

Draft – Children’s Social Care Prevention Grant Determination (2025-26): X

The Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution (“the Minister”), 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 [Children’s Social Care Prevention (Revenue) Grant] (2025/26): **X**

Purpose of the grant

2. This grant is ringfenced for direct investment in additional prevention activity for children and families through the implementation of Family Help and Child Protection reforms. It will also fund local authorities to deliver against the planned new legislative duty to offer Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) meetings to all families at the pre-proceedings stage. This grant should be used alongside the Children and Families Grant, which will enable continuation of existing prevention services.
3. Funding should be used across the full breadth of preventative services, including early help, Family Help, Family Networks and child protection. These should support families to overcome challenges at the earliest opportunity, prevent escalation and effectively intervene with high-risk problems. Service delivery should be in line with the [Children's social care: national framework - GOV.UK](#) and should support local areas to implement the government’s ambitions for national reform to prevention services, as described in the policy paper [Keeping children safe, helping families thrive - GOV.UK](#).
4. The reforms build on the evidence from other government funded programmes, including *Supporting Families Programme*, *Strengthening Families*, *Protecting Children* and *Families First for Children Pathfinder*. An approach of whole-family working, supported by multi-agency teams, will mean families are offered a clear plan and support to prevent escalating needs. Family Help and Child Protection reforms will be underpinned by the best evidence from the children’s social care system as set out in guidance and the Department for Education (DfE) commissioned [Practice Guides](#). Locally, the reforms will be delivered as a single integrated system that supports families to thrive and protects all children from significant harm, inside and outside of the home.

Determination

5. The Minister determines the authorities to which grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid as set out in Annex A of this determination.
6. The grant will be paid in 12 monthly instalments.

Grant Conditions

7. Pursuant to section 31(4) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Minister determines that the grant will be paid subject to the conditions in Annex B.

Treasury Consent

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

Signed by authority of the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution.

X, Deputy Director

Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government

April 2025

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Annex A: Children's Social Care Prevention Grant allocations to local authorities 2025-26

Authorities to which grant is to be paid:

ONS Code	Local Authority	Children's Social Care Prevention Grant £
E09000002	Barking and Dagenham	£2,022,308
E09000003	Barnet	£952,024
E08000016	Barnsley	£1,831,792
E06000022	Bath and North East Somerset	£401,185
E06000055	Bedford	£476,635
E09000004	Bexley	£968,262
E08000025	Birmingham	£11,869,214
E06000008	Blackburn with Darwen	£1,127,945
E06000009	Blackpool	£1,809,380
E08000001	Bolton	£2,267,891
E06000058	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	£1,046,406
E06000036	Bracknell Forest	£270,830
E08000032	Bradford	£4,462,516
E09000005	Brent	£1,400,990
E06000043	Brighton and Hove	£716,963
E06000023	Bristol	£2,717,465
E09000006	Bromley	£881,993
E06000060	Buckinghamshire Council	£1,137,535
E08000002	Bury	£851,498
E08000033	Calderdale	£1,130,738
E10000003	Cambridgeshire	£1,582,538
E09000007	Camden	£826,132
E06000056	Central Bedfordshire	£671,584
E06000049	Cheshire East	£905,253
E06000050	Cheshire West and Chester	£1,018,912
E09000001	City of London	£30,000
E06000052	Cornwall	£1,438,764
E08000026	Coventry	£2,184,854
E09000008	Croydon	£2,036,871
E06000063	Cumberland	£742,581
E06000005	Darlington	£617,376
E06000015	Derby	£2,217,792
E10000007	Derbyshire	£3,472,152

ONS Code	Local Authority	Children's Social Care Prevention Grant £
E10000008	Devon	£1,708,758
E08000017	Doncaster	£2,601,362
E06000059	Dorset Council	£839,342
E08000027	Dudley	£2,020,810
E06000047	Durham	£2,984,353
E09000009	Ealing	£1,467,133
E06000011	East Riding of Yorkshire	£769,395
E10000011	East Sussex	£1,608,494
E09000010	Enfield	£2,760,480
E10000012	Essex	£5,227,848
E08000037	Gateshead	£1,038,740
E10000013	Gloucestershire	£1,570,058
E09000011	Greenwich	£1,780,196
E09000012	Hackney	£2,588,557
E06000006	Halton	£1,410,295
E09000013	Hammersmith and Fulham	£900,474
E10000014	Hampshire	£3,055,970
E09000014	Haringey	£1,435,946
E09000015	Harrow	£500,292
E06000001	Hartlepool	£932,725
E09000016	Havering	£1,026,319
E06000019	Herefordshire	£400,095
E10000015	Hertfordshire	£2,972,136
E09000017	Hillingdon	£1,318,214
E09000018	Hounslow	£1,212,332
E06000046	Isle of Wight	£390,632
E06000053	Isles of Scilly	£30,000
E09000019	Islington	£1,773,808
E09000020	Kensington and Chelsea	£345,983
E10000016	Kent	£6,759,810
E06000010	Kingston upon Hull	£3,452,723
E09000021	Kingston upon Thames	£345,054
E08000034	Kirklees	£1,976,180
E08000011	Knowsley	£2,199,178
E09000022	Lambeth	£1,987,922
E10000017	Lancashire	£5,047,815
E08000035	Leeds	£5,439,992
E06000016	Leicester	£2,786,877
E10000018	Leicestershire	£1,487,807

ONS Code	Local Authority	Children's Social Care Prevention Grant £
E09000023	Lewisham	£2,040,033
E10000019	Lincolnshire	£3,218,938
E08000012	Liverpool	£5,621,835
E06000032	Luton	£1,257,995
E08000003	Manchester	£6,081,741
E06000035	Medway	£1,792,509
E09000024	Merton	£723,190
E06000002	Middlesbrough	£2,122,720
E06000042	Milton Keynes	£1,218,266
E08000021	Newcastle upon Tyne	£2,609,363
E09000025	Newham	£2,493,654
E10000020	Norfolk	£2,850,758
E06000012	North East Lincolnshire	£1,663,554
E06000013	North Lincolnshire	£934,018
E06000061	North Northamptonshire	£2,178,364
E06000024	North Somerset	£508,911
E08000022	North Tyneside	£994,438
E06000065	North Yorkshire	£1,222,817
E06000057	Northumberland	£1,011,459
E06000018	Nottingham	£3,688,062
E10000024	Nottinghamshire	£3,153,874
E08000004	Oldham	£2,242,104
E10000025	Oxfordshire	£1,529,562
E06000031	Peterborough	£1,584,548
E06000026	Plymouth	£1,526,530
E06000044	Portsmouth	£1,718,969
E06000038	Reading	£554,021
E09000026	Redbridge	£650,152
E06000003	Redcar and Cleveland	£923,680
E09000027	Richmond upon Thames	£344,560
E08000005	Rochdale	£1,724,847
E08000018	Rotherham	£2,082,620
E06000017	Rutland	£56,093
E08000006	Salford	£2,217,611
E08000028	Sandwell	£3,554,632
E08000014	Sefton	£1,260,793
E08000019	Sheffield	£4,226,573
E06000051	Shropshire	£666,302
E06000039	Slough	£649,810

ONS Code	Local Authority	Children's Social Care Prevention Grant £
E08000029	Solihull	£1,119,662
E06000066	Somerset	£1,376,279
E06000025	South Gloucestershire	£605,551
E08000023	South Tyneside	£1,149,884
E06000045	Southampton	£1,693,987
E06000033	Southend-on-Sea	£1,098,493
E09000028	Southwark	£2,133,639
E08000013	St. Helens	£1,278,321
E10000028	Staffordshire	£2,618,188
E08000007	Stockport	£882,639
E06000004	Stockton-on-Tees	£1,172,098
E06000021	Stoke-on-Trent	£2,676,852
E10000029	Suffolk	£2,292,622
E08000024	Sunderland	£2,157,929
E10000030	Surrey	£2,357,421
E09000029	Sutton	£579,034
E06000030	Swindon	£999,327
E08000008	Tameside	£1,716,171
E06000020	Telford and Wrekin	£1,416,856
E06000034	Thurrock	£1,027,084
E06000027	Torbay	£658,340
E09000030	Tower Hamlets	£2,039,198
E08000009	Trafford	£578,751
E08000036	Wakefield	£2,318,402
E08000030	Walsall	£3,088,074
E09000031	Waltham Forest	£1,345,197
E09000032	Wandsworth	£1,640,416
E06000007	Warrington	£663,078
E10000031	Warwickshire	£1,515,541
E06000037	West Berkshire	£360,688
E06000064	Westmorland and Furness	£538,221
E06000062	West Northamptonshire	£1,168,894
E10000032	West Sussex	£1,858,063
E09000033	Westminster	£1,072,183
E08000010	Wigan	£2,117,311
E06000054	Wiltshire	£1,036,363
E06000040	Windsor and Maidenhead	£269,230
E08000015	Wirral	£2,418,650
E06000041	Wokingham	£250,244

ONS Code	Local Authority	Children's Social Care Prevention Grant £
E08000031	Wolverhampton	£3,007,626
E10000034	Worcestershire	£1,834,347
E06000014	York	£400,265
	TOTAL England	£269,673,515

Allocations may not sum to exact totals due to rounding.

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Annex B: GRANT CONDITIONS

Definitions

In these grant conditions the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- i. **Co-design:** engaging key groups including children and families, local partners, services and practitioners to design a new service model that is tailored to local context.
- ii. **Children's Social Care National Framework** hereafter *CSC National Framework*: statutory guidance, which brings together the purpose of local authority children's social care, the principles by which children, young people and families should be supported, the enablers that should be in place so the system is effective, and the outcomes that should be achieved so that children and young people can grow up to thrive.
- iii. **Grant:** the revenue amounts as listed in the Grant Determination Letters sent to the Recipient in accordance with the Local Government Finance Settlement.
- iv. **Grant Period:** the period for which the Grant is awarded starting on the Commencement Date and ending on 31 March 2026.
- v. **Grant Recipient:** The local authority that receives the grant funding.
- vi. **Programme Guidance:** DfE guidance, due to be published before April 2025, which will set out delivery expectations for local authorities and their safeguarding partners.
- vii. **Practice Guides**: DfE-commissioned guides that bring together the strongest available evidence for senior leaders in local areas about how best to achieve the objectives in the Children's Social Care National Framework. The guides support effective practice and improve how services are commissioned, designed and delivered.
- viii. **Local partners:** agencies and other organisations working together within a local area to deliver preventative services for children and families. At a minimum, this will include the local authority, local police force, integrated care board (ICB) and relevant NHS service providers, and education but may include third sector organisations, probation and housing.
- ix. **Multi-agency working:** work across organisations to meet children's needs including effective information sharing, joint decision-making and co-ordinated interventions.
- x. **Multi-disciplinary teams:** a range of practitioners and professionals from different backgrounds working together in the same organisation to enable the best outcomes for children.
- xi. **Prevention services:** targeted, whole family support to help children and families, which improves their resilience, helps them overcome challenges at the earliest opportunity and prevents high-risk problems from escalating. This may include early help, Family Help, Family Networks and Child Protection services.

Use of the grant

1. This grant is ringfenced for children's social care prevention investment. The funding is an additive investment in prevention services for children and families. It should be used for: transformation, including evidence-based service design that builds on the Practice Guides and existing guidance, ahead of new or changed services being launched (paragraphs 19-26); and service delivery of both existing and new preventative services (paragraphs 27-28). This funding can also be used to support offers of Family Group Decision Making to all families at pre-proceedings from September 2025.
2. This grant should be combined with the recipient's allocation from the consolidated Children and Families Grant that was formerly Supporting Families Programme funding.
3. Recipient authorities must work with DfE and established sector-led regional networks to agree their local service models. Local authorities must also work with external partners identified to work on behalf of DfE, to support the objectives of the reforms, for example delivery partner(s) and an evaluator.
4. Grant recipients must identify a named lead, responsible for the day-to-day running of the programme who will coordinate local transformation, including service design, and delivery. This individual will also act as the lead point of contact for the DfE.
5. Grant recipients must assign a Senior Practice Lead responsible for design and implementation, including practice and culture, to support transformation and wider delivery. This may be a Service Manager.
6. Grant recipients must ensure they have a Data Transformation/Evaluation Lead to support effective transformation to fit-for-purpose digital and data systems.
7. The individuals listed in paragraphs 4-6 will not necessarily be new appointments by the grant recipient. They might be existing staff that are already responsible, or will be responsible, for key transformation and delivery activity – for example, those who oversee the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme.
8. Grant recipients are expected to produce local delivery plans which set out how they will work with their local partners to deliver new service models. These will be the product of a co-design period where key groups including children and families, local partners, services and practitioners are engaged to design a new service model that is tailored to local context. Service models must be based on best evidence (including Practice Guides) – further information can be found within Programme Guidance. Plans must reflect 'collective responsibility to provide the right provision in their area' ([*Working Together to Safeguard Children*](#)). Where possible, existing strategic partnership governance arrangements as set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children* should be used to oversee the progress of the design and implementation of new/changed prevention services and to monitor impact locally.
9. The grant can be used to buy in dedicated resource from partners, such as secondment arrangements, to support the development of the delivery plan and ongoing transformation. Plans should also consider expenditure, including transformation spend and resourcing new/expanded teams.

10. All grant recipients are encouraged to build on existing regional structures, including Combined Authorities where applicable, when transforming, designing and delivering services. The ten local authorities in Greater Manchester are strongly encouraged to collaborate with each other and GMCA, building on the strengths of the previous regional approach developed through the Supporting Families programme. Partnerships will be essential to the delivery of the Families First Partnership Programme and the Government considers that there will be advantages to GM local authorities working on a Greater Manchester footprint. Specifically, the Government is interested in further collaboration by GM authorities with a focus on service transformation (including around the national Families First reforms and alignment with Family Hubs and other programmes), data and insight, and the engagement of key strategic partners across the shared GM footprint.

Reporting

11. Based on the evidence that underpins the reforms (set out in Programme Guidance) and building on learning from the *Supporting Families Programme*, *Strengthening Families Protecting Children* and *Families First for Children Pathfinder*, it is anticipated that Grant Recipients will, in 25/26, see local progress against the short-term and medium-term objectives listed.

Short term objectives:

- Teams understand new roles and responsibilities of professionals and agencies and how to work together effectively
- Improved staff knowledge of, and confidence in providing, effective support for children and families
- Families have an improved understanding of services and support available to them
- Families feel more involved in the design of services

Medium-term objectives:

- Improved experience of children and families
 - o Improved relationships and trust between children and families and services
 - o Families receiving the right support at the right time
 - o Wider family networks involved earlier
- Services better meet the needs of children and families
- Improved decision making and case management
- Improved information and data sharing between professionals and agencies

12. Grant recipients must provide regular information to DfE, including local data, to provide assurance and support understanding of transformation and delivery progress against the objectives in paragraph 11. Where data already exists, DfE will draw on that to understand progress. Any new collection will be conducted quarterly, starting June 2025. More details will be published in guidance; however, reporting requirements will include the following:

