

Durham County Council
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

31 March 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Grant to act as Regional Coordinator in the North East region for accelerating improvement in Special Educational Needs and Disability services in 2021-22.

I am writing to let you know that I, as authorised by the Secretary of State, would like to invite you to act as a Regional Coordinator for implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability reforms in the North East region.

A copy of the Grant Determination Letter is attached. Any queries which you have about the Determination should be sent to the programme lead, [REDACTED], at the following address:

[REDACTED]
The Department for Education
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD.

A colleague from Mott MacDonald will be in contact shortly on behalf of the Delivery Support consortium to offer their support in developing your work plan.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
For the Secretary of State for Education

S31 Grant Determination Letter for the Role of Regional Coordinator for the Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms in 2021-22: DfE ref project_5368; GD ref 31/5492.

This Determination is made between:

(1) **The Secretary of State for Education** and

(2) Local authorities for:

Durham County Council
Leicester City Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Peterborough City Council
Portsmouth City Council
Torbay Council
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Purpose of this grant

The primary objective of this grant is to contribute to accelerated improvement in the quality of local area SEND service delivery and outcomes for children, young people and their families from April 2021. We envisage that the grant recipient will use their knowledge, experience and expertise to help shape approaches to improvement in the region, working with the Department for Education and key partners.

The aspiration of the Department for Education is that grant recipients should use the funding provided to deliver regional improvement activity, this could include:

Work within the region

To consolidate and expand Regional SEND Networks, for example through strengthening the role and visibility of SEND in the Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliances (RIIAs); making links where relationships are not formed and developing further integration where relationships already exist.

To engage with key regional meetings such as Team Around the Region meetings, to identify needs and areas for improvement for the region.

To work with partners, such as the DBOT consortium to:

- Identify the best delivery mechanisms, making best use of resource in supporting both DCS and DfE priorities
- Identify best practice/peer support that can be used to help implement the region's priorities.

To continue a strong working partnership with the regional National Network of Parent Carer Forum leaders to help to influence and encourage participation and co-production within the region.

To influence and develop positive relationships between local authorities and health and social care partners at regional level.

Work collectively / across regions

To help identify effective practice that can be shared across the regions.

To help identify local authorities who could offer peer support to other local authorities on identified areas of weakness.

To help identify 'training needs' that are common across the region and feed this back to delivery partners and the DfE.

Work with DfE and Partners

To help formulate a model for peer support and sector-led improvement for this year and subsequent years, building on and drawing from the different sector-led Improvement models already existing, to support local authorities to help each other to improve their services by working collaboratively, sharing good practice and providing constructive challenge

Some success measures which regional coordinators may wish to employ are provided at Annex A.

Grant allocations

Total funding of [REDACTED] is available for this programme in 2021-22 with funding to be split between the regional coordinators.

Funds will be made available in the form of an unringfenced grant. Details of allocations to be made to each regional coordinator are set out in Annex B.

Payment arrangements

Payment will be made in two instalments in August 2020 and February 2021.

Arrangements for keeping in touch with the Department for Education and the Delivery Support Contractor.

Formal reporting to the Department for Education on progress is not a condition of this grant. However, previous successful applicants for this award have described in their expressions of interest how they intended to use the funds to drive improvement in their region and were invited to continue working with the Delivery Support Contractor on delivery planning and systems for measuring and sharing progress on a voluntary basis. We would like to see work continue with DBOT and other delivery partners to suggest new ways of driving improvement in local area SEND services for the 3 areas of focus, multi-agency working, social care, preparing for adulthood (PfA), and regional priorities.

The Department for Education would be happy to continue receiving any information about effective practice that is gathered by the regional coordinators during 2021-22 and would anticipate that regional coordinators would wish to meet with the Department for Education commissioner of regional support on a quarterly basis, as a group.

This letter has been copied for information to the SEND regional coordinators for all named authorities and to Her Majesty's Treasury and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, please contact the programme lead, [REDACTED], at the following address:

[REDACTED]
The Department for Education
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director
Special Educational Needs and Disability Improvement and Intervention
Department for Education

**REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND
DISABILITY REFORMS: GRANT DETERMINATION 2021-22 DfE ref
project_5368, GD ref 31/5492.**

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families
("the Minister 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 Regional Coordinator for the Special
Educational Needs and Disability Reforms Determination 2021-2022 DfE ref
project_5368, GD ref 31/5492.

Purpose of the grant


2) The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards
expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them.

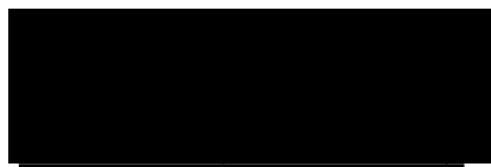
Determination

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

Treasury consent

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

Signed on behalf of the Minister of State for Education by 



Deputy Director
Special Educational Needs and Disability Improvement and Intervention
Department for Education

ANNEX A: SUCCESS MEASURES

Funding under Section 31 Grant reference DfE ref project_5368; GD ref 31/5492 is intended to facilitate a peer learning approach to support accelerated improvement of Special Educational Needs services during 2021-22.

Success measures which regional coordinators may wish to employ when assessing the impact of this grant might include:

- evidence of progress across key areas of the SEN and disability reforms such as:
 - improved quality and accessibility of the Local Offer,
 - enhanced multi-agency working and joint commissioning,
 - effective strategy for preparing young people with SEND for adulthood,
 - participation of children, young people and parent carers,
 - organisational change, and
 - workforce development;
- a clear and sustainable strategy for partnership working with local authorities across the region;
- development of a clear and achievable delivery plan for regional activities and peer support in 2021-22;
- a strategy for assessing the impact their work has had in the region;
- evidence of effective partnership working with the main stakeholder groups in the region to shape approaches;
- evidence of effective relationships between the local authorities and their health and social care partners;
- a strong working partnership with their own local parent carer forum that can help to influence and encourage participation and co-production within the region;
- evidence of effective partnership working with national partners and support agencies to meet regional needs and share information;
- a strategy for sharing of effective approaches from the region, including with neighbouring areas; and
- evidence of an improved experience for children and young people and their families.

**ANNEX B – REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS AND DISABILITY REFORMS: GRANT DETERMINATION 2021-22: DfE ref
project_5368; GD ref 31/5492.**

Authorities to which grant is to be paid	No of LAs in region	Region to be supported	Amount of base funding	Top up amount, based on the number of authorities in each region	Total grant funding per region
Durham County Council	12	North East			£20,614.04