

**HM Government**Email: beststart.familyhubs@education.gov.uk

30 April 2026

Dear Shelley Kipling,

In our letter of 6 November 2025, we shared your provisional Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies funding allocations for Financial Years 2026-27 to 2028-29. The purpose of this letter is to confirm your final maximum funding allocations for 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29.

As outlined in our previous letter, payment of your 2026-29 funding is subject to:

- Meeting the current expectations set out in the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies Guidance for local authorities for Financial Years 2026-29; and
- Signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalise your agreement to the expectations for the 2026-29 financial years; the MOU was sent to you for signature on 30 March 2026.

The details of the maximum funding allocation are outlined in Annex A, which includes additional funding for children with additional needs and their families and local authority facilitated Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) profile assessment support.

Please note that, in accordance with the terms of the MOU, we reserve the right to reduce, suspend or withhold in whole or in part any of your maximum funding allocation for 2026-29.

If you have any questions on any elements of this letter, please send an email to beststart.familyhubs@education.gov.uk

We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve outcomes for babies, children, young people and families through delivery of this important initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Sachin Shah

Deputy Director,
Best Start Family Hubs
Department for Education

Sarah Harriss

Deputy Director,
Early Years and Healthy Babies
Department of Health and Social Care

Department for Education working with Department of Health and Social Care

Annex A: 2026-27 to 2028-29 final funding allocations for Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

This annex provides you with information on the following:

1. Your total maximum Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies funding allocation for 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29.
2. Your expected distribution of funding by strand for 2026-27, 2027-28 to 2028-29.
3. Details of the methodology for your funding allocation.

1. Your local authority's maximum allocation

Your maximum Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies allocation, together with your LA facilitated EYFS profile assessment support allocation for financial years 2026-29 is £7,413,000

2. Distribution of funding by strand

To support you in planning delivery, we have also provided details of how the maximum funding allocation for your local authority is divided across the strands.

We will continue to expect that the funding allocations are spent on activities in scope of the strands they are allocated within. Capital spend must only be used on capital activities and revenue spend must only be used on revenue expenditure.

Table 1: Distribution of your funding allocation across the Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies strands for financial years 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29.

Strand	%¹	2026-27² Allocation	2027-28 Allocation	2028-29 Allocation
Best Start Family Hubs delivery grant - programme	18%	£496,200	£405,700	£416,600
Best Start Family Hubs delivery grant - capital	4%	£99,200	£101,200	£103,200
Parenting	14%	£342,600	£346,900	£362,100
Home learning environment	11%	£258,400	£261,600	£273,100
Children with additional needs	24%	£418,100	£669,000	£669,000
Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships	19%	£460,100	£460,100	£460,100

¹ The distribution of funding has been rounded to one decimal place. The sum of percentages across strands may not total 100% due to this rounding.

²

The allocation for 2026-27, 2027-28, 2028-29 has been rounded to the nearest one hundred pounds. The sum of the allocations across strands may not total the maximum funding allocation due to this rounding.

Infant feeding support	10%	£235,700	£235,700	£235,700
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Publishing 'Healthy Babies' offers and delivering Parent and Carer Participation	1%	£26,200	£26,200	£26,200
Total		£2,336,500	£2,506,300	£2,546,000

Local authorities will also receive funding for Early years Foundation Stage profile assessment support (EYFS), as shown in Table 2. All the grant funding for the EYFS strand will be issued in Q1 of each financial year.

Table 2: Funding allocation for Local Authority facilitated Early Years Foundation Stage profile assessment support for financial years 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29.

Funding	% ²	2026-27 ⁴ Allocation	2027-28 Allocation	2028-29 Allocation
Local authority facilitated Early Years Foundation Stage profile assessment support	0%	£8,800	£8,800	£6,400

1. Methodology

For this funding period (2026-27 to 2028-29) the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) will continue to calculate funding allocations based on the methodology used for years 1-4 of the Family Hubs & Start for Life programme, as outlined below. Allocations from the Department for Education (DfE) will be calculated using a new methodology which prioritises areas with higher levels of disadvantage to support the commitment made in the *Giving every child the best start in life* strategy to fund Best Start Family hubs nationally, whilst ensuring resources are directed where they are needed most.

Across DfE and DHSC funding, each local authority's total funding allocation is made up of two components for each strand:

1. A **fixed amount** that recognises the fixed costs that remain broadly consistent across areas (see Table 3). The following table outlines how the fixed amounts are allocated to each local authority for each strand, giving a total over the three years (2026-27 to 2028-29).

² The distribution of funding has been rounded to one decimal place. The sum of percentages across strands may not total 100% due to this rounding.

⁴

The allocation for 2026-27, 2027-28, 2028-29 has been rounded to the nearest one hundred pounds. The sum of the allocations across strands may not total the maximum funding allocation due to this rounding.

Table 3: Fixed amounts allocated to each local authority for each strand

Strand	Fixed percentage	Fixed amount
Best Start Family Hubs delivery grant – programme (DfE funded)	50%	£782,000
Parenting (DfE funded)	22%	£167,000
Home learning environment (DfE funded)	22%	£167,000
Children with additional needs (DfE funded)	22%	£308,000
Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships (DHSC funded)	56%	£810,000
Infant feeding support (DHSC funded)	70%	£510,000
Healthy babies offers and parent and carer panels (DHSC funded)	95%	£75,000

Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000

Table 4: Fixed amount allocated to each local authority for EYFS profile support

Funding	Fixed percentage	Fixed amount
LA facilitated EYFS profile support (DfE funded)	71%	£18,000

1. A **variable amount** based on local authority demographics

For DHSC funded strands, the methodology is unchanged from previous years and the variable amount is distributed according to population. As DHSC funded services retain the intention of supporting families with babies from conception to age 2, the population element of funding remains based on the number of children under 2 in each local authority.³

For DfE funded strands, the variable amount is distributed with a 4:1 weighting between the population of children in relative low income to the general population of children not in relative low income. This adjustment for the relative level of deprivation is included as all local authorities in England will receive this funding. To allocate funding within the deprivation element, we have used the Department for Work and Pensions' Children in Low Income Families dataset.

³ We use 0-1 population estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics. Note that the 0-1 age range covers infants from birth until their second birthday.

Note the EYFS profile support funding does not include a deprivation weighting, so funding is distributed solely based on general population.

The DfE funded strands each target a specific age group. Therefore, the population figures used reflect the most relevant age ranges for each DfE funded strand's objectives, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Age ranges used when calculating each local authority's relative population size

Age range used ⁴	
Best Start Family Hubs delivery grant - programme	0 - 19
Parenting support	0 - 4
Home learning environment support	3 and 4
Children with additional needs	0 - 5
LA facilitated EYFS profile support	0 - 5
Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships	0 - 2
Infant feeding support	0 - 2
Healthy babies offers and parent and carer panels	0 - 2

⁴ [Estimates of the population for England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

