



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

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09 February 2023

Dear Richard,

I am writing to confirm the details of your funding allocation and to outline the sign-up conditions for the Supporting Families programme in the financial year 2023/24.

In 2022/23, the Supporting Families Programme celebrated 10 years of delivery. In this time, over 650,000 vulnerable families have been supported through whole family working to achieve positive and sustainable outcomes. This success is a testament to the dedication of all those who work with families from across local authorities and the wider early help partnership. The impact of your work over the past decade will be felt in improved life chances for children and families, supported by stronger communities and better services – there is much for you to be proud of.

The Supporting Families programme continues to focus on transforming local services and embedding whole family working to make sure responding to the needs of families are met. In April 2022, the following tools were released to support your partnership in delivering these objectives:

1. A refreshed [Early Help System Guide](#)
2. A [national outcomes framework](#)

Alongside these documents the national Supporting Families team have continued to share examples of good practice as well as offering ongoing support to implement the new outcomes framework. This support (and more) will continue in 2023/24, alongside our regional support model.

On 2 February 2023, the Department for Education published ‘Stable Homes, Built on Love’, an implementation strategy and consultation document that responds to the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel review into the deaths of Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes, and the Competition and Markets Authority’s (CMA) Children’s Social Care market study. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Department for Education, will continue to work closely together, and across Government, to further develop a future vision for providing families with the support that they need, building on the success of your partnership working over the last decade.

**Please note that the information below is currently under strict embargo until an announcement is made.**

**Your partnership’s funding statement**

Please see below the funding statement for your partnership which sets out the maximum funding available to your local authority and partners in 2023/24. You will see your allocation consists of two funding streams; funding for the delivery of intensive family support and developing the maturity of your Early Help system, paid at the beginning of the year as one full payment; and the other for achieving successful family outcomes with a minimum number of families, paid following each quarter’s submission of successful outcomes. For Earned Autonomy areas, all funding is paid at the beginning of the year.

	2023/24
Advance funding for the delivery of intensive family support and developing the maturity of your Early Help system	£1,081,000
Maximum funding available for successful family outcomes	£608,800
Number of successful family outcomes funded	761
Total funding	£1,689,800

**Your partnership’s sign-up conditions**

This funding is subject to your continued participation in the programme and commitment to the sign-up conditions which are attached to this letter. The sign-up conditions set out the expectations for achieving successful family outcomes; essential resourcing of the programme; commitment to use the Early Help System Guide (EHSG) to help integrate and transform local public services to embed whole family working and re-balance the system; to commit sufficient development and analytical resource to the programme; and to deliver the required milestones for increasing data maturity.

As in previous years we may consider delaying the release of funding from any area falling significantly behind in the achievement of successful family outcomes, or in their transformation journey. We also withhold the right to re-distribute funding from areas under-performing on their family outcome claim expectations, to those who are performing well.

**Accessing your formal statement and sign-up conditions for 2023/24**

The Supporting Families team have moved to using DELTA as a one stop portal for both data collections and financial payments relating to the programme. Similar to last year, the formal funding statement(s) and sign-up letter for the programme will be issued on the DELTA system and will require sign off by your nominated Senior Responsible Officer (SRO). The seniority of the SRO role is defined in the sign-up conditions below. If there has been no change to your SRO since signing up to the programme in 2022/23, then sign-up to deliver in 2023/24 should be a relatively straightforward process. If you need to change your SRO, they will need to self-

register on the system and create a new profile, selecting the access group '**sf-essential-documents**' and requesting delegated responsibility from your Chief Financial Officer (pursuant to section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972) who will need to authorise them to certify financial forms relating to the programme. The link to register on DELTA [is here](#) and the national team can support with registration if necessary.

Funding will not be released until your SRO has confirmed your agreement to the sign-up conditions on DELTA.

Please note that both the confirmed funding for 23/24 is currently under **embargo and should not be made public until the funding is confirmed via public announcement on gov.uk**. Funding for 24/25 remains indicative and we aim to confirm this funding by early 2024. **Both confirmed and indicative funding can be shared within your local authority and partnership members to assist with future planning.**

Thank you for your continued support for the Supporting Families Programme. We look forward to working with you all this year to build on the success of the programme and ensure vulnerable families continue to get the help they need.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Siobhan Jones', written in a cursive style.

