

Directorate for Children and Families

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Scottish Government
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To: Local Authority Directors of Finance

Copy to COSLA
Integration Authority Chief Finance Officers

From: Andrew Watson, Director for Children and Families, Scottish Government

Date: 9 April 2026

Dear colleague,

Pay Uplift for Children's Social Care Workers in Commissioned Services

Further to the Real Living Wage pay uplift guidance issued on 30 March 2026, I am writing to confirm the distribution of the **£43.900** million funding provided to enable the pay uplift for eligible children's social care workers in private, voluntary and independent sectors, which was announced on 13 January 2026 as part of the Scottish Budget for 2026/27.

This funding will deliver a minimum rate of £13.45 per hour from April 2026 for eligible staff in commissioned children's social care services.

It includes baseline funding of **£29.990** million, which is repeated from 2025/26, and additional funding of **£13.910** million, to cover for the 6.75% increase in Real Living Wage from £12.60 an hour in 2025/26 to £13.45 an hour in 2026/27.

The funding will be allocated using the Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) formula for '[Changing Children's Services Development Fund 2026/27](#)', and distributed to Local Authorities via weekly General Revenue Grant payments from April 2026, with the exception of £2.9 million, which will be paid as a redetermination of the General Revenue Grant in March 2027.

Please find attached each Local Authority's share of the funding (**Annex A**).

Where eligible services are delegated to Integration Authorities, funding is to be passed on to Integration Authorities. This funding should be additional and not substitutional to each Local Authority's 2026/27 recurring budgets for children's social care services.

Yours Sincerely

ANDREW WATSON

Director, Children and Families

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Distribution of funding for the children's social care pay uplift

Local Authority	£ million
Aberdeen City	1.493
Aberdeenshire	2.324
Angus	0.983
Argyll & Bute	0.701
City of Edinburgh	2.927
Clackmannanshire	0.446
Dumfries and Galloway	1.411
Dundee City	1.194
East Ayrshire	1.080
East Dunbartonshire	0.652
East Lothian	0.859
East Renfrewshire	0.639
Falkirk	1.252
Fife	3.008
Glasgow	5.562
Highland	2.171
Inverclyde	0.615
Midlothian	0.786
Moray	0.805
Na h-Eilean Siar	0.275
North Ayrshire	1.185
North Lanarkshire	2.943
Orkney	0.219
Perth & Kinross	1.217
Renfrewshire	1.358
Scottish Borders	1.012
Shetland	0.267
South Ayrshire	0.844
South Lanarkshire	2.576
Stirling	0.689
West Dunbartonshire	0.802
West Lothian	1.602
Scotland	43.900