

Local Authority

13/10/2025

Dear Chief Executive

**Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for Best Start Family Hubs
Development Grant 2025-26: No 31/8001 and G2-SCH-2025-07-16567**

This Determination is made between:

(1) The Secretary of State for Education and

(2) The local authorities listed in Annex A

Purpose of the grant

The development grant will support preparations for the delivery of Best Start Family Hubs, including readiness to implement parenting and Home Learning Environment (HLE) evidence-based interventions from April 2026. This funding will contribute to the governments 'Plan for Change' milestone of 75% of children reaching a good level of development.

We are issuing this revenue Grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. Full details of the grant objectives and the expectations that local authorities are expected to deliver with this funding are set out in the guidance issued to local authorities on 18 July 2025.

Summary of the objectives for development grant 2025-26

- 1. Identify at least one Best Start Family Hub site by January 2026** from which to deliver your parenting and HLE interventions. As referred to in the 'Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life' strategy, any Hub(s) identified should be in an area with high levels of deprivation, where support is most needed.
- 2. Prepare to Deliver Parenting and Home Learning Environment (HLE) interventions from April 2026:** Local authorities need to prepare to implement parenting and HLE evidence-based interventions (EBIs) for families with 3–4-year-olds from April 2026, as this cohort is key to achieving the 2028 GLD goals.
- 3. Strengthen local plans for Best Start in Life delivery:** We expect local

authorities to build on their existing early years work, and leadership role, to drive delivery partners across education, health and community services, to increase the number of 5-year-olds achieving a good level of development by 2028. Local authorities should identify local needs and gaps in provision and join up across systems and sectors to develop an integrated plan outlining your strengthened offer.

The funding allocations are set out in Annex A. **Funding should be spent within the same financial year as it is issued (25-26).**

Financial reporting

The Senior Responsible Officer for this grant, Susie Owen, will request your responsible officer to confirm at the end of the financial year (FY) that the funding has been properly expended. You will be requested to submit a completed Statement of Grant Usage (SOGU) following the end of the financial year. A draft SOGU template is included in Annex B.

Annex A includes the amount of funding awarded to each local authority listed for the 2025-26 financial year.

Please ensure that this letter is copied to your Chief Finance Officer for information. You should also note that this letter has also been copied to His Majesty's Treasury and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Hollom and Laura Street (Acting Deputy Directors),
Early Years, Childcare, Families and Analysis Directorate, DfE

Best Start Family Hubs – Development Grant - GRANT DETERMINATION 2025-26: No 31/8001 and G2-SCH-2025-07-16567

The Secretary of State for Education (“the Secretary 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 [Best Start Family Hubs – Development Grant 2025-26] Determination [2025-26] [No31/8001].

Purpose of the grant

The development grant will support preparations for the delivery of Best Start Family Hubs, including readiness to implement parenting and Home Learning Environment (HLE) evidence-based interventions from April 2026. This funding will contribute to the governments ‘Plan for Change’ milestone of 75% of children reaching a good level of development.

Determination

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

Payment of Grant

The grant will be payable to local authorities in one instalment subject to the return of the signed declaration of intent and issuance of the final GDL, subject to approval by HM Treasury.

Treasury consent

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

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Education.

Charlotte Hollom and Laura Street (Acting Deputy Directors),
Early Years, Childcare, Families and Analysis Directorate, DfE

13/10/2025

Best Start Family Hubs – Development Grant 2025-26 GRANT DETERMINATION 2025-26 [No 31/8001] and G2-SCH-2025-07-16567

ANNEX A – Authorities and amount

Authorities to which grant is to be paid	Amount of grant to be paid <i>Payment in October 2025</i>
Barnet	£183,052
Bath and North East Somerset	£134,939
Bexley	£150,259
Bracknell Forest	£122,349
Bromley	£164,089
Buckinghamshire	£216,633
Bury	£137,208
Cambridgeshire	£231,692
Central Bedfordshire	£159,268
Cheshire West and Chester	£163,352
City of London	£95,880
Darlington	£116,548
Derbyshire	£242,883
Devon	£241,006
Ealing	£174,082
East Riding of Yorkshire	£154,994
Essex	£404,697
Gloucestershire	£221,184
Hampshire	£369,757
Harrow	£152,188
Havering	£153,555
Herefordshire, County of	£127,926
Hertfordshire	£355,542
Hillingdon	£166,583
Isles Of Scilly	£95,354
Kensington and Chelsea	£117,712
Kingston upon Thames	£130,635
Kirklees	£190,729
Lancashire	£347,048
Leeds	£270,404
Milton Keynes	£164,194
North Somerset	£136,960
North Tyneside	£135,218
North Yorkshire	£205,934
Nottinghamshire	£257,212
Oxfordshire	£245,236
Reading	£132,748
Redbridge	£169,189
Richmond upon Thames	£136,701
Rutland	£102,804
Sefton	£146,903
Shropshire	£152,417

Slough	£137,585
Somerset	£202,529
South Gloucestershire	£154,823
Southend-on-Sea	£131,902
Staffordshire	£262,449
Stockton-on-Tees	£137,362
Suffolk	£239,684
Surrey	£351,991
Sutton	£142,347
Swindon	£145,539
Trafford	£148,149
Wandsworth	£150,815
Warrington	£137,042
Warwickshire	£216,158
West Berkshire	£128,712
West Northamptonshire	£186,246
West Sussex	£267,306
Westminster	£126,080
Wigan	£162,782
Wiltshire	£194,647
Windsor and Maidenhead	£127,807
Wokingham	£136,556
Worcestershire	£210,519

Annex B Best Start Family Hubs Development Grant 2025-26– Statement of Grant Usage (sample templates not for completion)

Notes for completion:

1. The Grant Recipient shall prepare a Statement of Grant Usage for the financial year 2025-26.
2. The Statement of Grant Usage comprises two documents:
 - a) Certificate of Grant Usage (below)
 - b) Statement of Expenditure (provided as a separate Excel document)
3. The Certificate of Grant Usage should be:
 - a) signed by the Grant Recipient's Chief Executive, or S151 / S73 Officer, or an equivalent with an appropriate level of delegated authority; and
 - b) returned on the Grant Recipient's letter headed paper in PDF format.
4. The Statement of Expenditure should be returned in Excel format.
5. **Please complete and return both documents by 28 April 2026.**

A) Certificate of Grant Usage

Name of organisation	
Programme title	Best Start Family Hubs Development Grant

- The total 2025-26 Grant amount of £_____ [was / will be*] exclusively used for the objectives set out in the Grant Determination Letter, guidance and declaration of intent between the Grant Recipient and the Secretary of State for Education. **Please delete as appropriate*
- A financial statement detailing the use of the Grant Funding is provided in Document b – Statement of Expenditure. The organisation's financial systems that recorded the income and expenditure of this Grant have provided sufficient internal control for the purposes of this certification.

Signature	
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Name of signatory		Date	
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Position of signatory	
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Organisation address	Postcode
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B) Statement of Expenditure

Statement of Expenditure 2025-26 - Interim		LA name:	
		Project name:	Development Grant 25-26
Q1) Please confirm if figures are being reported on a cash or accrual basis	Cash / accrual	<i>The cash basis recognises costs during the accounting period of payment. The accrual basis recognises costs during the accounting period in which the underlying goods services are received, not when they are paid.</i>	
Q2) Please profile your spend of 25-26 grant funding in the period November 2025 to April 2026			
<i>Committed spend is costs not yet incurred but where there is no longer an option to reduce or stop the spend. If you are accounting on an accrual basis this does not refer to goods / services received for the above period but not paid / invoiced in that period and which you have accrued for - those should form part of your actual spend figures.</i>			
Objectives	Actual spend	Committed spend	For committed spend, please give details below including expected date of completion / delivery
Identify at least one Best Start Family Hub site by January 2026.			
Prepare to implement parenting and HLE evidence-based interventions (EBIs)			
BSiL strategy: LAs are encouraged to use the grant to support the development of local BSIL plans			
Totals	£0.00	£0.00	
Summary			
Development Grant funding received:		£0.00	<i>If you have reported underspend at 28 April 2026 in this section please provide details of your plans to utilise it in the box below. Please refer to the guidance notes for what to include.</i>
Less: actual spend above		£0.00	
Less: committed spend above		£0.00	
Underspend at 28 April 2026		£0.00	
We do not expect LAs to have spend that is not actual or committed. However, if there is, please outline the explanation for this spend.			