**Siobhan Jones**

**Director, Local Government and Communities**

## 2023/24 Sign-up conditions

### Your commitment to us:

Performance requirements	<p>To achieve successful outcomes with the minimum number of families allocated each year within the three-year programme by the end of March 2025.</p> <p>Those who meet the minimum number of successful outcomes early will be expected to continue to provide progress information (families worked with and outcomes) up to the end of March 2025.</p> <p>Submit quarterly progress information</p> <p>To adhere to the full Supporting Families programme guidance</p>
Resourcing the programme	<p>To provide sufficient coordination to successfully deliver the programme and achieve these sign-up commitments, all local authorities must nominate a Senior Responsible Officer of at least Assistant Director level. The SRO should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide strategic oversight of the delivery of the programme in the local area, and be a champion of high-quality whole family working</li> <li>- Work closely with relevant agencies and partners to develop and maintain a robust system of family support, and rebalance the system towards prevention and early intervention, that offers value for money for local authorities</li> <li>- Be responsible for strategically aligning Supporting Families with all programmes and projects being developed/delivered in the Early Help space such as Family Hubs, Start for life, Reducing Parental Conflict, Violence Reduction Units and SAFE taskforces/Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforces</li> <li>- Lead the annual self-assessment process against the EHSF.</li> </ul> <p>Local authorities must also nominate a Supporting Families Co-ordinator. The SFC should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide operational leadership for the programme across the partnership. This should include the promotion of whole family working and achieving successful family outcomes.</li> <li>- To consider user experience and feedback when developing and delivering services for families</li> <li>- Provide co-ordination across to other relevant national government programmes.</li> <li>- Ensure information on family needs and successful family outcomes achieved is reported to the partnership and data governance boards to inform commissioning decisions.</li> <li>- Leading the programme should be a substantive part of the SFCs role</li> </ul> <p>All local authorities should be assured that they have sufficient data resource aligned to the Supporting Families programme</p>

	<p>to continue to progress against data maturity milestones as set out in the EHSG. Data teams could be integrated in strategic commissioning or business intelligence teams with oversight and/or management from a data lead. Data leads should report into the data governance board, coordinate the work of the team and facilitate data developments and sharing. The data lead should work closely with and report into the SFC/SRO. This ensures that a local authority is supported by a data team integrated in the wider analytics associated with Early Help and Statutory Childrens' Services and that their main focus remains on the delivery of strong performance data and analytics to continue to develop the Supporting Families approach.</p>
	<p>Funding is intended to be used for the delivery of intensive family support and developing the maturity of your Early Help system. This should be driven by evidence and data and use of funding should be discussed and agreed with local partners.</p> <p>Funding decisions should be driven by evidence and data with consideration given to the use of evidence-based services that are aligned with data on local need.</p>
<p>Service and data transformation</p>	<p>To work with partners, to complete a self-assessment against the refreshed EHSG and identify three descriptors you will work towards in the coming year. Areas should refer to the programme guidance to support identification of the descriptors. The assessment should be with the national team no later than 1 July 2023 and should be signed off by your partnership responsible for Early Help, LA Chief Executive, Directors of Children's Services and key partners involved in the assessment for example the police, representatives of the voluntary and community sector, schools and health visitors, in addition to the council's own services including housing, social care and wider children's services.</p> <p>The EHSG will help you integrate and transform local public services to embed whole family working and re-balance the system across Early Help and Children's Social Care. Self-assessment should be an ongoing process and submission will be repeated each year.</p> <p>To achieve key data milestones. In the programme sign up conditions for 2022/23, all local authorities committed to have sufficient development and analytical resource to improve systems to deliver milestones of data maturity. We would now expect that that all local authorities have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data governance at a strategic level - overseeing data sharing and use across all partners to support families.</li> <li>• You have access to internally available person level data feeds including youth offending services data and education attendance and expulsions.</li> <li>• You have access to or are working towards data sharing for person level data on policing, domestic abuse, health, housing (rent arrears and antisocial</li> </ul>

	<p>behaviour) and homelessness. In particular, as previously communicated, all areas are expected to have access to police data in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All individual indicators and outcomes (at indicator level) are embedded in the case management system from notification / assessment to closure.</li> </ul>
	<p>Having delivered your 2022/23 data milestones all local authorities should be moving towards being able to participate in the 'Supporting Families and Early Help National Insight data collection' (the collection of data relating to all Early Help interventions that we have been piloting with Earned Autonomy areas between 2021 and 2023) in the forthcoming years.</p>

**Our commitment to you:**

<b>The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities commits to offer local authorities the following:</b>	
1	Upfront funding to provide intensive family support services and increase the maturity of Early Help Systems. This funding is to improve provision for all families supported through the Early Help system and increase the maturity of Early Help Systems.
2	A payment of £800 per family achieving successful outcomes up to an agreed number of families.
3	Earned Autonomy areas will receive all funding upfront. They will continue to be expected to submit successful family outcomes numbers quarterly via DELTA.
4	Opportunities to share good practice amongst local areas and receive peer support, for example through webinars and focus groups, to accelerate transformation across the country.
5	Constructive support and challenge for those who fall short of family targets and lack progress against system transformation against the programme sign up conditions informed by national learning and experience from local authorities and their partners.
6	Regular risk-based assurance reviews informed by national learning and experience from local authorities and their partners.