

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services



Huw Irranca-Davies AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol a Phlant
Minister for Children and Social Care

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref : MA P HID 4289 17

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair,
Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

22 January 2018

Dear Lynne,

Following the Children, Young People and Education Committee held on 22 November 2017, we wrote to you on 1 December providing further information arising from discussions at that meeting. We advised that for 2018-19 the Flying Start and Families First allocations to local authorities would be maintained at 2017-18 levels - £76.052 million and £38.352m respectively.

In line with common budgetary practice and over a number of years grant allocations for Families First and Flying Start to local authorities have included an element of over-programming, i.e. the funding allocated has exceeded, by a small margin, the budget available. Over-programming helps to ensure that budgets are fully spent and avoids underspends.

In 2018-19 local authorities have the ability to move funds through the offer of extended flexibilities between a number of grant programmes. This flexibility is designed to help improve and integrate service delivery to better support vulnerable families and people across Wales. This flexibility will also provide more opportunities to manage and minimise potential underspends. Consequently having reviewed our approach to over-programming, we have determined the current level of over-programming is no longer required and that underspends will be better managed through utilising the funding flexibilities now available.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Reducing the level of over-programming is a prudent and sensible approach to avoid any risk of over-spending.

Local authority allocations for 2018-19 have therefore been reduced very slightly, by 1.8%. We do not expect this reduction to impact upon service delivery. The Families First and Flying Start budgets remain at the same level as 2017-18.

Yours sincerely



Vaughan Gething AC/AM

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