evaluation will not involve randomised allocation of the allowance. Participation in the evaluation is a requirement for involvement in this pilot.



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