- a. Detail on the Family Help workforce, for example number of social work-qualified or alternatively qualified workers; LA or non-LA employed practitioners
 - b. Information on the children benefiting from Family Help and child protection services, for example, number of children receiving Family Help services
 - c. Number of FGDM meetings offered prior to/at the 'letter before proceedings' to parents/those with parental responsibility; number of meetings facilitated after the offer is made.
13. DfE will also expect a quarterly breakdown of expenditure, detailing costs across transformation activity, service design and service delivery.
14. The Government recognises that every grant recipient, with their partners, are approaching these reforms from a different starting point and consequently, the proportion of transformation (including design) versus services spend in 25/26 will vary. However, grant recipients are expected to spend a proportion of the funding on transformation activity to establish the right conditions for effective and sustainable practice and service change. Based on pathfinder learning, this may be around 30% of the CSC Prevention Grant, with the remainder spent on service delivery, alongside the Children and Families Grant.
15. The Department for Education may request further information and narrative within financial returns to support understanding of transformation and services expenditure.
16. The grant recipient may also be sent questionnaires from DfE to understand progress against transformation, for example on co-design activity that has taken place, workforce recruitment and development or changes to case management systems to meet the aims for the reforms, and request local case studies, which demonstrate how changes are felt by children, families and practitioners.
17. In the longer term, the new/changed local services for children and families are expected to generate local impact. During 25/26 grant recipients should continue to observe and work towards the 10 headline outcomes in the former Supporting Families Programme, which are:
 - Getting a good education
 - Improved mental and physical health
 - Promoting recovery and reducing harm from substance misuse
 - Good early years development
 - Financial stability
 - Secure housing
 - Improved family relationships
 - Children safe from abuse and exploitation
 - Safe from Domestic Abuse
 - Crime prevention and tackling crime.
18. DfE will be working with grant recipients, and their partners, during 25/26 to develop a shared outcomes framework which will align with the CSC National Framework and Government's Missions.

Expectations for transformation spend

19. Transformation costs are categorised as one-off and/or set up costs for the grant recipient to increase readiness for system change in the local area.
20. As grant recipients, with their local partners, prepare the conditions necessary for sustainable system reform. DfE expects funding to support transformational activity across the following core areas set out in the CSC National Framework enablers of good practice. The CSC National Framework sets out detailed expectations under these enablers:
 - a) Leaders drive conditions for effective practice
 - b) Multi-agency working is prioritised and effective
 - c) Workforce is equipped and effective
21. In addition to the CSC National Framework enablers, the grant recipient should consider whether transformation activity is required to ensure sufficient data maturity to enable successful service design and delivery across local partners.
22. At the beginning of transformation, we expect the grant recipient to work with their safeguarding partners, education and other local partners to undertake analysis of their transformation needs as partner organisations. The grant recipient must dedicate appropriate time, resource and grant spend to address any areas of weakness across the National Framework enablers in paragraph 20.
23. The grant recipient is also expected to review its needs assessment(s) of the local area, ensuring needs of the community are fully understood, ahead of redesigning services that address these priorities.

Expectations for service design spend

24. Grant recipients will use best evidence (including Practice Guides) to inform their new service models. They will co-design services by engaging local partners and children and families, including those with lived experience of children's prevention services.
25. Grant recipients should use their funding to enable engagement with other local partners, to co-design new services and strengthen multi-agency working, in particular when establishing multi-agency child protection teams and strengthening the role of education in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. This should include strategic representation from health, police and education, and meaningful engagement with other key partners including housing, probation and voluntary and community sector organisations, to ensure their views are input into new service models.
26. Children and families must be at the heart of transformation. Grant recipients should ensure a diverse range of service users and practitioners are engaged in the co-design process. DfE expect grant recipients to actively engage children and families, including those with lived experience to capture their views and allow them to shape service design based on their needs. The CSC National Framework describes further expectations for responding to the voices of children, young people and families.

Expectations for service delivery spend

27. Current preventative services should continue while grant recipients undertake design work with local partners to establish how existing services align with future delivery. This should ensure a continuation of targeted, whole family support to help children and families overcome challenges at the earliest opportunity.
28. New service costs will include additional workforce and commissioned services to enable the grant recipient to offer new and updated services for families and children, which meet the policy principles set out in the Programme Guidance.

Breach of conditions and withholding future funding

29. If the recipient authority fails to comply with any of these conditions, or if any overpayment is made under this grant, or any amount is paid in error, or any unspent funding is not returned, the Secretary of State may reduce, suspend or withhold grant payments or require the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant monies paid, as may be determined by the Secretary of State and notified in writing to the recipient authority. Such sum as has been notified will immediately become repayable to the Secretary of State who may offset the sum against any future amount due to the recipient authority from central government.