



HM Government

Email: beststart.familyhubs@education.gov.uk

6 November 2025

Dear Tanya Miles,

As previously communicated you will receive funding from the Department for Education to deliver Best Start Family Hubs. This is a key part of the *Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life* strategy, which sets out the government's continued focus on enhancing early years and family services.

The integration of health services in Best Start Family Hubs is fundamental to delivering improved outcomes for babies, children and their families. This is why the Government will prioritise funding the continuation of existing Start for Life services. At this time, it is not possible to extend Start for Life funding for enhanced services to new LAs. The Government remains committed to supporting all local areas to strengthen and join up family services and we look forward to working with you to develop your Best Start local plans and neighbourhood health services.

This letter sets out the provisional funding allocations that you will be eligible to receive for the financial years 2026-27 to 2028-29. These are outlined in Annex A.

Payment of your funding allocations is subject to meeting the expectations of the programme. We reserve the right to withhold or reduce 2026-29 funding if local authorities do not meet these expectations.

We will share information in due course to support you and your partners in the delivery of the programme and we will also share further guidance ahead of April 2026 on service and delivery expectations, reporting and support.

If you have any questions about this letter, please email:
beststart.familyhubs@education.gov.uk

We look forward to working with you to continue to improve outcomes for babies, children and families through delivery of this important programme.

Yours sincerely,

Sachin Shah

Deputy Director,
Best Start Family Hubs Delivery,
Department for Education

Sarah Harriss

Deputy Director,
Start for Life Programme,
Department of Health & Social Care

Annex A: Provisional funding allocations for Shropshire Council

The allocations below are provisional. However, we hope that by providing this information now, you can begin planning delivery.

This annex provides you with information on the following:

1. Your provisional funding allocation
2. Your provisional funding allocations for 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29
3. Your distribution of funding by strand

1. Your local authority's provisional programme allocation

Your provisional allocation for financial years 2026-29 of the programme is **£2,321,300**.

2. Distribution of funding by strand

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

We recognise that local authorities require flexibility through delivery and spending is unlikely to match the exact percentages set out in Table 1 below. We will expect spending to be broadly in line with the distribution in Table 1 (which is specific to your local authority) over the life of the programme. The only exception to this flexibility is for capital spend, which should only be used on capital activities.

Table 1: Distribution of your funding allocation across the relevant programme strands for financial years 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29.

Strand	%¹	2026-27 Allocation ²	2027-28 Allocation	2028-29 Allocation
Best Start Family Hubs delivery grant - programme	47%	£406,900	£332,700	£341,700
Best Start Family Hubs delivery grant - capital	11%	£81,400	£83,000	£84,600
Parenting support	18%	£133,800	£135,500	£141,400
Home learning environment support	25%	£189,100	£191,400	£199,800
Total		£811,200	£742,600	£767,500

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 100 pounds. The sum of the allocations across strands may not total the maximum funding allocation due to this rounding.

3. Methodology

In determining funding allocations for each local authority, we have taken into account the different pressures they face. These include variations in population size, which affect service demand, as well as fixed costs that remain broadly consistent across areas. To support the government's commitment to giving every child the best start in life, the funding model also prioritises areas with higher levels of disadvantage, ensuring that resources are directed where they are needed most.

Each local authority's total funding allocation is made up of two components:

1. **A fixed amount** for each strand of the programme (see Table 2).

Table 2: Fixed amounts allocated to each local authority for each programme strand

Strand	Fixed percentage	Fixed amount
Best Start Family Hubs delivery grant – programme (DfE funded)	50%	£782,356
Parenting support (DfE funded)	22%	£167,435
Home learning environment support (DfE funded)	22%	£167,435

2. **A variable amount**, 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.

The funded strands each target a specific age group. Therefore, the population figures used reflect the most relevant age ranges for each strand's objectives (see Table 3).

Table 3: Age ranges used when calculating each local authority's relative population size

Strand	Age range used ³
Best Start Family Hubs delivery grant - programme	0 to 19
Parenting support	3 and 4
Home learning environment support	3 and 4

To allocate funding within the deprivation element, we have used the Department for Work and Pensions' Children in Low Income Families⁴ dataset.

³ [Estimates of the population for England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics>